

Jennifer Marie Almeda

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Education:

- PhD candidate, ABD status, International Relations and Comparative Politics, January 2006 - Current; University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
- MA Diplomacy and International Relations, May 2001; Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey. Master's Thesis: *States' Economies Depend on Immigrants, But do Policies Indicate a Different Attitude?*
- MS International Business; May 2001 Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey
- BA International Studies, Minors: Management, French, Spanish; May 1999 College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey

Teaching Experience:

- Instructor: Basic English Survival and cultural competency lessons to non-English speaking migrant agricultural workers in migrant camps throughout South Carolina; 2007 – present.
- Professor: Ideology and World Politics an upper level undergraduate course to 26 students (Poli 430) at the University of South Carolina; Fall semester 2009. Instructed students in how to recognize, describe and analyze major ideologies that influence contemporary global politics. Taught students how political and social ideologies have developed historically and assisted students in assessing the basic application of liberal, conservative, socialist, fascist, fundamentalist, nationalist, feminist, environmental and anarchist ideology in different societies and their impact on regional and global politics.
- Professor: Social and Political Philosophy an upper level undergraduate evening course to 19 students (Poli 300/Phil 314) at the University of South Carolina; Fall Semester 2008. Covered fundamental concepts of political and social issues as debated by philosophers and political thinkers throughout Western, Arab, and Asian history. Issues discussed included: Who should rule and why? and How should societies be organized?
- Teacher Assistant: for Dr. Sabia, upper level undergraduate Political Philosophy course at the University of South Carolina; Fall Semester 2008 (Poli 300/Phil 314). Gave a lecture to the class on the National Conference on Catholic Bishops. Graded two of three required papers for the course and kept track of attendance and participation of the 49 students.
- Teacher Assistant: for Dr. Lanz, lower level undergraduate Introduction to Africa course at the University of South Carolina; Spring Semester 2008. Responsible for grading 9 quizzes and 3 exams, observing all classes and keeping track of student attendance.
- Teacher Assistant: for Dr. Lanz, upper level undergraduate Political Philosophy course at the University of South Carolina; Spring Semester 2008, Fall and Spring Semester 2007. Responsible for grading exams and keeping attendance for 50 students. Observed every class session. Also assisted Professor in editing and copying texts for publication. Taught one lecture on "Perspectives of living in Mali" for Dr. Lanz's Introduction to Africa course.
- Teacher Assistant: for Dr. Stucker, upper level undergraduate Ecology and Politics course at the University of South Carolina; Spring Semester 2007.
- English Language Instructor for seventh and eight year students at the Secondary School of Kimparana, Mali; Fall Semester 2003 and Spring Semester 2004. Taught students in Bambara via an interactive method as opposed to the rote method of learning they were accustomed to.

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- English Language Instructor for Advance Speaking course at A.C.E. Language Institute Bozeman, Montana; Fall Semester 2001. Taught a class of 10 students from East Asia, emphasizing participation through assignments and activities involving verbal social interaction.

Related Academic Experience:

- *Preliminary Field Research for Dissertation in Luzon Province Philippines.* January – May 2009. Conducted over 60 hours of interviews with 36 women and one man to gather information on women's political agency regarding reproductive health care. Among the 36 people interviewed was the Director of the National Center for Disease Prevention; 10 women community leaders; and 4 NGO workers. Spent over 30 hours of research at the National Library of the Philippines reading dissertations, thesis and books regarding health care and political power of Filipina women. Completed 30 hours of individual intensive Tagalog language training.
- *National Council on US-Arab Relations Summer in Syria Program.* June – August 2000. Gained knowledge of Syrian, Arab and Mesopotamian culture, history and language through classes at the University of Aleppo, on site visits to Syrian historical and archeological sites, and local social interaction.
- *Philippine Government Department of Foreign Affairs Commission on Filipinos Overseas Lakbay-Aral Program.* July 1999 and July 1998. Actively collaborated with local government officials to analyze relationships and perspectives of domestic and expatriate Filipinos regarding views of government, culture and economics.
- *Rutgers University Summer in Paris Program.* Summer 1997. Received intense training in French language, history and culture via credited classes and residence with a French family.
- *Rotary Student Ambassador to Denia Spain.* Fall 1993 – Summer 1994. Gained proficiency in Spanish Language by living with a Spanish family and completing all classes of third year high school in Denia.

Professional Conferences and Examinations

- National Women's Studies Association – Presented paper entitled "Interpreting Women's Political Representation in Mali, Mexico, Senegal and the Philippines Through Postcolonial Theory" at the 29th Annual Conference in Cincinnati.
- American Political Science Association – Invited to present poster at the 2008 APSA Annual Meeting and Exhibition.
- Invited to take, and took the 2008 United Nations National Competitive Recruitment Examination.
- Participated in the 2007 South Carolina Political Science Association Annual Conference and Meeting.
- Invited to take and took the 2002 United States Foreign Service Oral Examination.

Professional Affiliations and Activities:

- American Political Science Association member
- National Women's Studies Association member

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- South Carolina Political Science Association member 2007- 2009
- International Studies Honor Society Sigma Iota Rho Lifetime member
- Girl Scout of the USA Lifetime member
- Attended Political Science Research Workshops of the Department of Political Science of the University of South Carolina for Spring Semester 2008, Spring and Fall Semesters 2007, Spring and Fall Semesters 2006.

Awards/Grants/Scholarships/Stipends:

- Travel Grant from University of South Carolina Political Science Association for travel to the National Women's Studies Association 29th Conference in Cincinnati 19 – 22 June 2008.
- Half-tuition Scholarship from the College of Saint Elizabeth Convent Station, New Jersey 2005 – 2009.

Professional Experience:

- *Migrant Education Recruiter, South Carolina Department of Education.* May 2007 – Present. Identified and provided services to 1,065 migrant agricultural workers who qualify for enrollment in the Migrant Education Program in the state of South Carolina. Duties include traveling all areas of the state to find and enroll migrant agricultural workers; explaining educational and social services available to migrant agricultural workers in South Carolina, including the right to a public education; distribution of bilingual books, dictionaries, health information and donations; and assistance with general questions regarding the use of state services, cross-cultural interactions and navigation regarding diurnal social situations. Also wrote dialogue, assisted with editing, and production of regionally recognized Basic Survival English CD1 and CD2 for Spanish speaking migrant workers. Taught basic English classes in rudimentary conditions at migrant camps. Designed and overhauled South Carolina Department of Education Migrant Education Program pamphlet.
- *Spanish/English Interpreter, Habla Project of the Center for Child and Family Studies of the College of Social Work of the University of South Carolina, Columbia South Carolina.* February 2006 – May 2008. Interpreted an average of 13 calls daily between Spanish speaking clients and English speaking social workers for all Departments of Health and Environmental Control and Social Services in South Carolina. Also was responsible for translating an average of 6 faxes a day and attending periodic staff meetings to assess problems of telephone interpreting, and to keep abreast of current phrases and words used in regional variations of Spanish.
- *Volunteer Consultant, United States Peace Corps Republic of Mali.* November 2004 – November 2005. Collaborated with local NGO, World Education, to ensure responsible and effective implementation of the US Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program in the northern regions of Mali. Conducted site visits to all elementary schools within a twenty mile radius of Gao to inform students and parents of the benefits of promoting elementary education for girls and to verify the girls participation in the project. Designed and taught World Education Gao staff members courses in how to write and use English terms for project reports and proposals; basic computer program use in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel; and interaction and use of computer hardware such as memory sticks and digital cameras.
- *Small Enterprise Development Volunteer, United States Peace Corps Republic of Mali.* August 2002 – October 2004. Assisted and instructed three women's savings groups in finance savings and credit. Created, organized and successfully completed six world maps and training to 2000 pupils about water sanitation, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, geography and

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value of saving money. Trained incoming volunteers in specific problems and methods of instructing pre-literate women in organizing savings and loans groups.

- *Public Information Assistant, United Nations Headquarters, New York.* February 2000 – October 2001. Conducted an average of 6 tours a day in French, Spanish and English to guests about aspects of the UN system. Attended and participated in daily half an hour briefings and discussions about current UN activities. Tours included providing politically neutral information about the interactions, history and proceedings of the Security Council, the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the various organizations that fall under the umbrella of the United Nations System. Incorporated the highlights of the daily briefings of UN activities into tours; also explained the UN charter and treaties, how different UN bodies and agencies impact people on a daily basis; and gave specialized tours to school children from elementary to university level.
- *Intern, Ayala Aon Risk Services Inc., Makati City Philippines.* Summer 1998. Shadowed CEO and management in formulating business relations with regional corporations. Attended classified management meetings to discuss business strategies for Southeast Asia and accompanied management to presentations of contract renewals with local corporations.
- *Intern, Castrol Philippines, Marketing Department, Manila Head Office.* Summer 1998. Analyzed detailed data of competitor's sales and reported, verbally and orally, the company's position in the regional market to management. Assisted in the creation of marketing strategies for specialized motor oil to targeted Filipino consumers.

Languages:

- Bambara – received a Language Proficiency Rating Certificate of Advanced-Low from the United States Peace Corps Republic of Mali.
- French – received a Language Proficiency Rating Certificate of Advanced – High from the United States Peace Corps Republic of Mali.
- Spanish – Qualified Interpreter for the Departments of Health and Environmental Control and Social Services of South Carolina
- Tagalog – conversational level due to successful completion of 30 hours of individual intensive Tagalog language training from a Peace Corps Certified language instructor.

Activities:

- Literacy Volunteer for Turning Pages, responsible for assisting reading, writing and written language comprehension skills of 3 native English adult speakers with limited literacy skills, Columbia South Carolina, April 2010 – present.
- Vice President for the Graduate Student Association of the Political Science Department at the University of South Carolina, Columbia South Carolina, May 2007 – April 2008. Wrote and designed 28 page Graduate Student Handbook for incoming graduate students entitled "So you're a PoliSci graduate student at USC...now what do you do?"
- Vice President for the Beta Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society at the University of South Carolina, Columbia South Carolina, May 2007 – April 2008.
- Leader of Girl Scout Studio 2B girl group at AC Flora High School, Columbia South Carolina Fall 2006 – Spring 2007.
- Leader for Girl Group at Gadeye Primary School, Gao Republic of Mali, Spring and Summer 2005.
- Organizer of Gender and Development camp, Kimparana Republic of Mali, Spring 2004.
- Treasurer for the Graduate Student Association of the Diplomacy and International Relations Department at Seton Hall University, South Orange New Jersey, Fall 2000 –Spring 2001.