

# Maria B. Benes

Email: [mbenes@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mbenes@huskers.unl.edu)

Phone: (402) 617-9173

**Office:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
213C Knoll Hall  
440 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68588

**Home:** 4101 Jacquelyn Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68516

## Education

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science**

**Expected 2021**

- Dissertation: *Wading Through Water Networks: Lessons Learned at the International, Regional and Local Levels*
- Specializations: International Relations, Human Rights and Water Security

**The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington D.C.**

**M.A. International Affairs**

**Received 5/11**

- Concentration: Conflict and Conflict Resolution

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE**

**B.A. International Studies and Political Science**

**Received 8/07**

- Honors Program and Dean's List for the College of Arts and Sciences (Fall 03 - Summer 07)
- Thesis: "Role of Faith-Based NGOs in Nation-Building"
  - Provided research support for the book *Taming Ethnic Hatred: Ethnic Cooperation and Transnational Networks in Eastern Europe* by Dr. Patrice McMahon

## Teaching

- Fall 2020-Present: UNL Center for Transformative Teaching, Honors Program Associate
- 2019-2020 Graduate Assistant to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors Program
  - Helped plan curriculum
  - Gave recommendations on overall Honors Program strategy
- Political Science 479: *Insurgency, Guerrilla Warfare and Terrorism*
  - Independent Instructor
  - 34 students
- Political Science 473: *Problems in International Law and Organizations*
  - Independent Instructor
  - 30 students
  
- Political Science 470: *International Human Rights*

- Independent Instructor
  - 33 students
- Political Science 362: *Globalization, Human Rights and Diversity* (Online Course)
  - Independent Instructor
  - 33 students
- Political Science 361: *United Nations and World Politics* (Online Course)
  - Independent Instructor
  - Taught this course twice (between 50-60 students each time)
- Political Science 235: *Public Policy Concepts*
  - Independent Instructor
  - 32 students
- Political Science 232: *Public Issues in America*
  - Independent Instructor
  - 9 students
- Political Science Honors 189H: *All Are Created Equal: The Status of Global Human Rights*
  - Independent Instructor
  - New course that I designed for Honors students
  - 23 Students
- University Honors 298H: *"Eureka!" Intellectual Creativity in Action*
  - Teaching Assistant
  - Taught this course twice (between 17-18 students each time)
- Political Science 160: *Introduction to International Relations*
  - Teaching Assistant
  - 185 students
- Helped grade tests and homework for Political Science 100: *Power and Politics in America*

## Presentations

- Benes, M. "Water from the Spider's Web: A Review of the Literature on Transnational Networks and Water Security," International Studies Association Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 2015
- Benes, M. and McMahon, P. "Moving Beyond Borders: Transnational Actors, Networks and Water Security," NU Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Research Forum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2016
- Benes, M. "The Many Faces of Water Security: Concept Boundaries of Water Security With the UN-Water Network." International Studies Association Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO November 2016
- Benes, M. "Moving Beyond Borders: Transnational Actors, Networks and Water Security," NU Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Research Forum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2017
- Benes, M. "Water from the Spider's Web: Has the UN-Water Network Met Its Goals?," Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2018
- Benes, M. "Global Water Strategy: Assessing the First 15 Years of UN-Water," NU Robert B.

Daugherty Water for Food Institute Research Forum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2018

## Posters

- Benes, M. "Water from the Spider's Web: How the UN-Water Network Makes Progress Towards" Goals. Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Global Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2019

## Research in Progress

- Benes, Maria. "Water from the Spider's Web: How the UN-Water Network Makes Progress Toward Goals."
- Benes Maria and Jessica Stump. "Water Gone Glocal: The Process of Glocalization in Water Networks."
- Benes, M. "Wading Through Water Networks: Tangible and Intangible Outcomes."

## Honors and Scholarships

- Assistantship from the UNL Department of Political Science:  
\$16,000 per year (renewable for 5 years)
- Research Support from the NU Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute:  
(with Dr. Patrice McMahon)  
\$16,000 per year (renewable for 3 years)
- Assistantship from UNL Center for Transformative Teaching
  - Served as UNL Honors Program Associate
  - \$15,000 for one year
- 2019-2020 Elston Fellow for UNL Forsythe Family Program on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs: \$1500 award to serve as the graduate student on the Board, to plan events and to help develop undergraduate curriculum
- 2019 UNL Forsythe Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Program Travel Funding \$750 to attend the 2019 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden
- 2020 Senning Summer Research Fellowship Award
  - \$1666.67 to conduct research on water networks and the process of glocalization in the state of Nebraska
- 2019 Summer Research Fellowship Award from the UNL Political Science Department  
\$2500 to conduct research on water networks, including a trip to the 2019 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden
- 2018 Nominee for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching

Award for the Department of Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- 2019 Nominee from the UNL Department of Political Science for the University's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
- 2020 Nominee from the UNL Department of Political Science for the University's Graduate Student Excellence in Mentoring Award (for mentorship of undergraduate students)

## Service

### **International relations and comparative politics brownbag meetings**

Co-Coordinator

8/16-12/2019

### **Monthly interdisciplinary meetings on human security and water**

Co-Coordinator

8/15-4/16

## Selected Professional Experience

### **Carson and Co Global, Lincoln NE**

**Datasets and Environmental Consultant**

**8/16 - 4/18**

- Developed a proposal for a database of organizations in the environmental sector for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

### **Office of Representative Jeff Fortenberry (NE -1st District), Washington D.C. and Lincoln, NE**

**Intern and Writing Assistant**

**1/11-7/11**

- Drafted a congratulatory letter from the Congressman to President Salva Kiir Mayardit on the occasion of South Sudanese independence
- Wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, with the Congressman's concerns about election irregularities and political intimidation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Other special projects related to foreign policy
- Constituent correspondence

### **U.S. Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office, Washington D.C.**

**Intern**

**6/05-7/05**

- Conducted an international comparative analysis of government data retention policies
- Wrote draft of a speech given by the Chief Privacy Officer at an international data protection conference
- Attended a transatlantic dialogue between the U.S. and the EU on data protection