

Rachel Travis, Ph.D.

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SKILLS

Language: French (Professional working proficiency, participated in French immersion classes)
Programming Languages and Software: Python, Stata, GIS, NVivo, R and R Studio, Qualtrics, Gephi
Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Bluesky, Twitter, TweetDeck, WordPress, Weebly
Microsoft Office: Publisher, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, OneDrive, Teams
Other: Synthesize and translate complex ideas to diverse audiences with cogency, evidence-based problem-solving, analytical reasoning, consistently exercise good judgement in decision-making, adaptability and resilience, leadership, collaboration with interdisciplinary and culturally diverse teams, intellectual curiosity and creativity

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Pittsburgh, PA
Doctor of Philosophy in Public and International Affairs August 2025

University of Delaware, College of Arts and Sciences, Newark, DE
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with Distinction, European Studies May 2016
Minor: International Business Studies GPA 3.4, Dean's List

Institut Catholique de Paris, Paris, France
Institut de Langue et de Culture Françaises Aug. – Dec. 2014
Completed business communications, history, culture, and language classes to further French fluency.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration & Mobility; Immigration Policy; Policy Transfer; Genocide Prevention; Conflict Transformation;
Sustainable Peacebuilding; Human Rights; Human Security; Peace Studies; International Affairs; Diplomacy; Foreign
Policy; Global Studies; Social Network Analysis; Mixed-Methods Research; Interdisciplinary Research

PUBLICATIONS

Kempton, L., Marlow, D., Deitrick, S., Glass, M.R., and Travis, R. (2024). Swimming against the tide: the role for social sciences and humanities in contributing to a more inclusive approach to innovation in post-industrial cities. In Spigarelli, F., Kempton, L., & Compagnucci, L. (Eds.), *Entrepreneurship and Digital Humanities: How Universities Shape the Future of Labour*. pp. 121 - 135. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Hassan De Ferrari, R., Ocepek, A., Travis, R. & Armony, A.C. (2023). "Migration and Urban Development in São Paulo". *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 46:11, 2446-2466, DOI: [10.1080/01419870.2023.2174809](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2023.2174809).

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University Center for International Studies (UCIS), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA
Graduate Student Research Assistant Aug. 2021 – May 2022; Aug. 2023 – May 2025

Designed and executed benchmarking research on the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Centers (NRC) Grants awardees to optimize strategies for the University of Pittsburgh's UCIS grant application process. Analyzed data and composed research reports for the Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs and Director of the University Center for International Studies to advance global learning, research, partnerships, and community engagement.

Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom and University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Postgraduate Researcher

May 2023 – Sept. 2024

Interviewed city and community leaders involved in the development of Hazelwood Green brownfield site and sites in Medellin, Colombia to generate policy reports and a comparative study of Newcastle Helix with a diverse team.

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Graduate Student Teaching Fellow and Research Assistant Aug. 2017 – May 2021; Aug. 2022 – May 2023 (Seasonal)

Courses: Introduction to Quantitative Methods, Program Evaluation, Research Design for Quantitative and Mixed Methods Research, Evidence and Inference Methodology of the Policy Sciences, Genocide Prevention, Humanitarian Intervention, Strategic Management, Linking Evidence Based Journalism to Evidence Based Policy. Managed all online resources and communications for courses. Provided direct academic assistance and feedback to graduate students through online and in-person lectures. Conducted qualitative research regarding the impact of climate change on migration patterns and assessed the potential for conflict in host communities. Coordinated logistics for the Ford Institute for Human Security Working Group on Climate Change, Migration, and Conflict.

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Instructor/Teaching Fellow

Aug. – Dec. 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022; Jan. – May 2021 (Seasonal)

PIA 2022 Quantitative Methods (Online 2018-2021, In-Person 2022, Graduate-level Course)

Improved student comprehension and critical thinking skills by applying statistical models to current public policy issues. Clarified student questions on statistical concepts. Graded assignments and exams to provide detailed written feedback. Managed online learning modules and collaborative forums.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA

Aug. – Oct. 2021 (Seasonal)

Course Instructor

Designed and taught a short course titled, “The Right to Freedom of Movement” to facilitate the learning of more than 35 adult learners over the age of 50. The course successfully challenged and broadened the participants’ conceptions of mobility, engaging them with local and global examples of how mobility and the right to freedom of movement impact our world. There was a noticeable improvement in student questions, preparation, and confidence by the end of the course as well as a deeper shared understanding of mobility obstacles in public policy.

Ford Institute for Human Security, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Research Assistant

May – Aug. 2021 (Seasonal)

Collected data, analyzed literature, and put forth recommendations pertaining to the prevention of mass atrocities. The goal of the collaborative research team is to elucidate actionable, evidence-based steps for humanitarian intervention under the circumstances of genocide and/or ethnic cleansing.

Senior Undergraduate Thesis

Nov. 2015 – June 2016

Title: Criteria for Reform of the United Nations Security Council in Preventing Genocide

Advisors: Dr. William H. Meyer, Dr. Matthew S. Weinert, Dr. Lindsay H. Hoffman

Analyzed 45 periodicals on conflict prevention, genocide, and reform of the UNSC, culminating in a 140-page thesis on the effectiveness of efforts of the UNSC in forestalling the genocides in Rwanda and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Using patterns of escalation in ethnic-based violence to pinpoint likely genocidal developments in Myanmar and make recommendations for the reform of UNSC actions in eradicating genocide.

Undergraduate Research Program, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Summer Fellowship

June – Sept. 2015

Advisor: Dr. William H. Meyer

Conducted qualitative research and literary reviews by analyzing 7+ works on international organizations and multilateral diplomacy. Worked to make recommendations for reform of the United Nations Security Council and its potential expansion in membership to 24 members, while increasing knowledge of global governance and providing a better understanding of the challenges posed to the legitimacy of the UNSC.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United Nations Headquarters, Office of the Secretariat, Millennium 1 United Nations Plaza New York, NY

Intern, Office of Internal Oversight Services, Investigation and Evaluation Division July – Oct. 2018

Conducted qualitative analysis of indicators, outputs, and outcomes for evaluation of UNHCR global health programs. Created a sample frame for survey of UNHCR global health staff. Reviewed evidence and documentation of data collected by UNHCR programs worldwide. Attended General Assembly meetings.

International Center for Transitional Justice Headquarters, New York, New York

Intern, Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit June – Aug. 2018

Analyzed and synopsized qualitative and quantitative data for multiple projects including ICTJ's Core Donor Report for Fiscal Year 2018. Created a "lessons learned" presentation for viewing by Executive Directors and Staff. Evaluated survey questions and responses to gather data on best practices for international transitional justice programs and workshops, with an emphasis on gender inclusivity. Prepared logic models for grant proposals. Attended seminars on the challenges facing evaluation in conflict settings and human rights legal proceedings. Designed data visualizations of global partner relations and programming. Explored expansion of ICTJ's 2018-2022 strategic plan to include conflict prevention and incorporation of SDG 16.

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) Women's Leadership Program, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Peer Mentor, Assistant Social Media Coordinator, and Resident Assistant June – July 2016 & 2017

Mentored participants from sub-Saharan Africa on the history and participation of women in public life in the U.S. by enabling international service leadership. Facilitated empowering discussions with non-profit and government networks on women's engagement in U.S. politics, economics, culture, and society. Documented educational strides of participants on social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook). Participants apply improved leadership skills and decision-making abilities to activate civic engagement projects.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars and Secondary Educators National Security Policymaking Institute, U.S.

Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Program Associate Jan. – Feb. 2017

Assisted with daily logistics of intensive post-graduate level academic program for foreign scholars, practitioners, and secondary educators. Facilitated informed exchanges between participants, faculty, students, and local communities through academic sessions, roundtable discussions, open forums, and cultural activities. Maintain a global epistemic community of national security policymaking experts.

Office of United States Congressman John Carney, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Intern

Aug. – Dec. 2016

Drafted memos from briefings and certification courses on the post-coup condition of Turkey, the global refugee crisis, countering violent extremism, international humanitarian law, and genocide prevention to improve the efficiency of legislative correspondence. Interpreted bills to concisely convey purposes and implications to legislative staff. Professionally assuaged concerns of constituents via phone and email.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Hostile Terrain 94 Pittsburgh

Co-Founder and Co-Leader of HT94 Pittsburgh Team

Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2023

Hosted a public exhibition of Archeologist Jason De Leon's [Hostile Terrain 94](#), an interactive exhibit featuring 3,700 toe tags that represents the deceased bodies of migrants found in the Sonoran Desert along the U.S. and Mexico border. The exhibit increased public knowledge of U.S. immigration policies of "prevention through deterrence", and encouraged discussion through our student coalition-led events, speakers, film screenings, and toe-tag filling sessions that engaged undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, activists, artists, and community members.

University of Delaware HENMUN Conferences I, II, III, & IV

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Councils and Regional Bodies

Sept. 2012 – April 2016

Supervised the training in parliamentary procedure of 20 collegiate student staff members. Edited research papers and multimedia projects, and organized logistics for 4 simultaneous committees focused on diplomatically resolving global challenges of nuclear non-proliferation, natural resource rights in the Arctic, migrant labor, and the right to adequate housing. Facilitated educational enrichment of 500 high school students by providing opportunities for decision making and cooperative dialogue throughout each 3-day conference.

University of Delaware, Honors Program, Newark, DE

Program Assistant

Sept. 2013 – June 2016

Communicated effectively with university faculty and staff to better student learning environments. Diffused concerns of parents, prospective students, and current students. Informed the Honors community of events to enrich academic and living experiences as well as networking, and career or continued education opportunities.

University of Delaware, Honors Program

Honors Peer Advisor

June – Aug. 2015

Interacted professionally with faculty and staff to equip them with resources to advise incoming honors students regarding the joint planning of their undergraduate degree. Coordinated student schedules and guided them through the detail-oriented registration process. Advised incoming students on university honors program protocol and ways to get the most out of their experience by remaining engaged in the living and learning community.

Army ROTC Leader's Training Course, Fort Knox, KY

Cadet, 2nd Regiment C Company 3rd Platoon

June – July 2014

Led team-building and synergistic exercises, and engaged in tactical training designed to progress mental, physical, and emotional capabilities. Graduated from the Army Officer Leaders Training Course (currently "Cadet Initial Entry Training"; substitutes for the accelerated Basic Course).

AWARDS AND SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh, Achievement in Pedagogy credential

Sept. 2025

Doctoral Student Peer Mentoring Initiative (DSPMI), Co-Leader	Jan. 2023 – May 2025
GSPIA Dean’s Office Dissertation Support Grant	April 2022 – May 2025
GSPIA Dean’s Office and Doctoral Program Scholarship to attend the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) at Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs	June 16 – 29, 2019
GSPIA Dean’s Office and Doctoral Program Scholarship to attend the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at University of Michigan Institute for Social Research Workshop (<i>Virtual due to COVID-19</i>).	Aug. 10 – 14, 2020
University of Pittsburgh , Pittsburgh, PA	
<i>Committee Member, University Council on Graduate Study (UCGS) Policy Committee</i>	Jan. 2020 – May 2021
University of Pittsburgh , Pittsburgh, PA	
<i>Graduate Student Representative and Co-Diversity Officer, GSPIA Dean Search Committee</i>	Dec. 2019 – April 2020

