

ELIZABETH EKREN

PhD Candidate,
Development Studies

Currently in Miami, FL, USA

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SUMMARY

Cosmopolitan social scientist ready to advance interdisciplinary insights with dynamic content, data-driven stories and problem-focused thinking in policy, security or area studies research

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH 

GERMAN 

RUSSIAN 

KEY SKILLS

RESEARCH DESIGN COLLABORATION

DATA ANALYSIS ADAPTABILITY

CONTENT CREATION CREATIVITY

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKING PROJECT MANAGEMENT

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MANAGER, CONSULTING PROGRAMS AND CONTENT | ASSETMARK, INC.
Concord, CA, USA (Jul. 2012 – Jul. 2015)

- Led research, client feedback and vendor sourcing projects to define new program offers for client base of 6000+ investment firm owners
- Created original presentations, business tools and marketing content for national conferences and individual client use
- Presented at national educational conferences and webinars
- Managed and supported consulting engagements for 50+ clients
- Built, maintained and evaluated program success metrics

CONSULTANT | BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

Fairfield, CA, USA, Army Analytics Group, Technical Publications Division (Mar. 2012 – Jul. 2012)

- Catalogued and digitalized military cemetery records and data

Washington, DC, USA, Department of Homeland Security, Intelligence and Analysis, Publication Management Division (Oct. 2010 – Mar. 2012)

- Edited and compiled intelligence reports and research products to prepare for agency- and government-wide distribution
- Synthesized quantitative and qualitative business metrics to improve publication methods, aid strategic planning and align process improvements with customer needs

EDUCATION

PHD | UNIVERSITY OF BONN, CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Bonn, Germany (Oct. 2016 – present, completion expected Jul. 2021)

Development Studies (sub-concentration in Social Anthropology)

- Thesis: Agency, opportunity structure and empowerment in everyday refugee life: enduring and overcoming challenges of daily living in Cologne refugee shelters

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS | DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Monterey, CA, USA (Aug. 2015 – Jun. 2016)

German Language (Dean's List)

MASTER OF SCIENCE | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford, UK (Sep. 2009 – Jul. 2010)

Russian and East European Studies (with Distinction in Thesis)

- Thesis: Getting Down to Business: Evaluating the Relationship Between Formal Legal Institutions and the Status of Small Enterprise Development in Russia and Georgia

BACHELOR OF ARTS | YALE UNIVERSITY

New Haven, CT, USA (Sep. 2005 – May 2009)

Psychology (with Distinction); Russian Language (with Distinction)

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SOFTWARE

MS OFFICE
SUITE



CITAVI



ATLAS.TI



GOOGLE
FORMS



SURVEY
MONKEY



SPSS



PERSONAL INTERESTS

DOCUMENTARIES

THEOLOGY

ARTISINAL COFFEE

LONG-DISTANCE
RUNNING

MODERN COOKING

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

ENERGY SECURITY POLICY INTERN | NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

Washington, DC, USA (Summer 2009)

- Designed multimedia content for utility-sector security projects

FOREIGN POLICY INTERN | THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Washington, DC, USA (Summer 2008)

- Researched US-Europe topics for speeches, editorials and white papers

INTELLIGENCE AID | OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

Washington, DC, USA (Summer 2007)

- Supported naval security research and executive administrative tasks
- Previously active Top Secret/SCI security clearance (2015)

POLICY ASSISTANT | OFFICE OF KENTUCKY SECRETARY OF STATE

Frankfort, KY, USA (Summer 2006)

- Developed content for state history and election educational materials

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

2021 | Annual Conference of the German Anthropological Association (Bremen, Germany)

2020 | 3rd Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers (Cologne, Germany)

2019 | Annual Conference of the German Anthropological Association (Konstanz, Germany)

2018 | 2nd International Research and Policy Workshop on Migration and Development, German Development Institute (Bonn, Germany)
Workshop on Translocal Conflict Dynamics Among Refugees, Bonn International Center for Conversion (Bonn, Germany)

2017 | International Conference on Refugee and Forced Immigration Studies, Eastern Mediterranean Academic Research Center (Istanbul, Turkey)

MDE Workshop on Refugee Entrepreneurship (Bremen, Germany)
Institutional and Organizational Economics Academy, Scientific Institute of Cargèse (Corsica, France)

PUBLICATIONS

2020 | Al Munajed & Ekren. Exploring the impact of multidimensional refugee vulnerability on distancing as a protective measure against COVID-19: The case of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Turkey. *Journal of Migration and Health*, 1-2, 100023

2019 | The Garden (Essay). *Create – Encounter, Life Matters Journal*

2018 | How can theories of institutional design and everyday innovation reveal agency for change in refugee communities? *International Journal of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies*, 3(2), 5-18
Obstacles to refugees' self-reliance in Germany. *Forced Migration Review*, (58), 30-32

MAJOR AWARDS

2019 | National Military Family Association Tuition Scholarship (\$2K)

2017 | PhD grant, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (~\$16K)