

ELTON SKENDAJ

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Work Address:

Department of Government, Room 214, White Hall,
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA

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Objective: To research, teach and advise on democratization and peace-building.

Relevant Skills: writing, teaching, analytical, research, organizational, presentation, interpersonal, leadership and conflict resolution trainer, peace-making, fundraising, budgeting, languages.

Education:

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (August 2005-present)

PhD student, expected completion 2010. GPA: 3.79 / 4.00

Major: Comparative Politics; Minor: International Relations

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, (2000 – 2001)

Master of Arts in International Peace Studies. GPA: 3.71 / 4.00.

American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) (1996-2000)

B.A. (CUM LAUDE). Acc. GPA: 3.64 / 4.00.

Major: Political Science/International Relations

Minors: a) Economics, b) Philosophy

Teaching Experience

- **Instructor** of Freshman Writing Seminar “Nonviolent Citizen Activism: How Private Citizens Change World Politics” at Cornell University (Fall 2007)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** in the course “Introduction to Comparative Politics” at Cornell University. (Spring 2007)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** in the course “Introduction to Peace Studies” at Cornell University. (Fall 2006)
- **Lecturer** of ‘Conflict Analysis’ topic for the online Nansen Dialogue Center – Virtual School of “Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution” (2005-2007)
- **Adjunct Instructor** at the University of New York in Tirana at the International Relations Department. (September 2004-June 2005)
- **Lead Instructor** and Trainer for the Open Society Institute course on “Academic Writing” organized in all the six public universities in Albania (August 2004-December 2005)
- **Adjunct Instructor** at the University of Tirana where I taught courses on: “Conflict Resolution,” “Political Philosophy,” and “Introduction to Political Science”. (2002-2005)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana in the course “Conflict Resolution”. (September-December 2000)

Work Experience

- Founder and **executive director** of the Center for Peace and Disarmament Education (**CPDE**), Tirana, Albania, <http://www.cpde.net> (August 2003-July 2005)
- **National Project Coordinator** for the joint project between UN **Department for Disarmament Affairs** and **Hague Appeal for Peace** on “*Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth*”. <http://www.cpde.net>. Tirana, Albania. (July 2002-February 2005.)
- **National Focal Point and co-organizer** of the “*The Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding*”; participated in the drafting of the “*Albania Civil Society*

Agenda for Conflict Prevention” and the “*Balkan Agenda for Conflict Prevention*”
(November 2003-July 2004)

- **In-country-project partner** for the joint project between **UN Department for Disarmament Affairs** and **Hague Appeal for Peace** on “*Developing Peace and Disarmament Education Initiatives to Disarm Children and Youth*”. Tirana, Albania. (February-June 2002)
- **Researcher** and **co-author** of the final report on *Social and Economic Assessment of the UNDP “Weapons for Development Project,”* Tirana, Albania. (October-December 2001)
- **Researcher** at the Albanian Institute for International Studies (September-December 2001)

Publications

- “Peace Education as a Democratizing Process” forthcoming peer-reviewed publication with the Watson Institute at Brown University. (2008)
- “Nation and Conflict” in Virtual School of Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution Lectures. Nansen Dialogue Network. (2007)
- Contributed to the report ‘The rifle has the devil inside, Gun Culture in South Eastern Europe, SEESAC. <http://www.csd.bg/fileSrc.php?id=1908> (May 2006)
- Contributed chapter on “Albania: A Transforming Experience” to the book Peace and Disarmament Education: Changing Mindsets to Reduce Violence and Sustain the Removal of Small Arms. Hague Appeal for Peace, New York, (July 2005)
<http://www.haguepeace.org/resources/DDA-book.pdf>
- “Ethnic Violence In Kosova After The Nato-Yugoslav Peace Agreement,” in Forced Ethnic Migrations On The Balkans: Consequences And Rebuilding Of Societies. Eds. Ekaterina Popova, Marko Hajdinjak. Conference Proceedings. Sofia, Bulgaria. pp.223-227 (2005)
- Co-author and producer of Together in Peace: Peace education Youth Manual—book in Albanian, Centre for Peace and Disarmament Education, Tirana, Albania, (January 2005)
- “Disarmament through TV: Peace Education in Albania” article published at the UN Chronicle, Volume XL1, issue no 3 September-November 4, New York, (2004)
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2004/issue3/0304p59.asp>
- “Youth Democracy in Action”. Published in the Democratic Education Bulletin, (in Albanian) Institute for Pedagogical Studies, Tirana, Albania. (June 2004)
- “Peace and Disarmament Education in Albania” Kakanien Revisited online resource
<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/materialien/ESkendaj1.pdf> (November 2004)

Presentations

- Presentation on “Learning from peace education programmes” at the annual **Peace and Justice Studies Association** conference “Who Speaks for the Common Good” (October 2006)
- Speaker on “Peace Education in Albania” at the international Seminar on “Education for Peace and Development” Lima, Peru. (February 2005)
- Presented paper on “Kosovo Violence in the Aftermath of NATO intervention” at the “Forced Ethnic Migrations on the Balkans” conference. Sofia, Bulgaria. (February 2005)
- Presented and facilitated at the **US Institute for Peace** program, “Peace Education Program in Divided Societies: A workshop with Israeli and Palestinian teachers.” Istanbul, Turkey, (August 2004)
- Presented a paper on “Peace education challenges” at “Democracy And Human Rights In Multiethnic Societies” 7th International Seminar, Bosnia (July 2004)
- Presenter on peace education at the “The 2004 Teaching Non-proliferation Summer Institute” at the University of North Caroline, Asheville, USA. (June 2004)
- Speaker at the 56th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, *Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations* United Nations Headquarters, New York. Presented on “Peace and Disarmament Education in Albania” (September 2003)

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- Speaker and organizer of peace education workshops at the Apeadu Children's Peace Center 2nd International Youth Leadership conference. Ghana. (July 2003)
- Presentation on “**Introducing peace and disarmament education in post-conflict societies: The Albanian case-study**,” to the Group of Governmental Experts to Prepare a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education –3rd Session. Geneva, (March 2002)
- Presentation on “**Youth and Violence in South-Eastern Europe**” in Butler University, USA. (November 2000)

Professional Affiliations

- Member of the American Political Science Association (APSA) (September 2005-present)
- Member of the Albanian Political Science Association (ALPSA) (September 2004-present)
- Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Global Campaign for Peace Education at the Hague Appeal for Peace (July 2005-present)

Other Professional Experience

- Co-organizer of the **East European Circle** seminars, an interdisciplinary area studies group at Cornell University (2007-2008)
- Member of the **Gang of Four**, graduate students' coordinating committee for student activities at the Government department at Cornell University (2006-2007)
- Graduate writing **tutor** at the Knight Institute's Walk-in Service at Cornell University (2005-2007)
- Albanian participant at the Global Conference on Conflict Prevention at the United Nations. (New York, July 2005)
- Albanian participant in the UN Biennial Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons. (July 2005).
- Albanian **Translator** of the first book and producer of the peace education resource “*Learning to Abolish War —Teaching toward a culture of peace*”, Albania (May 2002)
- Successfully completed the course “**Planetary perspectives in peace education**” at the Columbia University, Teacher's College, New York. (July 2002)
- Graduate Student Coordinator** of the undergraduate peace conference: “**The Missing Peace.**” University of Notre Dame. USA (April 2001).
- Albanian **Translator** of the online book of peace stories: *The Strange War* by Martin Awer. <http://www.martinauer.net/KINDER/krieg-al/> (August-January 2001.)
- Trainer** of “*Communication and Leadership Skills*” in the **Center for the Homeless**, South Bend, Indiana, USA. (2000-2001)
- Trainer** in the course on “*Enhancing Leadership Skills*” in the USAID project: “*Rebuilding Kosovo's Potential.*” (Bulgaria, Summer 2000)
- Writing Center Tutor** in AUBG. (Fall 1997– Spring 2000).
- **Research Assistant** to Prof. Ben DeDominicis, AUBG. Focused on Albanian-Serbian crisis in Kosovo, former Yugoslavia. (May-July 1997)
- Worked as a **reporter** and **editor** at various newspapers and magazines while in American University in Bulgaria. Worked in a) **VOX**, AUBG newspaper, b) the **KM Alternative Magazine**, c) **AUBG Literary Magazine**. (September 1998-May 2000)

Awards

- Awarded **Peace Studies Fellowship** at Cornell University. (Spring 2008)
- Awarded **LaFeber grant** for a joint research project with Professor Valerie Bunce to study the role of nationalism in Kosovo's political agenda (Summer 2007)
- Graduate student assistantship** at Cornell University (Fall 2006-Fall 2007)
- Sage fellowship** at Cornell University (2005-2006)
- **Honour of town** award from Gramsh municipality in Albania for working on peace and disarmament education in schools and community. (March 2005)

- Awarded a **certificate of appreciation and recognition** by the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Hague Appeal for Peace for the leadership role in Albanian peace education project. (February 2005)
- **Academic Fellowship Program**, Open Society Institute for assisting the department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Tirana (August 2004-June 2005)
- **Civic Education Project Fellowship** for teaching and promoting civic education values at the University of Tirana, (August 2003-June 2004)
- Full merit-based **Kroc scholarship** at the *University of Notre Dame* (2000-2001)
- Full merit-based **Soros scholarship** at the American University in Bulgaria (1996-2000)
- Champion of **National Math Olympiads**: (Tirana 1995; 1996).
- Representative of Albania in **International Math Olympiads**: (Bulgaria 1995; Romania 1996; India 1996).
- Winner of **National Youth Literature Contest**. (Tirana, Albania, 1996).

Special Skills

Computer Skills Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Dreamweaver, Stata
Language Skills Fluent in Albanian, English and Italian;
Spanish, Bulgarian, Macedonian and German: beginning level.
Hobbies, Interests travel, languages, music.

References:

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