

Name: Melanie Sayuri Sonntag

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Office: SSCO 2044

Education:

Waseda University (September 2010 – September 2014)

B.A. in International Liberal Studies

Philipps-Universität Marburg (October 2014 – June 2016)

M.A. in Political Science

Recipient of Gender Studies Certificate

M.A. Thesis: *Forced Prostitution as an issue of political conflict. An argumentation analysis of the Japanese “comfort women” problem*

University of New Mexico (August 2016 – present)

Ph.D. Student in Political Science

Work Experience:

School Terakoya (April 2012- August 2014) in Yokohama, Japan

English Tutor (Junior High School ~ High School) at a cram school

SJSK – Greenhouse English (July 2012- August 2014) in Yokohama, Japan

English Tutor (Elementary School ~ High School; Adult private lessons)

English Learning Consultancy (January 2015- July 2016) in Marburg, Germany

English Tutor (Adult – Groups and Private)

Graduate Assistant (August 2016 – present)

Prof. Mala Htun

Prof. Kendra Koivu

Internships:

Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo (June 2010 – July 2010)

Creating a slideshow and helping with research on current Japanese-Afghan relations for the reception party of President Karzai, preparing an election report on the House of Councillors Election in 2010 and daily news reports for Embassy officials and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul.

OKWave (August 2012 – September 2012)

Contributing to the Arigato-Project, which included translations (into English, German and Japanese) and drafting of plans for the improvement of the project. The Arigato project's aim is to connect people all over the world without language barriers through commonalities such as shared cultural and political interests.

The Japan Forum on International Relations (March 2013-September 2013)

The placement for this internship was highly competitive, with only one slot open for the time frame that I applied for. At the Japan Forum on International Relations, which is a think tank, I was able to attend, contribute to and participate in several conferences including the 9th Japan-Singapore Symposium. Due to the diverse set of participants in each conference, I was able to gain insight to political issues facing Japan from different perspectives such as media, academia, politics and government. My work consisted on research for the symposiums and conferences that I attended, including translating speeches and doing research for conference participants.

Plan Japan (September 2013- December 2013)

Plan Japan is a NGO focused on children in developing countries, with an especial focus on promoting equal rights for girls. My work at Plan Japan consisted of connecting sponsors with sponsored children, as well as attending update meetings of current projects undertaken by the directors.

Magistrat der Stadt Marburg - Gleichberechtigungsreferat (October 2015-December 2015)

(City Hall of Marburg - Equal Opportunity Department)

My work at the City Hall of Marburg at the Equal Opportunity Department was to support the department's aims to improve the lives of women. This includes supporting the work of the department with structural and institutional violence against women, the

betterment of lives of female refugees currently residing in Marburg and researching the city's efforts to achieve gender equality under the guidelines of the EU Charta.

Languages:

German (Native level)

English (TOEFL ibt score 114 (Jan. 2016))

Japanese (Native Level; Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level 1)