

# Melissa Burgess

Florida International University

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs  
11200 SW 8th Street  
Miami, FL 33199  
Phone: (786) 332-7127  
Email: [mburg047@fiu.edu](mailto:mburg047@fiu.edu)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Florida International University, expected July 2026  
First Field: American Politics; Second Field: International Relations  
Dissertation: *Three Essays on Presidential Unilateralism and White House Public Relations Effort*  
Committee: Kevin Evans (chair), Todd Makse, Marzia Oceno, and David Park

M.A., Political Science, Florida International University, April 2021  
Major Field: American Politics  
Research Project: *Getting His Way: Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders in the Trump Administration*

B.S., Communication, Florida International University, April 2018  
Major: Broadcast Media; Minor: Political Science  
Honors: Magna cum Laude

## RESEARCH

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

Burgess, Melissa. 2026. “Unilateralism as a Strategic Public Relations Tool: The Case of the Clinton Administration’s Minority Business Executive Order.” *Congress & the Presidency*.

Burgess, Melissa and Todd Makse. 2025. “Anachro-Knowledge: Officeholder Change and Outdated Political Knowledge.” *American Politics Research*.

### Work in Progress

Bowra, Bethany, Melissa Burgess and Kevin Evans. “Sincerely, Richard Nixon: Presidential Mail Logs and Interbranch Communication.” Article manuscript in preparation.

### Conference Papers and Presentations

Burgess, Melissa. 2025. “White House Publicity Effort on Laws and Executive Orders from Clinton to Biden.” American Political Science Association Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Burgess, Melissa. 2025. "Executive Orders as Public Relations Tools: Evidence from the Clinton Presidential Archives." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Burgess, Melissa. 2024. "Live from New York and Straight to Washington: An Examination of Portrayals of Republican and Democratic Politicians on Saturday Night Live."

Bowra, Bethany, Melissa Burgess, and Kevin Evans. 2023. "Sincerely, Richard Nixon: Presidential Mail Logs and Interbranch Communication." American Political Science Association Conference, Virtual.

Burgess, Melissa, Kyle Mattes, David Redlawsk, Ira Roseman and Ben Rudolph. 2021. "Predicting Support for Trump – an Integrative Model." American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA.

Bowra, Bethany and Melissa Burgess. 2021. "Divided We Stand: Increasing Legislative Influence through Coalition-Building in the House." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor of Record**

Introduction to American Government, Summer 2025 (online)

### **Teaching Assistant (2021-2025)**

Constitutional Law/Limits (face-to face)  
Contemporary Political Theory (online)  
Introduction to American Government  
(face-to-face and online)

Political Parties (face-to-face)  
State Government and Politics (face-to-face)  
The Presidency (face-to-face)

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Best Paper in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2025

Best Teaching Assistant in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University 2025

Travel Grant, Presidents and Executive Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2025

Doctoral Evidence Acquisition Fellowship, University Graduate School, Florida International University, 2024

Kimberly and Dorothea Green Fellowship for Advanced Doctoral Students, Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University, 2024

Kevin A. Hill Travel Scholarship, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2024

Best Teaching Assistant in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2022

Best Master's Thesis, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2021

## **SKILLS**

Computer and Statistical Software: STATA, NVIVO, Yoshikoder, Zotero, and Microsoft Office  
Foreign Languages: Spanish (fluent)

## **REFERENCES**

Kevin Evans, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Politics and International Relations  
Florida International University  
Committee Chair  
(305) 348-2073  
[keaevan@fiu.edu](mailto:keaevan@fiu.edu)

Todd Makse, Ph.D.  
Professor and Associate Chair  
Department of Politics and International Relations  
Florida International University  
Committee Member  
(305) 348-8451  
[tmakse@fiu.edu](mailto:tmakse@fiu.edu)

Marzia Oceno, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Politics and International Relations  
Florida International University  
Committee Member  
(305) 348-3295  
[moceno@fiu.edu](mailto:moceno@fiu.edu)