

EMILY FORNOF

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin – Madison , Ph.D., Geography	Spring 2025 (expected)
George Mason University , M.S., Conflict Analysis and Resolution	2017
University of Mary Washington , B.A., International Affairs and Geography	200

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Wisconsin – Madison <i>Project Assistant, Geography Department</i>	Madison, Wisconsin July 2021 – Present
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- Conduct research (desk and field) for an interdisciplinary research team on a three-year *Research Forward* grant seeking more complex understandings of how climate variability interacts with other sources of resource-related conflict and how these tensions may or may not be used by insurgency movements to gain support in Mali
- Develop survey instruments and interview questions in English, French, and Fulfulde
- Train Malian research enumerators in best practices for interviewing and use of survey instruments, including use of ODK
- Created an accessible human subject research training and assessment for West African research assistants
- Setup and maintain shared citation service, document storage, and communication tools to facilitate ease of communication and research across three academic departments

<i>Grader, Geography Department</i>	Spring 2022
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- Reviewed, graded, and provided substantive feedback (content and writing skills) on weekly essays for approximately 200 students enrolled in Geography 101.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Institute of Peace <i>Program Officer, Africa Center</i>	Washington, D.C. January 2020 – July 2021
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- Led the development and planning of the Women Preventing Violent Extremism in the Sahel project, including establishing the project's goals and objectives, writing monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans, and designating appropriate resources required to support program goals
- Served as an expert on women, peace, and security in the Sahel by conducting research, writing publications, presenting at conferences and workshops, and providing advice and counsel to other public and private organizations
- Managed and mentored a team of regional staff based in Mali and Niger and a DC-based program assistant
- Developed training and educational materials on Women, Peace, and Security, Countering Violent Extremism, and organizational management for women's organizations in the Sahel
- Represented the Africa Center on the Staff Interests Committee by raising positive and negative issues to the Executive Office, making recommendations, and identifying potential useful tools around the Institute to help staff overcome common workplace challenges relating to processes, systems, or policies

Senior Program Specialist, Center for Middle East and Africa

September 2015 – January 2020

- Coordinated the Network of Nigerian Facilitators to train and mentor dialogue facilitators, and led project monitoring and evaluation
- Managed budgets totaling \$1.3 million of U.S. State Department and USIP funds; wrote and monitored over a dozen contracts with domestic and international vendors to ensure receipt of high-quality deliverables and on-time payment in coordination with Senior Program Officer
- Drafted funding proposals, quarterly reports, memos for USIP leadership, and web content
- Established rapport with internal and external stakeholders throughout Washington D.C., and West and Central Africa, working in French and English
- Planned, implemented, and managed \$2.2 million State Department project in coordination with a content expert to provide support and capacity building assistance to the DR Congolese government and Congolese military justice to improve investigation and prosecution of illicit natural resource extraction

Senior Program Assistant, Center for Middle East and Africa

September 2013 - September 2015

- Managed the Sudanese and South Sudanese Youth Leaders project including developing application, recruiting applicants, selecting the fellows, overseeing research projects and program requirements, and leading monitoring and evaluation
- Staffed Ambassador Johnnie Carson and Ambassador Princeton Lyman in their roles as senior advisors to the Institute, including researching and drafting Congressional testimonies and developing memos to high-level USG officials such as the National Security Advisor

Research Assistant, Academy for International Conflict Management October 2012 - September 2013

- Researched and wrote case studies for courses and book chapters, including detailed case study on Senegal's 2012 elections
- Co-led a USG interagency team to evaluate a tabletop exercise on intergovernmental coordination and wrote an After-Action Report shared with stakeholders in multiple government agencies

National Science Resources Center, Smithsonian Institution

Washington, D.C.

Program Management Assistant

July 2011 - July 2012

- Planned and executed professional development workshops for over 900 science teachers
- Wrote quarterly grant activity reports to the Department of Education and other match donors
- Improved communication and relationships with regional partners and school administrations through frequent contact about project goals, events, and accomplishments leading to improved teacher engagement

Population Services International

Washington, D.C.

Intern for the West and Central Africa Department

May 2011 - December 2011

- Researched and pursued ~10 private funding opportunities for country platforms
- Tracked budgets for multimillion-dollar projects from donors, including USAID and Global Fund

Peace Corps

Konna, Mali

Small Enterprise Development Volunteer

July 2009 - August 2010

- Created a project template to scale volunteer programming efforts in gender and development, which included the design of a project evaluation tool to help ensure quality future programming
- Facilitated women's participation in USAID good governance project (PGP2), and wrote success story for USAID project report detailing improvement in governance in Konna
- Secured grant and trained facilitators for Girls' Empowerment Workshop for 45 women and girls
- Taught illiterate accounting, in Fulfulde, to ~20 female entrepreneurs starting new businesses

PUBLICATIONS

1. "Great Green Walls: Hype, Myth, and Science" with Matthew D. Turner, Diana K. Davis, Emily Yeh, Pierre Hiernaux, Emma Loizeaux, Anika Rice, and Aaron Suiter. Forthcoming with *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*.

PRESENTATIONS

"Who Gets to Hustle, Who Has to Grind: Economic Diversification in the U.S. and West Africa," Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE) Graduate Research Symposium: Re-/generation, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, March 5th, 2022

SELECTED POLICY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

1. Fornof, Emily, and Penda Ba. 2021. "[Senegal's Assises Nationales.](#)" In *National Dialogues in Peacebuilding and Transitions: Creativity and Adaptive Thinking*, 63–73. PeaceWorks 173. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.
2. Fornof, Emily, and Emily K. Cole. 2020. "[Five Things to Know About Mali's Coup.](#)" *United States Institute of Peace*. August 27, 2020.
3. Fornof, Emily. 2015. "[Q&A: The Siege in Mali.](#)" *United States Institute of Peace*. November 20, 2015.
4. Fornof, Emily. 2014. "[South Sudan Activists Call for Civil Society Role in Peace Process.](#)" *United States Institute of Peace*. May 27, 2014.
5. Fornof, Emily. 2014. "[U.N. Envoy Warns Somalia Progress Is In Peril without Stalwart Support.](#)" *United States Institute of Peace*. April 30, 2014.
6. Fornof, Emily. 2014. "[How to Gauge Africa Summit Success? Updated. Realistic Perceptions.](#)" *United States Institute of Peace*. August 6, 2014.

Presentations

- Briefing on Nigeria for The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, 2018
- Briefing on DR Congo for Network 20/20 Members, 2017
- Briefing for Smithsonian Cultural Delegation to Mali, 2013

FELLOWSHIPS, AFFILIATIONS

Fellowships

West African Research Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2022	\$5,500
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, June 2022 – August 2022 (declined)	\$5,000
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, September 2021 – May 2022	\$15,000

Affiliations

African Studies Association (2021)
American Association of Geographers (2021)
American Geographical Society (2023)

LANGUAGES

- French: B1 on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- Fulfulde/Peul (Fula), Maasina dialect: Intermediate