

L. Maryam Sobhani

Berkeley, CA | lmsobhani@uchicago.edu | +1 520.477.1007

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Master of Arts in International Relations

Chicago, IL

August 2025

University of Arizona

Bachelor of Arts in Law; Astronomy minor

Tucson, AZ

May 2019

SKILLS

- Research Methods: Mixed-methods research design, survey experimentation, causal inference, regression modeling, interaction analyses, text-as-data techniques, content analysis, qualitative coding, and multilingual data extraction.
- Data & Technical: Python, R, Stata, SQL, Power BI/Looker Studio, Excel/Google Sheets, GitHub, Jupyter Notebook, LaTeX, GeoPandas, Qualtrics, MTurk, Prolific.
- Language Skills: Farsi (proficient reading/writing), Spanish (limited working proficiency).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago, Committee on International Relations (CIR)

Graduate Thesis Work

Chicago, IL

September 2024 – August 2025

Thesis: “Public Diplomatic Shaming: Examining the Effects of International Criticism through Diplomatic Bypass on Foreign Public Opinion.” Reviewed by Dr. Linnea Turco (advisor) and Dr. Burcu Pinar Alakoç (preceptor).

- Completed an original mixed-methods thesis integrating political psychology and public diplomacy to identify conditions under which leaders engage foreign publics directly and bypass their governments.
- Designed a randomized Qualtrics survey, fielded via Prolific, developing treatment vignettes, pre-/post treatment measures, and derived independent and dependent variables for statistical analysis.
- Performed regression and interaction-effect analysis in Python to estimate treatment effects by nationalism and political ideology, maintaining a fully documented codebase in GitHub.

University of Arizona, School of Government & Public Policy

Research Assistant, Nonstate Actor Armed Governance

Tucson, AZ

January 2019 – May 2019

- Collected and reviewed Arabic-script news articles available on Nexis Uni to support multilingual event-coding to be used for mapping violence and governance patterns in Afghanistan.
- Identified and extracted key terms, actor names, and event descriptors related to violent incidents, using primary language skills in Farsi and the ability to recognize words in Arabic and Pashto.
- Created structured Excel lexicons linking Arabic/Dari/Pashto terms to English translations for use in Natural Language Processing (NLP) dictionaries of actors, actions, and locations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & INTERNSHIPS

NOIRLab – National center for ground-based optical–infrared astronomy

Resource Analyst, Portfolio Management Office

Tucson, AZ

August 2021 – December 2024

- Prepared quarterly and annual reports for the National Science Foundation (NSF) by compiling milestone progress and translating complex technical updates for a wider audience, and generated statistical insights with supporting charts and graphs.
- Supported and analyzed NOIRLab’s annual and multi-year planning data, collaborating with multiple departments to track the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), budget, milestones, risks, and resource allocation.
- Coordinated and supported enhancements to the organization’s planning and data collection tools, conducting user interviews to identify needs and inform feature development.

AmeriCorps, Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC)

Service Member placed at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital

Indianapolis, IN

October 2019 – September 2020

- Delivered community support through Ascension St. Vincent Hospital as part of the CIC's AmeriCorps program, collaborating with Indianapolis' diverse faith communities and local organizations to strengthen hospital support to disadvantaged populations.
- Organized quarterly convenings with community representatives to build sustained hospital–community relationships and increase awareness of available hospital programs and services.
- Developed an activity-tracking and community-reference database for the hospital's community outreach department, using Java and Google Sheets to streamline documentation and improve coordination.

Mesch Clark Rothschild – law firm
Legal & Marketing Intern

Tucson, AZ
January 2018 – July 2018

- Conducted legal research, prepared briefs, and supported the firm's digital marketing presence on LinkedIn and Facebook through content creation.

Arizona Attorney General's Office
Legal Intern, Civil Rights Division

Tucson, AZ
January 2018 – May 2018

- Supported mediations by documenting cases, observing mediation sessions, and conducting legal research.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Planted with Purpose

Secretary of the Board of Directors and Content Writer

Tucson, AZ
August 2022 – July 2024

- Served as a founding board member, contributing to organizational strategy, preparing agendas, maintaining meeting minutes, and organizing document systems.
- Conducted community-level and international research to develop written content on sustainable food systems, including socioeconomic impacts and the role of hydroponics in economic development and water conservation.

Rwenzori Center for Research & Advocacy – *via United Nations Volunteers (UNV)*
Program Development Specialist

Remote
December 2020 – May 2021

- Supported organizational initiatives as a Uganda-based public health and development NGO to expand medical resource delivery in the Rwenzori region through project planning, workflow coordination, and program support.

PRESENTATIONS

Sobhani, M., (2025). "Direct Foreign Leader Messaging: Exploring Methods of State-led Criticism through Rhetorical Bypassing." Presented at the 2025 Chicago Consular Corps Global Research Awards, University of Chicago.

McClinton, B., Petris, M., McGinn, B., Gay, R., Troncoso, L., Sobhani, M., Ortiz, S. (2024). "When Strategy Must Adapt: Remaining Agile in a Time of Numerous, Significant Crises." Poster presented at the 2024 National Science Foundation's Research Infrastructure Workshop.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Trainings completed through the University of Chicago:

- CITI Program Certification, Social & Behavioral Sciences IRB Human Subjects Protection, Jun 2025.
- Committee on International Relations D.C. Career Trek, Selected through competitive application, Apr 2025.
- Computing Fundamentals, pre-matriculation, Aug 2024.
- Computational Math, pre-matriculation, Aug 2024.

Trainings completed through NOIRLab:

- Project Management Professional (PMP) Online Course, Jun 2024.
- Project Management Training (University of Arizona Continuing Education), Apr 2024.
- Management of Portfolios (MoP) Certification (ILX Group), Aug 2022.

SELECT HONORS & AWARDS

- University of Chicago: Chicago Consular Corps Global Research Award (2025); Phoenix Research Scholarship (2024); M.A. Director's Scholarship (2024); Social Sciences Promise Scholarship (2024).
- AmeriCorps Segal Education Award (2020).
- University of Arizona School of Government & Public Policy Certificate of Excellence (2019).