

MERISA K. MATTIX
(she/her/hers)
Curriculum Vitae
14 February 2023

George Mason University
Undergraduate and Master's Student, Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Development and Administrative Officer, Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation

Contact Information:

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Phone: 602-849-5239

EDUCATION

2024 **M.S., Conflict Analysis and Resolution**

Concentration: Dynamics of Violence
George Mason University
Carter School
Arlington, VA, USA
GPA: 3.90 / 4.0

2023 **B.A., Conflict Analysis and Resolution**

Concentration: Justice and Reconciliation, Peacebuilding in Divided Societies
George Mason University
Carter School
Fairfax, VA, USA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dehumanization
Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa
Human trafficking, genocide, and mass atrocity
Religious conflict, division, and justifications for violence

PUBLICATIONS

*Equal Authorship

REPORTING

- 2023 **Mattix, M. K.** *Blending Peace Education with Reconciliation Practice*, Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation
<https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/annualreport> (Annual Report)
- 2021 **Mattix, M. K.** & Adamson, H. J. *Healing the Past; Transforming the Future*. Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation. <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/annualreport> (Annual Report)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2023 **Mattix, M. K.** *Hope Amid Painful Political Division: Wisdom For Lake Charles, Louisiana Church Communities* <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/news/hope-amid-painful-political-division-wisdom-for-lake-charles-louisiana-church-communities>
- 2022 Adamson, H. J. *, **Mattix, M. K.** *, Sherwood, N. R. * *USIP Insider Mediators Supporting Peace Processes* <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/news/usip-insider-mediators-in-peace-support-processes>
- Mattix, M. K.** * & Sherwood, N. R. * *Social Healing And Peacebuilding In The Horn Of Africa: Reflections Of Practitioners* <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/news/social-healing-and-peacebuilding-in-the-horn-of-africa-reflections-of-practitioners>
- Adamson, H. J. *, **Mattix, M. K.** *, & Roberson, G. * *All MHCR Undergraduates Win Summer Research Funding.* <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/news/all-mhcr-undergraduates-win-summer-research-funding>
- 2021 **Mattix, M. K.** & Cassar, C. *Cleansing the Wounds of Trauma* <https://www.mhcr.gmu.edu/news/cleansing-the-wounds-of-trauma>

GRANT FUNDING

*I served as the primary coordinator for submitting this grant application

Total funded amount: \$149,600

<u>ROLE</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DATES</u>
EXTERNAL: FUNDED				
Co-I	United States Institute of Peace	<i>Insider Reconcilers: Conceptions of Reconciliation, Experience in the Field & Impacts on Wellbeing</i>	\$5,000	2/2021- 4/2022
Co-I	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland	<i>#Reconciliation – Towards Transformative Processes and Outcomes (extension)</i>	\$120,000	5/2022- 12/2025
Co-I	United States Institute of Peace	<i>Evidence Review: Understanding Reconciliation Theories of Change (ToCs)</i>	\$11,600	5/2021- 5/2022
INTERNAL: FUNDED				
Co-PI	Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, & Research	<i>*Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (Multiple projects)</i>	\$9,000	5/2022- 8/2022
EXTERNAL: AWAITING DECISION				
Co-I	International Peace Research Association Foundation	<i>*Supporting Insider Reconcilers in Nairobi, Kenya; Dissertation Research and Practice</i>	\$5,000	
Co-I	US Department of State	<i>Supporting Efforts to Address Accountability, Justice, and the Rule of Law in Libya</i>	\$770,125	

INTERNAL: AWAITING DECISION

Co-I	GMU Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact	<i>*A Qualitative Investigation of Grassroots Peacebuilders Engaged in Reconciliation Processes after Violent Conflict</i>	\$48,000
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EXTERNAL: UNFUNDED

Co-I	American Psychology Association	<i>*Insider Reconciler Support in Nairobi, Kenya; Dissertation Study Into Practice</i>	\$5,000
Co-I	US Embassy of Finland	<i>*Cross-Cultural Graduate Student Participatory Action Seminar: Strengthening Anti-Racist & Decolonial Research & Practice</i>	\$20,000

HONORS & AWARDS

<u>Year Awarded</u>		<u>Amount (if applicable)</u>
2022	Mason Kindness Ambassador GMU Center for the Advancement of Wellbeing	-
	John Burton Scholarship The Carter School	\$3000
2021	Harold and Carol Saunders Scholarship The Carter School	\$2250
	Morgan Impact Scholarship The Carter School	\$1000
	GEO Global Internship and Experiential Scholarship GMU Global Education Office	\$750
2019	Freshman Academic Achievement Award GMU College of Humanities and Social Sciences	-

FELLOWSHIPS

1/2021 – 5/2021	Peacebuilding Fellowship The Carter School George Mason University Fairfax, VA, USA
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PRESENTATIONS

*Equal Authorship

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **Mattix, M. K.**, *Pathways to Unity: An Analysis of Current Projects to Heal U.S. Polarization*. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution Undergraduate Research Symposium. Fairfax, VA, USA
- Mattix, M. K.**, *Lessons on Dialogue within Polarization; A Comparative Study in Lake Charles, Louisiana*. Northern Virginia Mediation Network Conference, Virtual.
- Mattix, M.K.**, *Political Polarization in the American Christian Church; A Comparative Study in Lake Charles, Louisiana*. International Association of Reconciliation Studies Conference, Arlington, VA, USA
- Mattix, M.K.**, *Political Polarization in the American Christian Church; A Comparative Study in Lake Charles, Louisiana*. Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research, Summer Celebration of Scholarship at George Mason University, Virtual.
- 2021 Anderson, M.*, Rivera, A.*, Martin*, A, & **Mattix, M. K.*** *History of Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore Community*. Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research Summer Celebration of Scholarship at George Mason University, Virtual.
- Anderson, M.*, Rivera, A.*, Martin, A*. & **Mattix, M. K.*** *History of Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore Community*. GMU Business for a Better World Center Research Presentation for Community Partners at Culmore United Methodist Church, Falls Church, VA, USA. <https://prezi.com/view/65fgqV1F0I0A8iKvi9Qz/>

DISCUSSANT

- 2022 Sherwood, N. R., **Mattix, M. K.**, Adamson, H. J., Hill, O. T., Gjeloshi, B., Cassar, C. & Pentikäinen, A. (2022). *Training the next generation of reconciliation experts: Scholarship, mentorship & professional development at the Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation*. International Association for Reconciliation Studies Conference, 2022, Arlington, VA, USA.,
- Sherwood, N.R., Adamson, H.J., Cassar, C., Hill, O.T., Gjeloshi, B., **Mattix M. K.**, Namachanja Wanjala, T., Olad, R. A., Stauffer, C., Pentikainen, A. Y. *Who are Insider Reconcilers? Binding the Theory and Practice of Reconcilers Operating in Their Own Communities*. Carter School Spring 2022 Peace Week at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, USA.

ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION

- 2023 **Mattix, M.K.**, *Are We Achieving Unity? Comparing Current Initiatives Addressing Political Polarization with Community Experience*. National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Eau Claire, WI, USA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 8/2022 – 12/2022 **Pathways to Unity: An Analysis of Current Projects to Heal U.S. Polarization**
Conflict Integration
The Carter School
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA USA
- 5/2022 – 8/2022 **Political Polarization in the American Christian Church: A Comparative Study within Lake Charles, Louisiana**
Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program
Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA
- 8/2021 – 12/2021 **The Effects of Denominationalism on Christian Church Collaboration; Case Study of Bailey's Crossroads and Seven Corners, Virginia**
Conflict Inquiry Pilot Study
The Carter School
George Mason University
Falls Church, VA, USA
- 5/2021 – 8/2021 **History of Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore Community**
Summer Team Impact Project
Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA

CONFLICT RESOLUTION PRACTICE

- 12/2015 – present **Dressembler Advocate**
Dressembler Foundation
Los Angeles, CA, USA

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 8/2022 – present **Lead Peer Mentor**
Honors College
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA
- 8/2021 – 12/2021 **Peer Mentor**
Honors College
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA

- 3/2021 – 2022 **Student Handbook Committee Member**
The Carter School
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA
- 2/2021 – 1/2022 **Faculty Board Representative**
The Carter School
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA
- 8/2020 – present **Carter School Buddy**
The Carter School
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA
- 2/2020 – present **Carter School Ambassador**
The Carter School
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- 8/2022 – present **Development and Administrative Officer**
Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation
The Carter School
George Mason University
Arlington, VA, USA
- 1/2022 – 5/2022 **Publications Intern**
Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies
Faculty of Theology
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena
Jena, Thuringia, Germany
- 12/2021 – 7/2022 **Development and Administrative Coordinator**
Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation
The Carter School
George Mason University
Arlington, VA, USA
- 8/2021 – 12/2021 **Administrative Coordinator**
Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation
The Carter School
George Mason University
Arlington, VA, USA

1/2021 – 6/2021 **Development and Fundraising Assistant**
Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution
The Carter School
George Mason University
Arlington VA, USA

7/2020 – 8/2021 **Office Assistant**
Housing and Residence Life
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA

LANGUAGES

English	native speaker
Swahili	beginning proficiency.
Spanish	beginning proficiency
Arabic	basic knowledge

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Unconventional International

CERTIFICATIONS

9/2021	CITI Group 1 Social & Behavioral Research (43144357)
9/2021	CITI Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course 1 (44879803)
6/2021	CITI Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research Course 1 (143144358)
8/2020	FERPA Training

REFERENCES

Antti Pentikäinen, M. Th., Research Professor
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Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation
Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
3351 Fairfax Dr. MS 4D3
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Director of Faculty and Curriculum Development,
Honors College
George Mason University
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Associate Director
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Jane Walker, Director of Undergraduate Student Services
Academic Advisor
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