

ANYA LEE WAHAL

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EDUCATION

University of Oxford , School of Geography and the Environment	2024-2026
Master of Philosophy in Water Science, Policy, and Management, <i>U.S. Marshall Scholar</i>	
Georgetown University , Walsh School of Foreign Service	2019-2023
Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (GPA: 3.927/4.000), <i>Magna Cum Laude with Honors, Dean's List First Honors</i>	
<i>Major:</i> Science, Technology, and International Affairs, concentration in Energy and Environment, <i>Minor:</i> Chinese	
<i>Honors Thesis:</i> "Water in the West: Analyzing the Impact of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Tier 1 Shortages on Farming and Development in Arizona," advised by Professor Mark Giordano.	
National Taiwan University , International Chinese Language Program (Study Abroad)	Summer 2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Environmental Policy
- Sustainable Development
- Water Justice and Equity
- Climate Adaptation
- Food Security
- Environmental Governance

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

United States Department of State, Fulbright Program	Delhi, India
<i>Fulbright-Nehru Researcher</i>	August 2023 - July 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving as cultural ambassador from the United States researching the impact of poor water quality on maternal health in informal communities in Delhi through ethnography and policy analysis.	
Georgetown University, Department of Science, Technology, & International Affairs	Washington, DC
<i>Research Assistant to Professor Mark Giordano</i>	May 2022 - May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted policy research on water diplomacy between China and India in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin. Analyzed Sino-Indian tensions in the basin as it relates to infrastructure, data sharing, and flooding hazards.	
Georgetown University, Center for Research and Fellowships	Washington, DC
<i>Provost's Distinguished Undergraduate Research Fellow</i>	May 2022 - August 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performed independent thesis research on the experiences of Arizona farmers and policymakers grappling with drought in the Colorado River Basin. Implemented an ethnography (with ~60 in-depth interviews and participant observation) and media analysis to inform state policy and water justice challenges.	
Mortara Center for International Studies	Washington, DC
<i>Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellowship</i>	January 2020 - May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with Professor Rajesh Veeraraghavan on technology, labor, and international development research. Used ArcGIS and Python to work on projects with the <i>Urban Spatial Observatory</i>, an interdisciplinary research group that collaborated with the government of India to open data and map 3,000+ settlements to assist with COVID-19 efforts.• Helped edit and publish the book <i>Patching Development: Information Politics and Social Change in India</i>.	
Georgetown University, Krogh Scholars Program	Washington, DC
<i>Krogh Honors Scholar</i>	January 2021 - May 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used R programming to perform original research under Professor Erik Voeten on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's (AIIB) sustainable development goals in relation to its position in the international order.	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Policy Institute of California, Water Policy Center	San Francisco, CA
<i>Research Intern</i>	June 2024 - August 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed a research project on California's sea level rise preparedness; created a dataset of outer coast jurisdictions and an analysis of their local coastal programs, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation assessments.	
Atlantic Council, Adrienne-Arsht Rockefeller Resilience Center	Washington, DC
<i>Young Global Professional</i>	August 2022 - December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed the state of the science on the impact of extreme heat and climate change on maternal and neonatal health. Engaged in storytelling on community resilience in 13 partner cities for the Heat Action Platform.	
Georgetown University, Earth Commons	Washington, DC
<i>Green Commons Awardee</i>	May 2022 - August 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Filmed, edited, and produced a mini-documentary on how water shortages in the Colorado River Basin are affecting Arizona's farmers. Wrote accompanying think pieces and screened the film.	

Georgetown University, Institute of Politics

Co-Chair and Student Leader

Washington, DC

August 2019 - May 2022

- Served as the Democratic co-chair overseeing all student programming and fellowship committees, introducing speaker events, and organizing communications and outreach.

Council on Foreign Relations, International Institutions and Global Governance

Washington, DC

Research Intern

September 2021 - December 2021

- Studied foreign policy on space governance, climate change, and biodiversity. Compiled weekly briefs for the Council of Councils. Surveyed U.S. engagement on the global stage through a historical analysis of international treaties.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) Team

Washington, DC

Pelosi Scholar

June 2021 - August 2021

- Evaluated emissions data from 500+ companies in the forest, land, and agriculture sectors. Helped write emissions reductions guidance and prepare presentations for consultative group companies and senior leaders in WWF.

Library of Congress, John W. Kluge Center

Washington, DC

Research Intern

January 2021 - May 2021

- Conducted research with Dr. Andrea Matwyshyn on constitutional law, privacy law, fake news, data governance, and technology. Drafted 50+ page legal reports analyzed media to support research and write literature reviews.

The Polling Place

Phoenix, AZ

Nonprofit co-founder and director

August 2020 - April 2021

- Co-founded (and now serving in advisory capacity for) The Polling Place, a national youth movement with 20+ state chapters and 150+ members, dedicated to providing detailed, consolidated information on all candidates on a ballot.

United States Department of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Washington, DC

Legislative Intern

September 2020 - December 2020

- Engaged with Congressional offices in advance of hearings and drafted background material for the Secretary and senior leaders. Researched pending legislation and prepped high-profile interviews for the book Profiles in Service.

United States Census Bureau, The Opportunity Project (in collaboration with the Beeck Center)

Washington, DC

Tech Team Member

September 2020 - December 2020

- Worked with an interdisciplinary group of researchers to co-found *Pick It Up*, a student-led product that tracks plastic pollution and implements educational modules with the support from the State Department and Wilson Center.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Meditation and First-Year Retreat Leader (*January 2020 - May 2023*)
- Special Assistant to Dean Emeritus Peter F. Krogh (*January 2022 - May 2022*)
- Women's Alliance Fellow at Georgetown University (*August 2021 - May 2022*)
- Deputy Director of Speakers for the OWN IT Summit (*August 2020 - April 2021*)
- Editor for Bossier Magazine (*August 2020 - March 2021*)
- Editorial Assistant for the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs (*August 2019 - August 2020*)
- Georgetown University Department of Biology Administrative Assistant (*August 2019 - December 2019*)

JOURNAL & CONFERENCE ARTICLES

- **Wahal, A.**, E. Mendenhall, and M. Giordano. 2023. "Water in the West: Analyzing the Impact of Colorado River Basin Shortages on Farming and Development in Arizona." *Journal of Rural Studies* (*Under Revision*)
- M. Giordano and **A. Wahal**. 2023. India, China and the Brahmaputra: Dams as the New Boundary Stones? *International Journal of Water Resources Development*. (*Under Revision*)
- Baharay, Y., L. Nichols, **A. Wahal**, O. Gow, K. Shickman, M. Edwards, and K. Huffling. 2023. "The Impact of Extreme Heat Exposure on Pregnant People and Neonates: A State of the Science Review." *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmwh.13502>.
- H. Chakraborty, B. Bell, **A. Wahal**, S.A. Varde, S. Colloredo-Mansfeld, and R. Veeraraghavan. 2020. Reluctant Intermediaries: Examining the Labor in Opening Government Data. *Data4Good: Designing for Diversity and Development*.

THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

- **Wahal, A.** 2023. As our planet warms, artificial intelligence could help quench the thirst of billions facing water scarcity. *Planet Forward*. <https://planetforward.org/story/ai-water-scarcity/>
- **Wahal, A.** 2023. Rising temperatures, rising risks: The compounding effects of heat, drought, and flood. *Atlantic Council*. <https://onebillionresilient.org/2023/06/02/heat-drought-and-flood/>

- **Wahal, A.** 2023. "Drought-Stricken, Arizona Farmers Face Bleak Growing Season." Common Home. February 18, 2023. <https://commonhome.georgetown.edu/topics/foodwater/drought-stricken-arizona-farmers-face-a-bleak-growing-season/>.
- Giordano, M., and **A. Wahal**. 2022. "The Water Wars Myth: India, China and the Brahmaputra." United States Institute of Peace. December 8, 2022. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/12/water-wars-myth-india-china-and-brahmaputra>.
- **Wahal, A.** 2022. "On International Treaties, the United States Refuses to Play Ball." Council on Foreign Relations. January 7, 2022. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/international-treaties-united-states-refuses-play-ball>.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Wahal, A.** Water in the West: Analyzing the Impact of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Tier 1 Shortages on Farming and Development in Arizona. Mortara Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 2023.
- **Wahal, A.** Water in the West: Analyzing the Impact of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Tier 1 Shortages on Farming and Development in Arizona. Berkley Center, Global Social Justice Research Symposium, Washington, DC, 2023.
- **Wahal, A.** Labor and Development in India. Mortara Annual Conference, 2023.
- Giordano, M., and **A. Wahal**. "The Water Wars Myth: India, China and the Brahmaputra." RSIS-USIP workshop. Singapore, 2022.
- **Wahal, A.**, C. Ramirez, M. Smith, and S.E. Nabizada. Al Gore in Conversation with Youth Climate Leaders. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, 2022.
- H. Chakraborty, B. Bell, **A. Wahal**, S.A. Varde, S. Colloredo-Mansfeld, and R. Veeraraghavan. Reluctant Intermediaries: Examining the Labor in Opening Government Data. Data4Good: Designing for Diversity and Development, AVI 2020.

SKILLS

- Fluent in English (native), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), Hindi (undergoing intermediate language training)
- Experience in Microsoft Office Suite, Canva, Web Design, Digital Marketing, ArcGIS, Google Earth, R, and Python

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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| ● Marshall Scholarship (2023) | ● STIA Honors Thesis Grant (2023) |
| ● Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship (2023) | ● Mortara Summer Grant (2023) |
| ● Critical Language Enhancement Award (2023) | ● Green Commons Award (2023) |
| ● Provost's Distinguished Fellowship (2023) | ● John Carroll Fellowship (2020-2023) |
| ● Mortara Research Fellowship (2020-2023) | ● Women's Alliance Fellowship (2021-2022) |
| ● Director's Award, Science, Technology, & Asia (2023) | ● Second Place Winner of Plan-It Earth (2021) |
| ● Peter F. Krogh Medal (2023) | ● Paul Pelosi Scholarship (2020) |
| ● Peter F. Krogh Millennial Award (2023) | ● Improving the Human Condition Grant (2020) |
| ● BSFS Undergraduate Dean's Fund Grant (2023) | ● Mortara Summer Grant (2020) |

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- Bowser, A., and A. Long. 2021. "This Earth Day, A New (Global) Earth Challenge | Wilson Center." April 22, 2021. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/earth-day-new-global-earth-challenge>.
- Cannon, K.. 2020. "Scottsdale Siblings Help to Educate Voters." Scottsdale Progress. October 16, 2020. https://www.scottsdale.org/neighbors/scottsdale-siblings-help-to-educate-voters/article_a7927ece-0a54-11eb-b908-cf872ea3c457.html.
- Chow, D.. 2022. "Al Gore Looks to Youth to Spark Action on Climate Change." NBC News, March 24, 2022. <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/al-gore-looks-youth-spark-action-climate-change-rcna21241>.
- Groves, R.. 2020. "Student-Led Action-Oriented Research | The Provost's Blog." November 18, 2020. https://blog.provost.georgetown.edu/student-led-action-oriented-research/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=student-led-action-oriented-research.
- Huang, R.. 2023. "MURF Anya Wahal (SFS '23) Conducts Research on Colorado River Basin." Mortara (blog). February 22, 2023. <https://mortara.georgetown.edu/2023/02/22/murf-anya-wahal-sfs-23-conducts-research-on-colorado-river-basin/>.
- James, P.. 2021. "'Not Only Possible, But Plausible': Pelosi Scholars Work Toward Public Service Ambitions Through Internship Experiences." SFS - School of Foreign Service - Georgetown University (blog). October 4, 2021. <https://sfs.georgetown.edu/pelosi-scholars-work-toward-public-service-ambitions/>.