

Harshitha Sai Viswanathan



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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA, United States

September 2020 - June 2022

School of Marine and Environmental Affairs

- Master of Marine Affairs (MMA)

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance

- International Development Policy and Management Certificate Program

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, La Jolla, CA, United States

September 2016 - June 2020

- Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- Minor in Marine Science

WORK EXPERIENCE

NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE (NWSA), Tacoma, WA, United States

September 2022 - Present

Washington Sea Grant Hershman Fellowship

- Resiliency planner assessing policies in response to climate change and hazard vulnerabilities, and integrating sustainable development operations within seaports and associated communities, using interconnected facets of smart technology, risk optimization, and retrofitting green and resilient strategies.
- **Skills:** Project Evaluation, Project Management, Risk Assessment, Liaising with Consultants, Grant Review & Writing, Policy Analysis, Science Communication, Data Analysis & Visualization, Stakeholder Engagement, ArcGIS

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, WA, United States

September 2022 - Present

- Research exploring the public health impacts of climate change by identifying vulnerabilities in Washington coastal communities, and comparing proximal and distal factors to understand how resilient strategies can be streamlined to inform long-term sustainability.
- **Skills:** Implementation Science Framework, Interdisciplinary & Intersectional Assessment, Literature Reviews, Scientific Writing

NIPPON FOUNDATION OCEAN NEXUS CENTER, Seattle, WA, United States

June 2022 - September 2022

Ocean Nexus Summer Fellowship

- **Project Title:** Student-Led Documentation of COVID-Era Education in the Human Dimensions of Oceans
- Conducted interviews with graduate students in interdisciplinary marine fields to document their experiences during the pandemic; identify information and data gaps in current policies; assess policy issues regarding conservation ethics and environmental justice; and provide recommendations to enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts (Awaiting Publication Approval - Frontiers in Education).
- **Skills:** Semi-structured Interviews, Community Engagement, Report Writing

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA, United States

September 2021 - February 2023

Independent Researcher

- **Project Title:** Tourist, Local, and Broker Perceptions of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, United Arab Emirates: Gazes, Ultra-Artifacts, and Hyperreality; **Journal:** The Arab World Geographer
- An exploratory study to better understand the dynamics of tourism through the concepts of gazes, hyperreality, and ultra-artifacts using a mixed methods research design with co-author and advisor Dr. Marc L. Miller.
- **Skills:** Tourism Management & Development, Scientific Writing, Survey Instrument Development, Content Analysis, Semi-structured Interviews

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA, United States

September 2020 - June 2022

Graduate Researcher

- **Project Title:** Coastal Tourism Sustainability in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Environment, Protected Areas, and Culture
- An exploratory study to understand the concept of sustainability at the intersection of local communities, coastal tourism, and marine protected areas in Abu Dhabi through a mixed-methods research design comprising interviews and social survey with tourism brokers, locals, and tourists.
- **Skills:** Statistical Methods, Mixed-Methods Research, Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis, Quantitative Data Collection & Analysis, Survey Instrument Development, Scientific Writing, Content Analysis, Semi-structured Interviews, Sustainable Tourism Management, Community Engagement, Data Visualization, Stakeholder Engagement, Institutional Review Board (IRB) Processes

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, Tamil Nadu, India

September 2020 - March 2021

Independent Researcher

- **Project Title:** Handbook on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for small-scale fishing communities
- Assisted in the development of guidelines to include small-scale fishers and indigenous communities in the equitable co-management of local coastal environments and resources in India under the guidance of Dr. Ramya Rajagopalan.
- **Skills:** Marine Protected Areas Research & Management, Fisheries Research & Management, Local Ecological Knowledge Systems, Climate Change Science, Policy Analysis, Literature Review

Undergraduate Researcher

- **Research Areas:** Marine Microbial Diversity, Population Dynamics, Food Webs, Ocean Chemistry
- Assisted Dr. Farooq Azam's research on temperature sensitivities and impacts on the formation and functioning of bacterial nanotubes for ocean nutrient cycling.
- **Skills:** Cell Culturing, Media Preparation, Scientific Writing, Image J Software, Fluorescence Microscopy, Confocal Microscopy

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

CURRENTS (STUDENT BLOG), Seattle, WA, United States

Volunteer

September 2021 - June 2022

- Active member and contributor to the University of Washington's School of Marine and Environmental Affairs student blog encouraging anti-colonial modes of thinking relative to environmental issues within marine and coastal systems and people's interaction with nature across diverse contexts.
- **Tasks:** Authorship, Editor, Visualization, Creative Design
- **Skills:** Op-Ed Writing, Science Communication, Story Mapping, Infographic Designer, Community Outreach & Engagement

BIRCH AQUARIUM, La Jolla, CA, United States

Volunteer

September 2017 - June 2018

- Worked 4-hour shifts at the information desk, assisted in the management of aquarium facilities and tide pools, species rehabilitation, and organization of community outreach workshops.
- **Skills:** Marine Science Research, Biodiversity Conservation, Wildlife Rehabilitation, Ecosystem Management, Community Outreach

ABU DHABI ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

PADI Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver

September 2014 - September 2016

- Assisted researchers in expeditions at Lulu Island through underwater photography and sample collection at specific geographic sites. Participated in outreach programs and organized community workshops to increase community awareness of environmental issues and topics such as coral bleaching, impacts on mangrove ecosystems, and improve sustainability across interconnected ecosystems.
- **Skills:** Conservation Project Management, PADI Advanced Open Water Diver, Underwater Photography, Community Engagement, Marine Science Research

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

School of Marine and Environmental Affairs: Human Dimensions of Global Change, Pacific Tourism, Climate Change Governance, Statistics for Marine and Environmental Affairs, Biological Oceanography, US Ocean and Coastal Law, Applied Microeconomics in Marine Affairs, Marine Science in the Coastal Zone, Marine Policy Analysis, Environmental Equity and Justice, International Strategic Planning for Marine Resources

International Development Policy and Management: Developmental Governance, Mediation and Negotiation, Economics of International Development

University of Washington Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, Biostatistics 2023: Probability and Statistical Inference, Data Wrangling with R, Data Visualization (*In progress*)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Professional Certificate Program in Sustainability: Circular Economy: Transition for Future Sustainability, Sustainability: Strategies and Opportunities for Industry, Life Cycle Assessment: Quantifying Environmental Impact, Sustainable Infrastructure Systems: Planning and Operations (*In Progress*)

Undergraduate Courses: Calculus Based Probability and Statistics, Race and Racism, Marine Molecular Ecology, Marine Mammal Biology, Marine Microbiology, Introduction to Marine Biology

Additional Courses: Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, Calculus II

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Computer: Microsoft Office, Microsoft Sway, Adobe Illustrator and Creative Suite, R Studio, Stata, ATLAS.ti, MAXQDA, Venngage, ArcGIS, Python

Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Advanced Open Water Diver

Languages:

- English Full Professional Proficiency
- Tamil Native Proficiency
- Arabic Limited Working Proficiency
- Spanish Elementary Proficiency
- Hindi Elementary Proficiency

IBM Data Science Specialization

Project Management Institute - Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification (*In Progress*)