

Megan Ward

Ph.D. Candidate

Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies- University of Washington

<https://jsis.washington.edu/people/megan-ward/>

mzebert@uw.edu 760 975 7568

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in International Studies, University of Washington (2020)
Dissertation: "Deploying the Frontier: Security Expertise and Religion in the U.S. Mexico Borderlands"
- M.S. in Homeland Security, San Diego State University 2016
Master's Thesis: "Material Representation: Narco Religiosity in New American Conception"
- B.A. in Study of Religion, University of California, San Diego 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Lead Research Assistant at the University of Washington 2018-2020
Lead Research Assistant for the Jackson School's research consulting program, the Global Research Group (GRG). Manages teams of masters and undergrad students, providing project leadership and original research. Supported and guided the development of external research reports and presentations to private clients including Microsoft and the Wilson Center. Contributed original research and publications to various clients on the topics of cybersecurity, online governance, and electoral security.
- Instructor at the University of Washington 2017-2018
Sole Summer Instructor for the Jackson School. Designed and taught JSIS core class.
- Teaching Assistant at the University of Washington 2017-2018
Full-Year Teaching Assistant appointment with the Jackson School and Law, Societies, and Justice Departments.
- Research Assistant at the University of Washington 2017
Acted as research support for the Geography Department. Provided Atlas:ti and qualitative analysis support for current projects regarding the Northwest Detention Center and Tacoma Superfund site projects.
- Program Management Analyst at Client Solution Architects (CSA) LLC 2013 - 2016
Provided client side consulting support at US Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems in San Diego. Directly supported the Fleet Readiness Directive. Managed, supported, and advised the program office. Managed database records, cyber readiness status, and communication with on-site engineers.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- National Horizons Scholarship – Women in Defense 2019-2020.
- Joseph and Yetta Blau Award for Excellence in Research 2019-2020
- American Academy of Women National Dissertation Fellowship (Alternate) 2019-2020
- Research/Teaching Assistantship, Jackson School for International Studies 2018-2019
- Research Grant, JSIS Diversity & Equity Committee 2018
- Dr. Clyde Snow Fund for Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2018
- Teaching Assistantship, Jackson School for International Studies 2017-2018
- Dr. Clyde Snow Fund for Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2017
- Henry M. Jackson Fellowship – University of Washington 2016-2017
- Dean's Award for Research and Scholarship- San Diego State University 2015
Cash prize for original research. Judged and Awarded at the SDSU Research Symposium.
- National Horizons Scholarship – Women in Defense 2012

HONORS

Cohort Representative on Departmental PhD Committee (Elected)	2016-2020
Order of Sword and Shield (OSS), Homeland Security National Honor Society	
Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honors Society (Senior Officer -Elected)	

PUBLICATIONS

“Material Representation: Narco Religiosity in New American Conception” Master’s Thesis. San Diego State University.	2016
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CONFERENCES

GPSS Academic Conference	2017
California American Studies Association Conference	2015
San Diego State Research Symposium (SRS)	2015

RESEARCH

Graduate Research- Southwest United States	2015-2018
Graduate Travel Research- Bangkok, Thailand.	2013