

# ELTON SKENDAJ, PH.D

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An experienced professional with over 15 years working in democracy and governance, peace studies, and international affairs. Experience in program leadership, course development, teaching, training, research, and applied consulting. Skilled in facilitation and coordination among diverse stakeholders within and across academic institutions, advocacy networks, international and inter-governmental agencies, and civil society organizations. Demonstrated expertise in policy-relevant research and training, graduate teaching, project design, facilitation, program implementation, and evaluation. Excellent analytical, research, writing, communication, cross-cultural, and interpersonal skills and competencies.

### Areas of Expertise

Rule of law • Training • Policy-relevant research • Program leadership  
Group facilitation • Anti-corruption reform • Conflict resolution • Project design • Police reform

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

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Technical Skills: Program leadership and coordination, academic writing, quantitative and qualitative research design, international group facilitation, interviewing, SPSS

Language Skills: Fluent: English and Albanian  
Intermediate: Italian, Spanish  
Conversational: Bulgarian, and Macedonian

## INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING AND PROJECT LEADERSHIP

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### Research Consultant, **Freedom House**

2015-2020

- ❖ Researched democracy and governance indicators in Albania;
- ❖ Contributed to national and regional level analyses;
- ❖ Produced country reports for Albania.

### Research Consultant, **United Nations Development Programme**

2008

- ❖ Coordinated a team of 12 researchers who wrote the *Kosovo Human Development Report 2008*.
- ❖ Designed survey questions, conducted 4 focus groups and 10 elite interviews.

### **United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and Hague Appeal for Peace** 2002-2005

National Project Coordinator, “Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth”

- ❖ Designed and implemented the international project in Albania;
- ❖ Delivered presentations about the project’s unique civil society – United Nations (UN) partnership model at UN Headquarters in NY;
- ❖ Co-authored international manual for peace and disarmament education;
- ❖ Developed and published curricular units for local and international peace education manuals.

### **Center for Peace and Disarmament Education, Albania**

2003-2005

Executive Director and Founder

- ❖ Developed and implemented 20 school and community projects; supervised 5 staff, and managed website;
- ❖ Fostered partnerships among 2 schools, government and 5 civil society organizations;
- ❖ Organized 20+ educational workshops and conferences and delivered peace education training workshops for over 50 teachers and students in Albania;
- ❖ Fund-raised \$300,000+ from international donors.

## **ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **Georgetown University, Washington, DC**

2021 – Present

Director / Associate Director, *Democracy & Governance* MA Program

Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Government

- ❖ Developed democracy curricula, taught core classes in the MA program;
- ❖ Led recruitment and admissions processes for the MA program, increasing annual enrolment by 60%
- ❖ Managed faculty assignments and supervised adjunct faculty within the D & G MA Program;
- ❖ Oversaw the *Center for Democracy and Civil Society* and *Democracy & Society* student-led journal,
- ❖ Scoped, helped design, and led a graduate summer program in Bulgaria including establishing an institutional partnership with the American University in Bulgaria;
- ❖ Served on the Executive Committee of the Government Department and the Georgetown Main Campus Executive Faculty.

### **Manchester University, Indiana, USA**

2017 – 2021

Muir Associate Professor of Peace Studies

- ❖ Developed peace studies curricula at the university, conducted research on governance and protests in Eastern Europe, served on the *Faculty Senate*, and published academic articles and analytical reports.

### **University of Miami and Florida International University (FIU), Miami, FL**

2012 – 2017

Lecturer, International Relations and Comparative Politics

- ❖ Developed and taught university courses on International Institutions, Global Governance, Human Rights, Migration, Ending War and Building Peace, and International Relations.

### **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC**

2011

Research Scholar

- ❖ Conducted Research on post-war reconstruction and rule of law
- ❖ Presented policy findings at the Wilson Center and U.S. State Department.

## **RECENT GRANTS**

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**Westminster Foundation for Democracy**, Principal Investigator, National Security versus Protection of Human Rights in Emergency Situations, 2020 (£6,100)

**Norwegian Research Council**, Co-Principal Investigator, Legal Culture and Anti-Corruption Reform: The Case of West Balkans, 2010-2014, (\$700,000)

## **EDUCATION**

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### **CORNELL UNIVERSITY**, Department of Government

Ph.D. in Political Science (International Relations and Comparative Politics), August 2011

### **UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

M.A., Peace Studies, 2001

### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BULGARIA (AUBG)**

B.A., Political Science/International Relations, 2000