

# BRANDON MELECÍO FISCHER

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## SUMMARY

I am a Project Manager, Administrator, Researcher, and Scholar working in the fields of international development and anthropology with a passion for refining organizational systems and processes to maximize social change

## EDUCATION

**Master of Arts, Anthropology** 2015

The New School for Social Research, Graduate Program of Anthropology: New York, NY  
Selected courses: Ethnography & Writing, Critical Foundations in Anthropology, Theories of Feminism, Qualitative Methods

**Ethnographic Methods Certificate Program** 2015

Isla Mujeres Field School, Isla Mujeres, Mexico

**Master of Arts, International Affairs, concentration in Development** 2012

The New School, Graduate Program in International Affairs: New York, New York  
Selected courses: Project Management and Program Development, Comparative Development and Experience, Quantitative Research Methods, Non-Western Approaches to World Politics

**Bachelor of Arts, International Relations and Spanish** 2009

St. Mary's University: San Antonio, Texas  
Semester Abroad, IUIEN, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, Spring 2009

Bilingual in Spanish and English with abilities in French and Arabic

## WORK

### EXPERIENCE

**Open School of Ethnography and Anthropology** · Pisté, Mexico · Assistant Director 2016 – Present

Administer ethnographic, Maya, and English language training programs and teach in areas of gender and sexuality, indigenous, and critical tourism studies.

**School of Undergraduate Studies, The New School** · New York, NY · Program Manager 2012 – Present

Manage four interdisciplinary programs—Global Studies, Environmental Studies, Urban Studies, and Urban Design—and coordinate public and private events for multiple undergraduate programs

- Manage daily operations by supporting program chairs, faculty, and students, through budget management, event planning, logistical, and curricular support; Build and facilitate connections within and between academic programs.
- Coordinate all logistical needs for private and public events for twelve programs and curricular initiatives; Maintain partnerships with external organizations; Oversee publicity and external communications for public events.
- Devise content for program website and social media presence to better engage prospective and current students

**Center for New York City Affairs** · New York, NY · Research Assistant 2011 –2012

Conducted qualitative research on chronic absenteeism in elementary schools throughout the greater NYC area.

- Interviewed multiple stakeholder groups and developed policy recommendations to reduce chronic absenteeism in elementary schools throughout NYC and its outlying boroughs
- Diagnosed policy shortfalls in treating factors attributed to chronic absenteeism, particularly in areas of homelessness and crime; Contributed to a forthcoming publication on absenteeism, expected October 2014.

**Global Studies Program, The New School** · New York, NY · Program Assistant 2011 – 2012

Supported programmatic needs for a start-up academic program

- Reformed program website and social media presence to better engage a diverse student demographic
- Organized and moderated academic panels for the *Coming Out in the Developing World* lecture and discussion series, focusing on issues of sexual alterity in underserved communities, domestic and global. Coordinated outreach and donations to partner organizations internationally

**Live Lebanon UNDP** · Beirut, Lebanon · Graduate Intern May – Jul 2011

Served as project leader and journalistic complement for medium-scale development program.

- Developed diverse communication content and material for publication from on-site interviews with beneficiaries. Managed database of Lebanese expatriate donor community spanning more than fifty countries
- Conducted stakeholder assessments to determine views of supporters and donors. Developed recommendations that were integrated into project procurement strategies, improving donations by twenty percent
- Devised a tailored monitoring and evaluation strategy for four campaign areas with corresponding templates to measure project impact, involving beneficiary input in project procurement and measurement strategies

**Transregional Center for Democratic Studies** · New York, NY · Program Assistant **2010 – 2011**

Together with a team of 3-4 staffers, organized academic panels and biannual institutes in Poland and South Africa.

- Maintained an expansive database housing participant applications from institutes held over a ten year period, as well as forthcoming institutes; Organized and moderated panels focusing on social issues in developing countries

**Habitat for Humanity** · San Antonio, TX

Family Services Assistant

**May – Aug 2010**

Oriented 30+ families through multiple stages of homeowner program, providing support and oversight.

- Assessed applicant eligibility and provided correspondence based off of a composite eligibility model
- Administered orientation sessions in English and Spanish for families enrolling in homeowner program
- Initiated partnerships with community organizations to provide services for homeowners, to include free radio-based ESL classes

Volunteer Services Assistant

**Jun – Aug 2009**

Together with one lead coordinator, directed volunteer services for the construction of low-income housing.

- Actively recruited group and individual volunteers for construction through outreach and marketing;
- Coordinated construction staff and 100+ volunteers on weekend construction days, overseeing safety and lunches

**Joven** · San Antonio, TX · Grant Writer and After-School Aide

**Feb – May 2010**

Conducted site-based research on conditions of elementary education, served as volunteer grant writer.

- Incorporated data gathered in the teaching of Southside youth in the development of preliminary legislation with State Rep. Farias; collaborated in the writing of two state grant requests which were successful

## PRO-BONO EXPERIENCE

**Net Impact Service Corps** · New York, NY · Consultant

**2015 – Present**

Lead a team that is working to design a mission-wide monitoring and evaluation portfolio paired with a strategic planning strategy to support Library for All, an international ed-tech non-profit organization.

**RUNA Foundation** · New York, NY · Consultant

**Jan 2015 – Sept 2015**

Developed a mission-level monitoring and evaluation portfolio of qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure impact within and across the organization's different program areas: inclusive markets, forestry management, plant research, and education

**European Affairs Committee, UN Young Volunteer Program** · New York, NY · Member

**Fall 2012**

Organized and facilitated events as an extension of the UN External Affairs arm. Build dialogue between other committees within the UN Young Professionals program around pressing world issues

**The Office of State Representative Joe Farias** · San Antonio, TX · Intern

**2009 – 2010**

Served as a long-term legislative intern for a politician representing the most underserved areas of San Antonio, TX.

- Assessed and amended hundreds of constituent cases to expedite state service processes by navigating a network of government and nonprofit entities; Planned and executed health fairs and urban initiatives
- Spearheaded a legislative project that envisioned a community based school system to service the Southside of San Antonio. Interviewed stakeholders and constructed data sets for drafting preliminary forms of legislation

**International Relations Program, St. Mary's University** · San Antonio, TX · Researcher

**Fall 2009**

Presented research findings for use by the defense counsel of a Congolese political asylum-seeking refugee. Suggested revisions during the drafting of the court affidavit to guarantee accuracy of evidence-based claims

## WRITING

**The Mantle** · New York, NY · Contributing Author

Published blog articles on alternatives to development practice.

<http://mantlethought.org/content/rethinking-international-development-visions-progress>

<http://mantlethought.org/content/rethinking-international-development-solidarity-economies>

**Americans for Informed Democracy** · Washington DC · Issue Analyst

Published journal and blog articles covering a diverse range of issues affecting US-Muslim affairs

<http://www.aidemocracy.org/issue-analysts/brandon-fischer/>

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association (2014 – Present)

Society for Applied Anthropology (2014 – Present)

North American and Indigenous Studies Association (2014 – Present)

The Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility (2013 – Present)