**Skylar Benedict**

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# EDUCATION

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Walsh School of Foreign Service** Washington, DC

**Master of Arts in Arab Studies** May, 2017

Relevant Coursework: Water Security, Human Security and Development in the Arab World, Syrian Politics, Structures of Authoritarianism in the Arab World, Iranian National Security Policy, and Qualitative Research Methodology

Thesis: *Conserving Water to Preserve the State: The Politics of Population Pressures and Water Awareness Programs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College Jupiter, FL

**Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts- Concentration: Anthropology,** *magna cum laude* May 2015

Study Abroad: US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship - Intensive Arabic—Tunis, Summer 2012; AMIDEAST—Learn and Serve in Cairo, Summer 2013; School of International Training- Himalayan Buddhist Art and Architecture, Ladakh, India—Summer 2014 (remained for two weeks following the program to conduct thesis research)

Thesis: *Abodes of Memory: Sacred Architecture and Collective Remembrance in Northern India*

# EXPERIENCE



**Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)** Washington, DC

**U.S. Office Manager** Nov. 2019 –May 2020

* Coordinate outreach in support of PARC’s fellowship opportunities and seminars
* Train and oversee interns and part-time staff
* Lead regular fundraising campaigns
* Assist PARC Executive Director in annual federal audit preparations
* Develop and oversee client and donor communications
* Monitor and facilitate annual fellowship application process

**Global Environment & Technology Foundation** Arlington, VA

**MENA Region Project Manager & Communications Coordinator** Dec. 2018 –Aug. 2019

* Serve as program deputy to manage specific project development and oversight of the $10MM Middle East & North Africa (MENA) portfolio in partnership with The Coca-Cola Company and The Coca-Cola Foundation
* Lead communications across the entire organization’s workstreams and programs, developing content highlighting programs that contribute to over 10 million people receiving improved access to water
* Manage 11 projects improving water resources management in the MENA region within the USAID and Coca-Cola Foundation-funded Water and Development Alliance (WADA), Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), and New World Program portfolios
* Lead primary client communication
* Monitor and update project budgets, contracts, and data
* Provide project assessments and guidance to local teams on-site in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Algeria
* Manage MENA Program database, including data from over 50 current and past projects in 11 countries throughout the region, overall program budgets and progress-tracking data, and audio-visual media assets
* Supervise and mentor seasonal GETF communications fellows
* Create media strategies to lead social media activities across diverse platforms.
* Direct communications team development of press releases, articles, infographics, and impact stories.
* Develop and track regular newsletters for U.S. Water Partnership, Global Water Challenge, and RAIN
* Catalogue and monitor GETF’s audio-visual assets to curate content for client requests and external events
* Develop, update and post content for GETF, Global Water Challenge, and U.S. Water Partnership Websites
* Completed PMD Pro Project Management Certification Level 1

**ADALAH YEMEN** Alexandria, VA

 **Legal Analyst & Non-Resident Research Fellow** Jul. 2018 –Present

* Conduct Arabic and English open source research on Yemen
* Write policy recommendation reports on the rule of law in Yemen and southern political movements.
* Analyze current Yemeni government policy on East African migrants and refugees, as well as collaboration and mediation with the Southern Resistance Council (STC)
* Advise research teams on the development of research projects and provide research recommendations

**NTREPID CORPORATION** Herndon, VA

**Social Media Analyst** Dec. 2017 –Dec. 2018

* Conduct Arabic and Persian open source research and translations
* Provide daily analysis of social media trends on geopolitical topics
* Compose weekly reports on the media analysis products of the Ntrepid analysis team
* Train new employees in the usage of Ntrepid media analysis methods and software tools
* Facilitate inter-team coordination and strategy development as the analysis team liaison
* Manage project databases through the use of a shared data server
* Analyze regional current events and political developments by applying principles of international relations, human rights, and foreign affairs

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Office of the Senior Vice President for Research** Washington, DC

**Research Assistant** Jul. – Aug. 2017

* Research new Arabic and Persian government and news sources to update Georgetown Expandable Open-source (EOS) Database

**WATER RESOURCES ACTION PROJECT** Washington, DC

**Assistant Translator** Oct. 2016 – Feb. 2017

* Translate students’ blog posts from Palestinian Arabic to English for the plant4peace blog

**ECOPEACE MIDDLE EAST** Amman, Jordan

**Multimedia Projects Summer Intern** May – Aug. 2017

* Photograph and video EcoPeace events
* Create, edit, and publish a video advocating for EcoPeace’s contributions on international conservation efforts over the Lower Jordan River <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfbrJFSIqUk>
* Prepare reports for international donors on EcoPeace activities
* Write blog posts about EcoPeace student opportunities
* Edit and translate visa documents from Arabic to English in support of EcoPeace employees and student participants attending international conferences

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION** Washington, DC

**Research Assistant to Dr. Rochelle Davis, Georgetown University** Nov. 2015 – May. 2016

* Assist in the translation from Arabic-English of internally displaced Iraqis’ interview transcripts for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Project; “Access to Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq.”
* Identify, analyze and summarize research materials on:
	+ Provincial Reconstruction Teams in the Middle East
	+ trends in education and technology access in Jordan’s Syrian refugee camps
	+ the inclusion of gendered programming in countering violent extremism programs in refugee camps

**AMERICAN MOSQUES RESEARCH PROJECT** Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia

# Research Assistant to Dr. Jacqueline Fewkes, Florida Atlantic University March 2015

* Conduct and record interviews with mosque community members and local historians.
* Conduct visual ethnographic survey work of local mosques and Islamic centers.
* Design and manage social media. Americanmosques.tumblr.com Twitter.com/AmericanMosques?lang=en

# PUBLICATIONS



* **Benedict, S.;** Hussein, H. An Analysis of Water Awareness Campaign Messaging in the Case of Jordan: Water Conservation for State Security. *Water* **2019**, *11*, 1156. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/11/6/1156>
* **Benedict, S.**; Refugees and Water Security: Examining the Historic Roots of Jordan’s Water Management Policy. *Center for Contemporary Arab Studies News Magazine,* **2019** <https://ccas.georgetown.edu/2019/11/18/refugees-and-water-security/>
* **Dowbenko, M.;** Benedict, S.; El-Adm, E.; Forster, A. Back to the Future? A Report on the Southern Transitional Council & Secessionist Activities within South Yemen. Adalah Yemen, *The Southern Independence Issue,* **2018**. <https://www.adalahyemen.com/southern-independence-yemen>
* **Kafai, N.;** Ali, H.; Al-Katheri, M.; Hafedh, N.; Benedict, S.; Brown, T. The Rule of Law in Yemen: A Comprehensive Overview 2015-2018. Adalah Yemen, *The Law in Yemen Series,* **2018**. <https://www.adalahyemen.com/rule-of-law-yemen>

# HONORS



**Awards:** FAU Wilkes Honors College Affiliate Research Assistant in Anthropology (2018-2020), Foreign Language Areas Studies Fellowship, Persian Language (2016-2017), Arab Studies Graduate Scholarship (Fall, 2015), Outstanding Scholar, Class of 2015, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, FAU, FAU International Program Scholarship (Spring, 2013), MacArthur Campus Lifelong Learning Society Scholarship (Spring, 2013), Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic Language (2012), Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Shenandoah Area Council (2011).

# SKILLS

**Languages**: Arabic (Advanced Proficiency); Persian (Advanced); Hindi (Intermediate); Urdu (Beginner); Sorani Kurdish (Beginner).

**Computer Skills**: QGIS, R, Microsoft Office Suite, SharePoint, OneDrive, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Final Cut Pro, NVivo, Mailchimp Marketing Tools, Strikingly Website Builder, WordPress.

**Qualitative Research Methods Expertise**: interviewing, questionnaire development, focus groups facilitation, field note and database management, site mapping, participant observation, grounded theory text analysis

# REFERENCES



**MONICA ELLIS** monica.ellis@getf.org

**Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment & Technology Foundation**

* Overall supervisor and employer at GETF

**LEAH WATERS** leah.waters@getf.org

**Senior Vice President, Global Environment & Technology Foundation**

* Current supervisor for project management and communications at GETF

**ALANOUD CONGEDO** congedal@gmail.com

**Director of Digital Outreach, Ntrepid Corporation**

* Supervisor for social media analysis at Ntrepid Corp, Dec 2017- Dec 2018

**DR. ROCHELLE DAVIS** rad39@georgetown.edu

**Director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Study and Associate Professor of Anthropology**

* Supervisor and primary investigator of ISIM Project on Access to Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq, November 2015-July 2016