

Sulayman (Saul) Njie

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA

School of Public and International Affairs

Doctor of Philosophy in Planning, Governance and Globalization

Graduated: May 2018

Concentration: Government and International Affairs

Dissertation Topic: "Where the Market Meets the Community: An Economic and Gender Study of Microfinance in The Gambia"

Exam fields: Governance; Political Economy; and Sustainability in Theory and Practice

Committee: Prof. Joyce Rothschild (Virginia Tech, Chair), Prof. Daniel Breslau (Virginia Tech), Prof. Atta Ceesay (Buffalo State University), Prof. Christian Matheis (Virginia Tech), Prof. Todd Schenk (Virginia Tech)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA

School of Public and International Affairs

Master of Public and International Affairs

Graduated: May 2013

Dissertation Topic: "Participatory Alternative Forms of Development, Compared with Orthodox Top-down, Foreign Aid Strategies for Development in Neoliberal Gambia/Africa"

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA

Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit & Non-Governmental Management

Concentration: Sustainability and Policy

Graduated: December 2014

Bluefield State College, Bluefield, WV

Bachelor of Social Science

Major: Political Science & History

Graduated: May 2011

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

American Politics & Institutions

Political Theory

American Foreign Policy

International Political Economy

International Relations

Comparative Politics

African Politics & Institutions

Governance Gender and Development

Public Policy

Non-Profit Management and Leadership

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Instructor of Political Science and Geography, Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia, August 2015—present

Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia, January 2014—July 2015. Full responsibility for teaching American National Government, Introduction to Politics, State & Local Politics, Politics in Developing Regions, World Physical Geography, Introduction to Geography., et al.

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Njie, S., (2017). The Challenge of Heterogeneity: The Frailty of the Pan-Africanist Ideal. In RE: Reflections and Explorations: A Forum for Deliberative Dialogue. Stephenson Jr. M. & Kirakosyan L. Blacksburg: Virginia Tech Publishing. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21061/vtipg.re.v2>

Njie, S., (2015). Global Governance is Here to Stay. In RE: Reflections and Explorations: Essays on Politics, Public Policy and Governance. Stephenson Jr. M. & Kirakosyan L. Retrieved from http://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/56499/RE_Ebook.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

GOVERNMENT ISSUED REPORTS

Coastal Barrier Resources Act: Fish and Wildlife Service Should Better Ensure It Carries Out Required Consultation and Mapping Activities. U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C., March 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-258.pdf>

Export Controls: State and Commerce Should Improve Guidance and Outreach to Address University-Specific Compliance Issues. U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C., May 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/707104.pdf>

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: Preliminary Observations on Efforts to Foster Entrepreneurship with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. United States Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C. April 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-19-515t.pdf>

Small Business Administration: Key Entrepreneurship Programs and Activities Do Not Specifically Target Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but Collaboration Exists with Some Schools. U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C., March 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-19-328r.pdf>

Small Business Administration: Key Entrepreneurship Programs and Activities Do Not Target Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but Some Collaboration Occurs. U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C. February, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/706183.pdf>

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

The Intersection of Poverty, Community, Gender, and Microfinance in The Gambia, The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), Austin, TX, November 2018.

The Nexus Between Remittances and Back-Way Migration in The Gambia. Pan-African Professional Alliance Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, Station College, PA. “Africa’s Development, Strategies, and Challenges in The Era of Globalization”, April 2018.

The Politics of Gender and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Virginia Tech. The Global Leadership Empowerment and Diversity Summit (GLEADS). Arlington, VA, October 2017.

High Level Panel on ICT Applications and Services, Digital, Economy and Trade, and Climate Change. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, June 2017.

“OSUSU”: A Form of Economic Resilience in The Gambia. The “Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education”. New Haven, CT, April 2017.

America in the Age of Trump. De Montfort University of Leicester. The Global Leadership Empowerment and Diversity Summit (GLEADS). Leicester, United Kingdom, November 2016.

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Policy and Research Analyst, United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), Headquarters, Washington, D.C., July 2018 – present

- Advised heads of executive federal agencies on ways to improve their performance and ensure accountability.
- Contributed to multiple GAO-issued reports and products to congressional requesters and public that provided policy recommendations to secretaries of over 15 executive branch agencies that assisted them in saving up to \$1 million annually.
- Analyzed policies and procedures, agency documentations, partnership agreements, interagency agreements, evaluation plans, work plans, financial reports, to ensure government-wide programs are in compliance with laws and regulations.
- Collected public and private data from domestic and international sources, analyzed data by reconciling the inconsistencies in the data set and used quantitative and qualitative methods to make logical and accurate policy recommendations to senior federal government officials and the United States Congress.
- Formulated policy assessments and recommendations taking into account program context, best practices and comparative evidence and briefed congressional staff on better ways of improving agencies internal controls and long-term strategic planning.
- Drafted technical and policy documents for consideration by key stakeholders and relevant networks including, but not limited to, the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, United States Departments of State, Interior, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce, as well as policy briefs and other communications aimed at technical and non-technical audiences.
- Demonstrated exceptional communication skills by preparing and presenting high-quality information on complex issues. For example, to prepare for multiple Congressional briefings, I reviewed independent studies, summarized federal agency information and conducted preliminary analysis of data.
- Mentored and motivated 8-10 fellows of the International Auditor Fellowship Program that encouraged capacity building and institutional relationship with other international audit institutions.

Faculty Researcher, Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg May 2018 – July 2018

- Monitored and evaluated projects and programs related to USAID and other international development entities.
- Supported new business program development, including tracking and assessing funding opportunities.
- Assisted with the development and preparation of project concept notes and proposals.
- Conducted research and studies to generate and assess data/information.

Policy and Research Analyst (Student Trainee), United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) -- National Protection & Programs Directorate, Office of Strategy, Policy & Plans, Rosslyn, Virginia, June 2016 - August 2016

- Co-authored, researched, and developed the National Protection & Programs Directorate Publication 1 document.
- Conducted research on existing cyber incident data sharing repositories/efforts and performed a comparative analysis for the Cyber Incident Data and Analysis Working Group pilot.

Policy and Research Analyst (Student Trainee), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Human Exploration Operations Mission Directorate, Office of Chief Financial Officer, Legislative Liaison, and the International Affairs Offices - Headquarters, Washington, D.C. December 2012 - May 2013

- Analyzed and provided insight on financial services and budgetary matters.
- Supported the Office of Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate and Office of Legislative Affairs embeds.

Policy Analyst Intern, Governor's Internship Program, Governor's Office, Charleston, WV - May 2009- August 2009

- Worked in the economic and policy affairs office, Governor's Mansion, office of Intergovernmental affairs and constituent services.
- Assisted in meetings with the Governor and conducted research on many issues ranging from local politics and business to coal mining issues.
- Researched and assessed the membership of various boards and commissions assigned to Governor Joe Manchin

Legislative Intern, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. May 2008-July 2008

- Tasked with researching various bills, corresponded with constituents on issues regarding terrorism, economics and domestic politics, and authored memos in the office of Senator John D. Rockefeller.

SELECTED ADVISORY ROLES, COUNSELING EXPERIENCE, AND UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Search Committee, Assistant/Associate Professor of Humanities, Bluefield State College, Spring 2018

Screened 10 candidates, interviewed three, selected one candidate for the position.

Search Committee, Academic Laboratory Instructional Assistant Position, Bluefield State College, Spring 2018

Screened 12 candidates, interviewed three, selected one candidate for the position

Search Committee, Associate Registrar, Bluefield State College, Spring 2017

Screened 10 candidates, interviewed three, selected one candidate for the position

Gamma Beta Phi Advisor, Bluefield State College, Spring 2016 - Fall 2017

Tasked with counseling the Bluefield State College Chapter vis-a-vis budgeting, leadership, scholarship, community service, education, etc.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Post Doctoral Fellow, Bluefield State College, May 2019 - May 2021

Edmond J. Safra Fellow, Bluefield State College, July 2015 - May 2019

Summer Faculty Fellowship in Research, Bluefield State College, Academic Year 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 (\$8,000)

The School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Member of the Year, Bluefield State College, Academic Year 2017/2018

The Academic Coach of the Game, Bluefield State College (nominated and selected by student-athletes in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for dedication to student-athletes), Academic Year 2016-2017

Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Fellow (Awarded by Yale University), Academic Year 2016-2017

Diversity Scholar, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), Academic Year 2015-2016

Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honor Society), Academic Year 2010-2011

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholar, Academic Year 2010-2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa (AROCSA)

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

Board Member, International Organization for Remittances and Migration (IOREM)

Peer-Reviewer, Journal of Social Sciences, December 2017 - January 2020

Contributing Writer, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance magazine, October 2014 - May 2018