

Sarah El-Abd

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

September 2024 – current **Doctoral Student in International Relations, Sciences Po Paris, France**

- Doctoral candidate in international relations with the Center for International Research (CERI), supervised by Chiara Ruffa, PhD.
- A legal and empirical exploration of the fundamental challenges following the integration of humanitarian action in UN Peacekeeping Operations on humanitarians on the ground, UN peacekeeping operations, host states, local civilians, and key pillars of international law.

May 2023 – Sept. 2024 **Research Assistant, Roskilde University, Denmark**

- Co-authoring monograph on Danish immigration for publishing with Manchester University Press.
- Collaborating with researchers and professors based at RUC for an EU-Commission funded project, SHAPEDEM-EU. The project is a multi-national and multifaceted research consortium of 12 academic, think tank and civil society institutions based in Europe and the Southern and Eastern neighbourhoods. The project sets out to rethink, reshape and review the EU's democracy support policies in its Neighbourhood countries.
- Quantitatively and qualitatively researching and producing journal publications and internal EU reports to influence decision makers of the policy analysis findings.

Feb. 2023 – April 2023 **Programme Manager, Royal Danish Embassy for Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- Facilitating cooperation between Nordic missions based in Beirut on matters of mutual interest and priority, resulting in several groundbreaking joint-Nordic political projects for the region, with grants.
- Working as the advocacy, public, and political officer on advocacy projects with civil society, ministries, UN agencies, the EU, and others.
- Creating, designing, implementing, and managing 15+ advocacy projects.
- Writing diplomatic cables and reports for the MFA in Copenhagen and various Danish missions worldwide on key developments.
- Supporting key development and humanitarian projects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Danish development partners in the MENA region.
- Providing key regional expertise and findings to Danish diplomatic missions in Geneva, New York, Brussels, and others to push informed humanitarian and security policy for the MENA region.
- Applying for, and managing, grants for political projects and managing these projects (including hiring, budget, M&E, etc.)

Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2023 **Diplomatic Trainee, Royal Danish Embassy for Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- Largely synonymous with the description above.

Feb. 2022 – Jun. 2022 **International Security Researcher, Danish Atlantic Treaty Association, Denmark**

- Contributing to the writing briefs and policy papers for the think tank as well as for Danish and European political parties and politicians.
- Organizing webinars and seminars on thematic areas of relevance to Danish policy makers and the general Danish public on security related developments of Atlantic political relevance.

Jan. 2022 – Apr. 2022 **Consultant, North African Policy Initiative (NAPI), Morocco**

- Country Expert Consultant for UN Development Program Project on youth civic and policy engagement in the MENA region.
- Conducting desk research, Key Informant Interviews, phone surveys, and the assessment of Civil Society Organizations.
- Contributing to final report based on data collection from Lebanon on the status of CSOs in the country.

Feb. 2021 – May 2022 **Researcher, Happiness Research Institute, Denmark**

- Primary advocacy and public affairs focal point with governments, ministries, international organizations, media and press, as well as think tanks.
- Delivering training and capacity building to various clients (ministries, private companies, etc.) on policy pathways for centering wellbeing quantitatively and qualitatively in their work.

- Leading researcher and author on economic policy report for the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Leading researcher and author on report for Rambøll Denmark, Rambøll United Kingdom, and RealDania.

Pervious internships and work form 2018-2021 were conducted at the Issam fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Wolf legal Publishers, and other institutions. Further details available upon request.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Year	Title of Course	Role	Participants	Language	Levels taught	Institution
2021, Fall	Politics of Welfare & Happiness in Scandinavia	Course responsible & Lecturer	12 students	English	Bachelors, mixed majors, mixed semesters	Council on International Educational Exchange
2022, Spring	International Politics & Organizations	Instructor	18 students	Danish	Bachelors, fifth semester	University of Southern Denmark
2022, Spring	General Political Science	Instructor	20 students	Danish	Bachelors, second semester	University of Southern Denmark
2022, Spring	Politics of Welfare & Happiness in Scandinavia	Course responsible & Lecturer	48 students	English	Bachelors, mixed majors, mixed semesters	Council on International Educational Exchange

EDUCATION

2024 – 2027 **Doctoral Candidate in International Relations, Sciences Po Paris, France**

- A legal and empirical exploration of the fundamental challenges following the integration of humanitarian action into UN Peacekeeping Operations on humanitarians on the ground, UN peacekeeping operations, host states, local civilians, and key pillars of international law.

2021 – 2023 **MSc. International Law and Security, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark**

- Thesis submitted titled: “Humanitarians in Blue Helmets? How has the Integration of Humanitarian Action into UN Peacekeeping Operations Been Achieved by the UN, and What Theoretical and Practical Challenges Emerge with This Integration?”. Thesis awarded a 12 (equivalent to an A or 100/100).
- Coursework: International Law, Human Rights in International Law and Security, News Wars and Conflict, the Laws of New Wars, the Laws of Cyber Wars, Diplomacy and Negotiation, and more.

2021 – 2023 **MSc. International Humanitarian Affairs, University of York, the United Kingdom**

- Graduated with distinction.
- Thesis submitted titled: “Running Out of Options in North-West Syria? An Examination of the International Community’s Humanitarian Response in North-West Syria and an Exploration of the Ways Forward”. Thesis awarded 78, distinction (equivalent to an A in ECTS)
- Coursework: Emergencies in Complex Political emergencies, Education in Emergencies, Examining Humanitarianism, Protection and Assistance in International Humanitarian Law, Research Methods in Humanitarian Affairs, Food and Nutrition, Health, Shelter, Water, and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and more.

2018 – 2021 **BA. Political Studies, the American University of Beirut, Lebanon**

- Graduated with high distinction, GPA 3.88, minor in international law.
- Coursework: Lebanese Politics, International Relations, Public Advanced International Law, Conflict Studies, Middle East Politics, Human Rights Studies, Conflict Resolution, International Relations, Research Methods, Public Administration, Constitutional Law, and more.
- Guest student, University of Copenhagen with coursework on Rights-Based Development, Advanced Structures and Functioning of the European Union, Electoral Politics of South-East Asia, and Identity and the Politics of Difference.

AWARDS & LEADERSHIP EXPERINCCE

2021 – present	Danish Red Cross Odense, Volunteer, promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Denmark
2024 – present	Danish Red Cross HQ, Volunteer, coordinator for national IHL advocacy and policy
2020	Beirut Model United Nations Conference, Director General
2020	The Phoenix Daily, Founder and Editor-in-Chief

2020 Harvard Model United Nations, Diplomacy Award,
2020 German Ministry of Interior, Youth World Democracy Award
2019 Beirut Model United Nations Conference, Chairwoman of the UN Security Council
2018 American University of Beirut, Athlete Scholarship Award (full academic scholarship)

LANGUAGES

English (full fluency), **Danish** (mother tongue), **Arabic** (mother tongue), **German** (working proficiency), **French** (moderate proficiency), and **Spanish** (moderate proficiency).

REFERENCES

Martin Mennecke, Assistant Professor in International Law, the University of Southern Denmark.
Email: marme@sam.sdu.dk

Morten Schwarz Lausten, Senior Advocacy & Communications Advisor, Danish Red Cross
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Claudia Milena Adler, Lecturer in International Humanitarian Affairs, University of York
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Jacob Faber Silen, Senior Political Advisor, Danish Embassy for Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan
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Michelle Pace, Professor in Global Studies, Roskilde University, Denmark
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