

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab

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Research Interests

Global Governance • International Organizations • Foreign Policy

Academic Appointments

MacEwan University

Assistant Professor

2026

George Washington University

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

2025

Education

University of Toronto

2025

PhD, International Relations and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics: Deceiving International Organizations

Committee: Steven Bernstein, Phillip Lipsky, and Lou Pauly

Internal Reviewer: Matthew Hoffmann

External Reviewer: Jonas Tallberg

University of British Columbia

2017

MA, International Relations

Supervisor: Peter Dauvergne

Reviewer: Yves Tiberghien

University of Alberta

2015

BA, Environmental Studies

Peer Reviewed Publications

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab and Steven Bernstein, "When Socialization Fails: Breaking the Habit of Engagement with China", *International Affairs*. 2024

Manuscripts Under Review

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, "Why International Institutions Tolerate Deception".

**Winner - 2025 International Studies Association Best Graduate Paper Award - Canada Section*

Works in Progress

Book Manuscript

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, "Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics: Deceiving International Institutions".

Journal Articles

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, "Killing Whales and Lying About It: Explaining Weak Enforcement of Strong Norms".

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab and Taylor Jackson, "Explaining Middle Power Exit".

Fellowships, Awards, and Grants

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD 140,000) 2025

Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholarship (CAD 105,000) 2021 to 2024

Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (CAD 6,000) 2023

National Research Council Canada

University of British Columbia Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD 120,000 - Declined) 2025

International Studies Association

Best Graduate Paper Award - Canada Section (USD 750) 2025

Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (total of CAD 30,000) 2019 and 2024

University of Toronto

2022

Morimitsu Inaba Doctoral Fellowship in the Political Economy of Development

Michael W. Donnelly Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy

Noah Blackstein Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy (total of CAD 23,000)

Global Affairs Canada

Margaret Meagher Fellowship (CAD 41,600) 2021

Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance

Graduate Fellowship (CAD 5,000) 2019

University of Toronto

Vice Dean's Graduate Admissions Scholarship for Academic Excellence (CAD 4,500) 2018

Global Affairs Canada and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

International Policy Ideas Challenge Winner (CAD 3,000) 2018

The China Institute

Research Travel Grant (CAD 1,200) 2016

Academic Conferences

International Studies Association

Explaining Middle Power Exit (Paper)	2027
Explaining Weak Enforcement of Strong Norms (Chair and Paper)	2025
Deception of International Organizations (Paper)	2024
When Socialization Fails (Paper)	2024

Canadian Political Science Association

Explaining Middle Power Exit (Paper)	2027
Deception of International Organizations (Paper)	2024
When Socialization Fails (Paper)	

Women in International Security (Canceled - COVID-19)

Urban Heat Waves: Future Security Challenges (Paper)	2020
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McGill University Climate Conference

Climate Adaptation for Municipal Heat Waves (Paper)	2019
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Carleton University Political Science Graduate Conference

An Innovation Vacuum: Path-Dependency in the Climate Change Regime (Paper)	2017
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Invited Talks

MacEwan University

Canada and a New World Order - Panel	2026
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Institute of Municipal Finance and Governance

Climate Change and Heat Waves: Are Canadian Cities Ready?	2020
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Smart Prosperity Institute

The Interaction of Public Policy and Non-State Decarbonization Initiatives - Panel	2020
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Global Affairs Canada

Space Debris: Environmental Conservation in Non-Living Space(s)	2018
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Teaching - Instructor of Record

MacEwan University

Introduction to Political Science (100-level)	
Introduction to Global Politics (200-level)	
Qualitative Research Methods (300-level)	
Advanced Political Science: Global Environmental Politics (400-level)	

University of Toronto

Global Environmental and Sustainability Politics (400-level)	Winter 2024; Fall 2022
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Teaching - Assistance

University of Toronto

Global Environmental Politics (300-level)	2020
Topics in Global Governance (300-level)	2019
Introduction to International Relations (200-level)	2018

University of British Columbia

Introduction to Political Science (100-level)	2017
Introduction to International Relations (100-level)	2016

Guest Lectures

University of Toronto

Dissertation Proposals and Research Design, Professor Steven Bernstein	2023
Non-State Climate Governance, Professor Kate Neville	2019
International Political Economy and the Environment, Professor Steven Bernstein	2018

Policy and Public Engagement

Public Reports

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, “Barriers to Scaling Non-Governmental Decarbonization Initiatives”. *Smart Prosperity Institute*, May 2022.

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, “Insights from the Field: Unlocking SME Emissions Reductions in the Green Recovery”. *Smart Prosperity Institute*, May 2022.

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, “The Low Carbon Policy Ecosystem: Leaving SMEs Behind”. *Smart Prosperity Institute*, October 2020.

Media

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, "How Canada Finally Broke its Longtime Habit of Diplomatic Engagement with China". *The Conversation*, August 2024.

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, “Don’t forget SMEs (again) in the Green Recovery”. *Smart Prosperity Institute*, October 2020.

Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, “Are Climate Reforms in China Evidence of International Leadership?”. *Policy Options*, October 2017.

Research Experience

Environmental Governance Lab, University of Toronto

Research Assistant 2018 to 2025

Professor Sara Hughes, University of Toronto

Research Assistant 2019

Professors Paul Evans and Brian Job, University of British Columbia

Research Assistant	2017
Professor Peter Dauvergne, University of British Columbia	
Research Assistant	2017
Professor Ashley Esarey, University of Alberta	
Research Assistant	2016

Policy Experience

Global Affairs Canada	
Political Officer/Policy Analyst - Greater China Division	2020 to 2022
The China Institute	
Summer Graduate Research Fellow	2019
Policy Researcher	2017 to 2018
Strategic Steps Inc.	
Governance Consultant	2016 to 2022

Research and Fellowships Abroad

Dissertation Fieldwork	
European Commission (Brussels, Belgium)	2023
Eurostat (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)	
International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C., USA)	
World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland)	
Secretariat for the UN Framework on the Convention for Climate Change (Bonn, Germany)	
People's Republic of China, Zhengzhou University	
Visiting Program for Young Sinologists (Zhengzhou/Beijing, China)	2017
Government of Taiwan, Taipei University	
Mosaic Taiwan Fellowship (Taipei, Taiwan)	2017
Nord University	
High North Dialogue (Bodø, Norway)	2017
Tsinghua University	
Experiencing China Fellowship (Beijing, China)	2016

Administrative Service

MacEwan University	
Committee Member, AEPS Department Events	2026
Faculty Advisor, Model UN Club	2026
University of Toronto	
Environmental Governance Lab Coordinator	2021 to 2025

Managing Editor of We Did It!? A Future History of Net Zero in Canada	2023 to 2025
Hiring Committee, International Relations (St. George Campus)	2023
Hiring Committee, International Relations (UTM Campus)	2021
Conference Organizer, Environmental Governance Lab Net Zero Workshop, Vol. 2	2024
Conference Organizer, We Did It!? A Future History of Net Zero in Canada Launch Event	2023
Conference Organizer, Environmental Governance Lab Net Zero Workshop, Vol. 1	2022
Conference Organizer, 9th Annual Chinese Investment in Canada Forum	2019
Conference Organizer, 8th Annual Chinese Investment in Canada Forum	2018
Conference Organizer, 5th Annual Maritime Security and Cooperation Forum	2017
Conference Organizer, 7th Annual Chinese Investment in Canada Forum	2017
Conference Organizer, Environment and Environmentalism in East Asia Conference	2016

Languages, Skills, and Affiliations

Languages

English - Native Proficient

French - Intermediate

Programs

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AtlasTI

NVivo

Affiliations

International Studies Association

Canadian Political Science Association

International Political Science Association

Environmental Governance Lab at the University of Toronto

Smart Prosperity Institute Economics and Environmental Policy Network 2019 to 2021

Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance 2019 to 2020