

Polly Policy

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Arts, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and History

June 2026

Relevant Courses: Conservation Biology, Evolutionary Ecology, History of Science in the Modern Middle East, BA History Thesis Seminar, Historiography, Fundamentals of Genetics, Quantitative Methods in Biology, Environmental History of South Asia, coursework in postcolonial urbanism, memory and museum practice

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Archival Research, Berlin and Freiburg, Germany

August 2025–September 2025

- Conducted archival research in the Bundesarchiv and Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz on German colonial agricultural policy and land taxation in East Africa for BA Thesis
- Translated legal, administrative, and scientific documents from German
- Coordinated with archivists and librarians to discuss research project in German to ensure alignment across collaborators

Undergraduate Researcher, Falk Behavioral Ecology Lab

June 2025–August 2025

- Developed and conducted independent field research on territory establishment behavior in the common chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) across two field sites in the Vosges Mountains
- Banded, measured, and collected blood samples from birds in field tracking exposure
- Prepared paper for publication sharing results and findings on *Phylloscopus collybita*

DAAD RISE Research Intern, Bergmann Lab at Universität Freiburg

June 2024–August 2024

- Conducted research on resource availability effects on paper wasp (*Polistes dominula*) colony task allocation under PI Dr. Sabine Bergmann
- Received funding and placement from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Visualized data in R and presented results at UChicago Undergraduate Research Symposium

Research Assistant, Vázquez Lab at American University

June 2023–July 2023

- Conducted research on thermal refuge selection in the tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) under postdoctoral researcher supervision
- Collected and organized behavioral data using DeepLabCut automated video tracking
- Wrote Python code to create visualizations comparing activity patterns across temperature conditions

Exhibit Research Intern, High Plains Heritage Center

Summer 2021

- Researched primary sources for an exhibit on rural land use, water rights, and farming communities
- Drafted interpretive panels for public audiences on Indigenous land dispossession, agricultural settlement, and grassland ecology

Archival Research Intern, High Plains Heritage Center

Summer 2020

- Performed archival research on rural and agricultural histories for an exhibit on land use and displacement
- Topics included drought displacement, irrigation infrastructure development, and railroad expansion
- Created context reports from oral history transcripts and photographic collections outlining community histories

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutor and High School Application Advisor

September 2022–Present

- Tutors middle and high school students individually and in groups in analytical and creative writing
- Provides guidance and feedback on private high school admissions essays and interviews

SKILLS

Languages: English (native proficiency), German (working proficiency)

Programming: R, Python, Java

Tools and Software: Raven, SnapGene, Fiji