

Claire Alyssa Brady (2015)

Bio

Education

Wesleyan University

May 2015

Bachelor of Arts Candidate in Government. GPA 3.84.

Recipient: Dean's List 2010 (Fall), 2012 (Fall), 2013 (Fall, Spring); Merit Scholarship for Peace & Diplomacy

Leadership: President, Active Minds; Co-Chair, Government Majors Committee; Member, Class Council

Qalam wa Lawh Arabic Language Center, (Rabat, Morocco) Jan. 2013

Experience

Quantitative Analysis Center, Wesleyan University

Fall, 2013, Winter, 2014

Teacher's Assistant, Applied Data Analysis

Summer Apprentice

June 2011 - Aug. 2011

Government Department, Wesleyan University

Research Assistant

Sep. 2013 - present

- Collect data and write reports about international organizations on developing country participation

Environmental Law Institute, (Washington, D.C.)

Post-Conflict Natural Resource Management (PCNRM) Intern **Oct 2013 – present**

- Generate statistics and analyze data for the PCNRM book series developed by ELI, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Tokyo and McGill University

Research & Publications Intern

June 2013 – Aug 2013

- Conducted research for the Mexico Climate Change project on the waste, energy and forestry sectors

Terra Soma, LLC, (Minneapolis, MN) *Research Intern* **Aug 2013 – Sep 2013**

•Created a Market Research Interview instrument to assess the market feasibility of urban agriculture

Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, (New York, NY)

Summer Academy Fellow

June 2013 – Aug 2013

- Won the policy challenge at the DC Summer Academy Exposition

Far Corners Community Musical Theater Company, (Santa Helena, Costa Rica)
Assistant Producer/Outreach Coordinator **June 2012 – Aug 2012**

- Communicated with local news sources and community members about the production in Spanish

The Yanapuma Foundation, (Quito, Ecuador)
Group Leader

Jan 2012 – March 2012

- Led sustainable development volunteers: translated, managed finances, organized transportation and food

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), (Minneapolis, MN)
Research Intern

Dec 2010 – Jan 2011

- Drafted the “Community Guide to Environmental Decision Making at the City of Minneapolis” published by the Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy with supervision by Shalini Gupta

SKILLS and INTERESTS

Computer: Statistical Analysis (STATA, SAS, SPSS, R) • Microsoft Office • Cascade • Photoshop • GIS

Language: Spanish (Fluent) • Arabic (Intermediate)

International: Studied in Guatemala, Paraguay and Morocco • Worked in Costa Rica and Ecuador

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Program Proposal

1. Provide a brief overview of the organization for which you will intern or program/project you are developing.

I am working on a project, supervised by Professor Michael Nelson, that will serve as the basis for my senior honors thesis. I will conduct research on the water crisis in the Nile River basin focusing specifically on Egypt, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The purpose of the research is to answer the question, *why have Nile Basin states failed to reach a multilateral agreement on water management?* This project is an important step towards the work that I aspire to do in my career: contributing to multilateral cooperation around environmental challenges.

The Nile River holds cultural and religious significance, and has been vital to livelihood in basin states, for over 2000 years. It is the longest river in the world and there are 11 Nile Basin countries that depend on it. Although the river physically unites these 11 states and links them together, the Nile River also causes tension. There are concerns that the Nile states could go to war over water in the next decade. Egypt has claimed a right to the water from the river due to a colonial treaty brokered by the British in 1929, and renegotiated in 1956. Under this treaty, 75% of the water from the Nile belongs to Egypt, 25% belongs to Sudan, and the other nine countries have no allocated share. To Egypt's dismay, Ethiopia has begun aggressively pursuing what will be the largest dam in Africa—The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. The stakes are high for cooperation around management of the Nile River resources in one of the most war-torn and poverty-stricken regions in the world.

Addressing the roots of failed cooperation has important implications for the Nile River basin, but also for other river regions worldwide, such as the Mekong River Basin in Southeast Asia and the Amazon River Basin in South America. It is a particularly pressing issue right now because the scarcity of water resources is only going to grow as climate change progresses. It is pertinent politically because it engages structures and systems that are currently in motion. Egypt had a political revolution in 2011 and is still in the process of reconfiguration. These changing politics will inevitably have an effect on the future of freshwater negotiations.

Potential reasons why Nile states have not been able to agree on a water management strategy include historical animosities between the countries, international interests in water (namely China's involvement in building dams throughout the basin), and domestic political barriers. There is a possibility that successful negotiations have not occurred because the correct framework for cooperation has not yet been implemented. These are the types of factors I will be analyzing through my project in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

2. Briefly provide details of the internship or experience, including responsibilities and tasks.

The project will take place over the course of two-and-a-half months. I will spend 3-4 weeks in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Uganda conducting interviews, and collecting primary source documents. The interviews will be primarily with individuals at the following institutions: The Nile River Basin Initiative Headquarters (Uganda), The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (Egypt), the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Uganda), the Nile Water Secretariat (Egypt), the Ministry of Water and Education (Ethiopia), The Department of Boundary and Transboundary River Affairs (Ethiopia), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ethiopia), and the Ministry of Water and Environment (Uganda). I will also interview people from the Arab Water Council (Egypt)—a regional intergovernmental organization that works to manage water in a way that maximizes economic, social, and environmental benefit.

I will use the technique of semi-structured interviews as described by Professor Beth Leech. The purpose of this is to assure that certain questions are asked across all relevant respondents while providing opportunities for the collection of additional information. Semi-structured interviews include a combination of Grand tour questions and floating prompts. Grand tour questions ask respondents to describe or give a “verbal tour” of a subject that they know a lot about. This type of question could include: “Could you describe the most important uses of the Nile river water for Egypt?” “Could you describe what Ethiopia’s goal would be if the Nile River states began multilateral negotiations?” Floating prompts are most effectively used as follow up questions to elicit more detailed responses from respondents such as: “How?” or “And then...?”

I will conduct my interviews in Arabic and English, depending on which language is most appropriate in a given interview. I have attained proficiency in Arabic. I have studied Modern Standard Arabic for five years and have succeeded in immersion settings where I have only been able to use Arabic. I will transcribe the interviews that I conduct and translate the ones conducted in Arabic into English. I will analyze and synthesize the information that I collect.

As a capstone to the summer research project, I will submit finalized case study reports—10 pages each—of the findings in each of the three countries.

3. How have you communicated with the employer and determined mutual interest?

Yes. Professor Michael Nelson is my thesis advisor and he is fully in support of this summer research project. It is in line with his professional and academic expertise as he studies issues in Africa, and international politics. I will be communicating with him throughout the summer with updates on the progress of my research. He will provide me with frequent feedback and advice.

In order to prepare for this project, I am enrolled in a government tutorial in which I have been conducting theoretical and historical research on international

freshwater cooperation. I am learning about the political, historical, cultural, and economic factors that contribute to the complicated relationship that the Nile River states have today. This background research will prove essential in understanding the circumstances and situations that are present in current relations between Nile River states.

4. How will this experience enhance or broaden your career goals?

This project will enhance my career goals by providing hands on experience doing research and work related to international negotiation and environmental justice. I became passionate about the challenge of environmental justice growing up in inner city Minneapolis. The majority of the city's pollution is concentrated in North Minneapolis—the part also characterized by the highest rates of poverty and violence. My time living abroad solidified my passion to combat systems that allocate the benefits of green initiatives to stable communities and hide pollution and waste in underprivileged ones. In Ecuador and Costa Rica I experienced the strains that climate change puts on agrarian based economies. Fertile soil becomes increasingly scarce and this threatens financial stability. Women are most vulnerable as men are often stronger candidates for urban jobs due to higher rates of education.

The harmful effects of climate change are concentrated in communities that have limited resources to combat them. Resource scarcity in these countries has provoked intrastate conflict in the past and has the ability to do so in coming years. In 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that climate change will effect poor countries the hardest. Similarly, the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley reported in 2009 that effects in the United States will hit the poor the hardest. These are the issues that I want to address in my career: mitigating the effects of climate change and decreasing tensions and misunderstandings between citizens from different countries. I plan to work towards strengthened multilateral understanding around environmental issues between countries.

I have significant experience both living abroad and doing environmental justice work. My first immersion experience abroad was when I was sixteen. I lived with a host family in rural Luque, Paraguay for six months and attended the local high school. Since then, I have lived, worked, and studied in Guatemala, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Morocco. In Ecuador and Costa Rica I lived on my own and worked for local non-profit organizations. In 2013 I was awarded an Ibn Battuta Merit Scholarship for Peace and Diplomacy that sponsored me to spend a month in Rabat, Morocco to study Arabic intensively along with Moroccan history and culture. I lived on my own in an apartment and took a pledge to communicate solely in Arabic. I am undertaking this project on freshwater negotiations in the Nile River region because I have developed a passion for contributing to multilateral cooperation around environmental challenges. This has developed out of my past experiences

working in the realm of environmental justice. I worked for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy as a research intern and had the privilege of developing a climate guide for the city of Minneapolis that was published in 2011. This taught me about the policies and structures that can be put in place at a local level to combat issues of climate inequality. This past summer I interned for the Environmental Law Institute as a Research and Publications intern where I learned about the issue of freshwater management. I conducted research around Mexico's climate policies. I also analyzed Mexico's freshwater negotiations with the United States concerning rivers that the two countries share. The Environmental Law Institute asked me to stay on as a Post Conflict Natural Resource Management (PCNRM) intern during the academic school year. Through this opportunity, I am analyzing statistics related to resource management and editing drafts of book chapters related to these issues. Through these experiences, I have realized that as the world warms, resource scarcity is one of the greatest challenges that we face as a global community. Freshwater tensions often lead to violence between bordering countries or at the least tense diplomatic and economic relationships. This project will enhance my career aspirations because I am interested in a career in conflict resolution and supporting multilateral collaboration. This experience will augment my knowledge of the intricacies of negotiating multilateral international agreements around scarce resources. It will allow me to conduct fieldwork and understand what multilateral negotiations and international relations are like first hand. It is an opportunity for me to gain practice in innovative and original research. I am interested in pursuing a graduate level degree in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, and this project will give me a real world understanding of the types of situations in which the work of conflict resolution and international negotiation would be relevant.

I will use what I gain from this summer experience to further my career goals of working towards peaceful relations to climate challenges internationally. This is a project that without this grant, I would not be able to undertake. I am grateful for the opportunity to apply. Thank you for your consideration.