

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Sarah Edmonds to our team as a volunteer Senior research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Sarah was active with our project from 2020-04-02 to 2021-05-01 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Papua New Guinea and United States. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Sarah Edmonds, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Sarah has been a country expert for Papua New Guinea and United States. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Papua New Guinea and United States as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

Based on their performance and experience, RAs are promoted, first to Advanced RAs and then to Expert RAs. Our senior-most RAs position is that of Senior RA, which is the position currently held by Sarah. The role involves coding an exceptional number of 500 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 12 months. Senior research assistants have gained profound knowledge of PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They facilitate the development of the taxonomy and the project structure, and train other research assistants. With their outstanding expertise, they play a pivotal role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Sarah took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Regional Manager:** This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.
- **Data Validation:** This role involves re-coding data previously collected by other RAs in order to verify and ensure coding consistency. This role, which is only open to experienced and high-performing RAs at CoronaNet, requires extensive additional training in the project's collection procedures, high attention to detail, and ability to work well in a team setting.

- **Data Cleaning:** This role requires Sarah to identify errors in the policy entries and clean them through updates in the Qualtrics survey. This role involves high attention to detail and an ability to perform repetitive tasks over a long period with high accuracy.
- **Project Study:** Sarah has participated in a practical experience ‘Project Study’ module at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. Through this module, students receive 18 ECTS for 500 hours of practical employment with CoronaNet. Project Study students are incorporated into every aspect of the project—such as coding, validation, cleaning, and managing of data—and also gain significant management experience through leading other RAs as country/regional managers or through managing special projects.
- Sarah participated in a credit-bearing internship through Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), earning 6 ECTS credits. Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet, working closely with members of the international team. Interns are expected to contribute 120-140 hours of independent work towards CoronaNet activities and to show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Sarah Edmonds for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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CoronaNet Research Team

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Joan Barceló (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Cindy Cheng (TU Munich)

Vanja Grujic (Universidade de Brasília)

Allison Spencer Hartnett (Yale University)

Robert Kubinec (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Luca Messerschmidt (TU Munich)

Timothy A. Model (Havighurst Fellow at the Miami University)

Caress Schenk (Nazarbayev University)

Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir (TU Munich)