

Mikaela Bennett

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Summary Experienced researcher and policy analyst with 3 years of experience demonstrating progressive responsibility and independence.

Education

- 2019 **The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs**
M.A. Middle East Studies, specialization in Environment and Climate (expected Fall 2019)
- 2005 **Sarah Lawrence College**
B.A. Liberal Arts (Creative Writing, Theater, Spanish)
- 2015 **San Francisco State University** (non-degree coursework in political science)
- 2013-2014 **College of Marin** (non-degree coursework in political science, statistics, calculus, psychology, economics, and sociology)
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Research Experience

- 12/18-present **Research Assistant - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Prof. Or Rabinowitz-Batz)**
Conducted archival research at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on behalf of Prof. Rabinowitz. Research topics included U.S./Israel relations, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), AWACS, and the Jonathan Pollard espionage case.
- 06/01-08/18 **Policy Analysis Intern - The Association for Forests, Development, and Conservation (AFDC)**
Analyzed and updated Lebanon's National Wildfire Management Policy, verified data gathered by Lebanon's Security Forces, reconciled the National Wildfire Management Policy with current legislation under consideration, identified policy areas for future development, interviews with Lebanese government officials to track progress on National Wildfire Management Policy targets.
- 09/17-05/18 **MA Thesis Research - George Washington University**
Analyzed the relationship between socio-political change and technological adaptation to climate change-induced water scarcity in Oman. Using Jabal Akhdar as a case-study, applied a political ecology framework in order to analyze the physical restructuring of water in Oman and how this is altering social and economic arrangements.
Methodology: Reviewed of relevant literature (political ecology, environmental science, political economy, international relations, history, anthropology); Interviewed relevant Omani government ministries, research institutes, semi-public utilities, and water management officials; Conducted site visits to Jabal Akhdar in Oman.
Conclusions: Found that despite remarkable efforts by the government of Oman, Jabal Akhdar demonstrates that there are limits to our ability to mitigate climate change. Concluded that technology, urbanization and the decline of the agricultural sector as a result of climate change is altering social structures and economic practices in Oman, threatening the survival of the aflaj irrigation systems and the socio-economic heritage they represent.
- 01/18-05/18 **Research Assistant - The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**
Provided research support on topics related to the Egyptian revolution and Kurdish affairs, proofread/edited/critiqued book manuscript, checked end note references, compiled bibliographies, wrote literature reviews, conducted online archival research, summarized research materials.
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Media/Content Development Experience

- 12/14-12/15 **Independent Writing Consultant/Presentation Coach**
Coached PhD candidates on presentation skills for PhD defense presentations and writing skills for academic publications (Mechanical and Civil Engineering).
- 08/14-12/14 **Producer - *Many Nations, One World* documentary film festival and speaker series**
Planned and produced a documentary film festival with bi-weekly screenings on international topics, led a support team of 9 people, coordinated bi-weekly guest speakers, moderated open discussion sessions, generated publicity graphics and marketing strategy, arranged festival logistics (space, equipment, refreshments, signage).
- 03/12-12/13 **Media Assistant - Impro Theater Company**
Maintained the Impro Theater Company website and newsletter with current information, generated written content and graphics.
- 02/09-08/09 **Producer - *An (Improvised) Arabian Nights* theater production**
Produced shows in collaboration with Zawaya, a non-profit organization to promote multicultural discourse and Arab arts in the San Francisco Bay Area. Responsibilities included: project management, team management (20 people), sponsorship partner acquisition, marketing strategy and design, set and lighting design.
- 09/08-09/09 **Founder/Director - *Double Entendre Improv* theater company**
Founded and directed a theater ensemble (8 people), produced regular shows, managed company finances, created marketing content, developed advertising strategy, formulated company policy and operating practices, and coordinated production affairs, staffing, and team building.

08/06-07/07 **Client Services Specialist - Reliance Capital Advisors**

Designed and managed the company website, served as liaison between clients and asset management firms, guided clients through capital management operations, drafted and implemented a client experience model.

08/05-05/06 **Web Operations Auditor - Progressive Insurance**

Reported bi-weekly on static company website performance, affiliate compliance, internet security, brand infringement issues, online services, proofread Spanish website.

Administration Experience

11/12-05/13 **Administrative Assistant - UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center**

Purchased equipment for research labs and administrative offices, coordinated internal and external meetings (including catering, parking, AV setup, handouts), arranged guest travel and seminar itineraries, managed academic conference arrangements and day-of logistics, supported development with grant submission coordination, managed the Center's general phone line and e-mail inbox.

06/12-11/12 **Administrative Assistant - Decurion Management**

Provided support for personal and business financial concerns for the Chairman of the Board (tax issues, LLC formation, loan refinancing, investment account monitoring, charitable donations, property management, etc.), arranged domestic and international executive travel, primary customer service contact for group sales and ticket exchange, coordinated meeting logistics, phone operator for entire family of companies, conducted new hire training.

09/10-05/12 **Legal Assistant - Seldon & Scillieri**

Managed legal billing for an intellectual property law firm, maintained patent/trademark and litigation files, drafted correspondence and legal documents.

08/05-05/06 **Executive Assistant - Progressive Insurance**

Managed A-level executive business and personal calendar for the President of Progressive Direct, arranged extensive domestic and international travel, planned meetings and conferences, created expense reports, served as gatekeeper for the President's calls and appointments, maintained office equipment and supplies.

Instruction/Student Leadership Experience

08/14-12/14 **President - Model United Nations Club at College of Marin**

Fundraised, networked with regional Model UN associations, participated in Model UN Conferences, organized club trips to attend speakers/conferences, chaired club meetings (12 people).

01/08-01/09 **Performer/Facilitator - BATS Improv/Young Audiences**

Performed and facilitated theatrical improvisation workshops for students K-12th grade students.

01/08-01/09 **Teaching Assistant - BATS Improv**

Served as TA for adult classes in theatrical improvisation at various levels of training.

09/03-05/04 **Teaching Assistant - Sarah Lawrence College Outreach Programs**

Co-led creative writing and theater workshops for 3rd-12th grade students.

01/02-12/02 **Teaching Assistant - UC Irvine Humanities Out There (HOT) Outreach Education Programs**

Co-led literature, history, and creative writing workshops for 4th-9th grade students.

07/99-08/99 **Counselor-in-Training - Point Reyes Summer Camp**

Supervised and mentored 2nd-9th grade students at an overnight environmental education program.

General Skills

Analytical Writing, Advocacy, Event Planning, Project Management, Negotiation, Production Management, Research Methods (Interviews, Participant Observation, Questionnaire/Survey Design), Archival Research, Grantwriting, RED Team Analysis

Technical Skills

ArcGIS, Adobe Photoshop, Basic HTML, Adobe Acrobat, Website Management, Database Management, MS Word/Excel/Powerpoint/Outlook, Social Media, Quickbooks, CMS (Wordpress, Wix), Lotus WordPro/Notes

International Experience

Professional Travel: Lebanon, Oman, Jordan, Chile, Costa Rica, England

Personal Travel: Israel, Peru, Argentina, Canada

Languages Arabic (*Advanced*), Spanish (*Advanced-Low*), Farsi (*Advanced-Low*), Hebrew (*Basic*)

Professional Presentations

Bennett, M. & Kaye, J. (2018). *Desalination and Climate: How the Restructuring of Water is Shaping Oman*. Presentation at the annual Middle East Dialogue conference at Policy Studies Organization, Washington D.C.

Awards and Scholarships

2019 Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Finalist - Class of 2019

2018 Aramex Fellowship/Stipend - Elliott School Institute for Middle East Studies (\$6,000)

2018 Middle East Studies Capstone Award - Elliott School Institute for Middle East Studies (\$1,000)

2017 IMES Summer Language Grant - Elliott School Institute for Middle East Studies (*awarded \$5,000*)
2017 FLAS Summer Fellowship for Middle East Languages - Elliott School Institute for Middle East Studies (\$9,500)
2016 Robert R. Banville Endowment Scholarship - Elliott School Institute for Middle East Studies (\$6,760)
2016 Graduate Fellowship - The Elliott School of International Affairs (\$10,000)
2016 Dean's Merit Scholar - USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (*awarded full scholarship*)