

# Maria B. Benes

515 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Email: [maria.b.benes@gmail.com](mailto:maria.b.benes@gmail.com)

## Education

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science

Expected 2020

- Dissertation: *Wading Through Water Networks: Lessons Learned at the International, Regional and Local Levels*
- Specializations: International Relations, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and Comparative Politics
- Cumulative G.P.A. as of Spring Semester 2019: 3.947

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

M.A. International Affairs

Received 5/11

- Concentration: Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Cumulative G.P.A.: 3.91

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

B.A. International Studies and Political Science

Received 8/07

- G.P.A.: 3.818
- Honors Program and Dean's List for the College of Arts and Sciences (Fall 03 - Summer 07)
- Summer Studies Abroad:
  - Vietnam (6/06) and Salamanca, Spain: Universidad de Salamanca (7/06- 8/06)
- 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

## Research

- Ongoing research projects on transnational actors and water governance  
Advisor: Dr. Patrice McMahon  
Research sponsored by the NU Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Political Science

## 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 Conferences, 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

## Working Papers:

- Benes, M. "Water from the Spider's Web: How the UN-Water Network Makes Progress Towards Goals."
- Benes, M. "Water Gone Glocal: How Local and International Water Networks Intersect."
- Benes, M. "Wading Through Water Networks: Lessons Learned at the International, Regional and Local Levels."

## Teaching

- UNL Department of Political Science Nominee for Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools 2018 Excellence in Teaching Award
- Graduate Assistant to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors Program 5/18-Present
  - Helped plan curriculum
  - Gave recommendations on overall Honors Program strategy
- 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
  - 57 students
- Political Science 361: *United Nations and World Politics* (Online Course)
  - Teaching Assistant
  - 34 students
- Political Science 473: *Problems in International Law and Organizations*
  - Independent Instructor
  - 30 students
- Political Science 232: Public Issues in America
  - Independent Instructor
  - 9 students
- Political Science 235: Public Policy Concepts
  - Independent Instructor
  - 32 students
- University Honors 298H: “Eureka! Intellectual Creativity in Action”
  - Teaching Assistant
  - 17 students
  
- Helped grade tests and homework for Political Science 100: *Power and Politics in America*

## Honors and Scholarships

### ***Graduate***

- Assistantship from the UNL Department of Political Science:  
\$16,000 per year (renewable for 5 years)
- Student Research Support from the NU Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute:  
\$16,000 per year (renewable for 3 years)
- 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

### ***Undergraduate***

- Nebraska Undergraduate Bankers Association Scholarship (\$1000 per year for four years)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Honors Undergraduate Program Textbook Scholarship
- UNL Pepsi Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences Grant (\$4,400)
- Nebraska Society of Washington D.C. Scholarship for a Homeland Security Department Internship (\$2,000)

## Service

### **International Relations and Comparative Politics Brownbag Meetings**

Co-Coordinator

8/16-Present

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

Co-Coordinator

8/15-4/16

## Policy and International Affairs 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**

#### **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

### **Center for Peace Building International, Washington, D.C.**

#### **Research Assistant**

5/10 -12/10

- Conducted cumulative impact assessments for youth programs in fragile environments
- Literature review about the effects of large numbers of unemployed youth in developing states
- Grant writing

### **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

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln International Affairs Office, Lincoln, NE**

#### **Intern**

9/03-12/03

- Planned events for campus multicultural awareness
- Promoted the English Conversation Partners Program which paired American students with international students as an avenue for cultural exchange