



# MICHALINA GRZELKA

RESEARCHER,  
ANTHROPOLOGIST  
& PH.D. CANDIDATE

## SKILLS

- Excellent writing and editing skills
- Translating academic texts from Polish to English/English to Polish
- Conducting informational research
- Excellent knowledge of qualitative research methods (interviews, participant observation)
- Very good knowledge of MS Office
- Good knowledge of MAXQDA

## LANGUAGES

- Polish - native
- English - fluent
- Arabic - good
- Russian - good

## HOW TO REACH ME

Cell: (+48) 604-257-968

Email: grzelka.michalina@gmail.com

Website: michalinagrzelka.com

## PROFILE

I hold a Master's Degree in Arab & Islamic studies and I am a Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Anthropology. As a scholar and a published researcher who is passionate about women's rights and disability rights, I developed and taught a graduate course on Human Rights.

During my academic studies and over the course of my career I studied and worked in such Arab countries as Kuwait, Syria, and Tunisia. I have also visited such Middle Eastern states as Jordan, UAE, Oman, and Iran. As a freelance consultant, I wrote reports on human rights NGOs operating in the Middle East and North Africa.

My goal is to use my research expertise to promote the social and material well-being of people all over the world and to raise awareness of the importance of human rights.

## SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

### Communications Specialist & Academic Instructor

Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland  
October 2019 - June 2020

- Developed a set of guidelines for the university faculty on how to write about disability and people with disabilities in English
- Prepared promotional materials for our international partners
- Managed and updated the English version of the university's official website
- Translated academic papers from Polish to English
- Taught English-language courses on Critical Theory and Human Rights to 30 graduate students
- Advised graduate students on research methods and helped them develop their own research projects

### Teaching & Graduate Assistant

State University of New York at Albany, USA  
August 2016 - May 2019

- Taught Introduction to Cultural Anthropology to over 40 undergraduate students each semester
- Incorporated non-standard teaching methods, eg. created Jeopardy games for students and used short YouTube videos to illustrate problems presented in assigned readings
- Graded students' homework and exams
- Revised and discussed with other TAs reading materials selected for the course
- Consistently received high ratings in student evaluations of teaching

### Freelance Researcher, Analyst & Translator

Self-employed, Poland  
April 2012 - July 2015

Selected projects:

- Created a database of 60 MENA NGOs working in the field of human rights for a charity from Kuwait
- Wrote a report on 30 MENA NGOs operating in the social development field for a consulting company from Kuwait
- Conducted a feasibility study on online payments implementation for the Kuwait Port Authority
- Conducted informational research and wrote a report on Qatar's LNG export capacity for a consulting company from Poland
- For a consulting company from the US conducted informational research on Rosoom, the electronic payment gateway developed by Dubai Trade
- Analyzed and identified language skills essential for Saudi Arabian students to pass Qudarat Exam (Saudi Arabian equivalent of GRE tests)

## SELECTED CONFERENCES

- September 2019 - International Conference "Language and Society", Warsaw, Poland - presenter
- November 2018 - American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA - presenter
- June 2017 - UN Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York - participant

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Since 2019 I have been a volunteer at a disability rights NGO "Kulawa Warszawa" in Warsaw, Poland:

- Developed a system that organizes the work and monitors the progress of volunteers who provide video subtitles for d/Deaf people
- Contributes essays on such topics as disability justice and disability rights to the organization's website
- Co-organized and executed a social campaign on the importance of sport of people with disabilities

## INTERESTS

- Reading about history, politics, and social issues in Central and Eastern Europe
- Learning about the cultures of the Middle East and North Africa
- Participating in social justice activism

## Junior Consultant

Delta Consulting for Economic & Financial Consulting, Kuwait  
January 2014 - January 2015

- Conducted informational research for the ongoing projects using sources in English and Arabic
- Wrote reports on such topics as Kuwait Energy Market; Wastewater Treatment in Kuwait; Government Performance Management System and Environmental Fuel Analysis in the State of Kuwait
- Cooperated with the representatives of the World Bank, the IMF, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance on the Public Finance Management Project
- Trained and supervised a multinational team of interns

## EDUCATION

### Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Anthropology

State University of New York at Albany, USA  
August 2016 - present

- Maintains a 3.97 GPA
- Won William N. Fenton Research Award (2019) and Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Fund Research Award (2019)
- Elected as Treasurer of Anthropology Graduate Organization (2017-2018)
- In August 2019 successfully defended a doctoral proposal titled "Disability, Gender, and Kinship Caregiving in Postsocialist Poland"
- Currently conducting doctoral research in Warsaw, Poland

### M.A. in Arab and Islamic Studies

University of Warsaw, Poland  
October 2006 - July 2011

- Elected as Treasurer of Arab Studies Association (2010-2011)
- Co-organized numerous student conferences
- Co-organized and participated in a research trip to Iran (2009)
- Graduated from Arab language courses in Damascus, Syria (2010) and Tunis, Tunisia (2008)

## PUBLICATIONS

- **October 2020** - "Unheard Voices: Discourse Analysis of Press Representations of People with Disabilities and Their Caregivers in Postsocialist Poland", *International Journal of Pedagogy, Innovation and New Technologies* 7 (1)
- **August 2020** - "Repatriation or Deportation? The Entanglement of Labor, Abuse and (In)Voluntary Returns of Female Filipino Domestic Workers in Kuwait", in "What Would Korczak Do?"
- **April 2020** - "Attitudes Toward Vulnerable Populations in the Time of COVID-19: Critical Discourse Analysis of Gazeta.pl Online Comment Sections", *Society Register* 4 (2)
- **December 2019** - "'No One Knows Anything': Kinship Caregivers and Their Experiences with Social Services in Poland", *Society Register* 3 (4)
- **June 2019** - "Representation of Disability in Fairy Tales from the Perspective of the Social Model of Disability", *International Journal of Pedagogy, Innovation and New Technologies* 6 (1)