

It was a wonderful experience to be a DAAD fellow at SAIS, and a number of memories stand out. First, it was great to have the time and resources to conduct archival research in California and Texas and numerous interviews in Washington. What's more, my supervisors at SAIS - both Kristina Spohr, who was the Helmut Schmidt Distinguished Visiting Chair, and Dan Hamilton - were incredibly supportive, going out of their way to offer ideas on how to discover valuable archival sources and to put me in touch with former policymakers.

Second, I benefited enormously from interacting with both the fellows and the advisors. Not only did we exchange ideas across subfields and disciplines, but we also developed collaborative research projects that resulted in co-authored publications - in some cases years after I left Washington. I also remain indebted to my two former advisors, both for the many insights they shared with me and for the letters of recommendation they provided over the years.

Third, the workshops we organized together produced many positive results. We were able to sharpen our ideas through exchanges with former participants in historical processes, and our results were quickly published in edited volumes. In my particular case, I made contacts at these workshops that allowed me to successfully complete another research project - one that I would never have been able to pursue otherwise.

Finally, I just had a great time in Washington! I still miss our lunches and dinners discussing transatlantic affairs - I hope many other researchers have similar opportunities.

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