

BENJAMIN RENTON

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[@bhrenton](https://twitter.com/bhrenton)

EDUCATION

Middlebury College

Bachelor of Arts, International and Global Studies/East Asia, Minor in Geography

Middlebury, VT

May 2021

GPA: 3.65; College Scholar (highest academic honor) for four semesters

Relevant Coursework: Chinese Politics and Business Advanced Readings (taught in Chinese), Contemporary Chinese Politics, Ethics and Craft of Narrative Journalism, Introduction to Data Science, Public Health of Disasters

Language Skills: Advanced proficiency in oral/written Chinese, Intermediate proficiency in French

Computer Skills: QGIS, R, Tableau, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, WordPress, MailChimp

Awards: 2019 Gregory Kuei-Ke Chiang Award in Chinese Language, 2020 Outstanding Campus Leader, Public Service Leadership Award

CET Beijing: January Term

Beijing, China

- Month-long language intensive program at Capital Normal University
- Placed into highest level for over 20 hours/week of language classes
- Course included living with a local roommate and weekly cultural excursions

January 2020

Middlebury School of the Environment

Dali and Kunming, China

- Immersive environmental studies summer program, with field experiences and leadership training June–July 2018
- Conducted research on migration in Yunnan Province, through interviews in Chinese with local community members

EXPERIENCE

The Cohen Group

Fellow

Washington, DC

July–October 2021

- Supported clients in technology, industrial and marketing sectors through weekly reports and ad hoc requests
- Served as executive secretary to China practice; drafted agendas for weekly meetings
- Participated in regular calls with clients to offer latest insights on China and macro political issues

Ariadne Labs

Intern

Boston, MA (remote)

February–July 2021

- Researched vaccine rollout and presented data-driven insights

Vermont Department of Financial Regulation

Intern

Montpelier, VT (remote)

January–July 2021

- Prepared COVID-19 data and modeling materials for Governor Phil Scott and other officials

The Middlebury Campus

Digital Director

Middlebury, VT

January 2018–May 2021

- Managed website and digital presence of student newspaper; supervised team of five editors
- Oversaw reporting and data visualization for annual all-student survey; wrote stories on local issues

Middlebury College Greenberg-Starr Department of Chinese Language and Literature

Middlebury, VT

Digital Media Assistant, Intermediate Chinese Tutor and Chinese House Program Assistant

February 2018–February 2021

- Created social media (Facebook and Instagram) posts for Chinese Department
- Taught first- and second-year Chinese students twice weekly, providing support and practice
- Planned and executed Chinese cultural events for students of Chinese and oversee operations of language house

National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

Summer Intern

New York, NY (remote)

June–August 2020

- Conducted research for President of the organization and public programs
- Led data gathering on factsheet project; wrote posts for social media
- Presented independent project research on suspension of China Fulbright program

WildChina

Marketing Intern

Beijing, China

July–August 2019

- Managed online presence for luxury sustainable travel company, writing blog posts and maintaining website

Stanford University Rural Education Action Program

Research Intern

Chengdu, China

June–July 2019

- Led research on new long-distance EdTech program in Chinese to determine feasibility for wider rollout
- Interviewed students, teachers and principals in Chinese at three schools to evaluate effectiveness of program
- Presented final report and suggestions for future research to a panel of 30 interns, faculty and graduate students

COVID-19 WORK

Projects

- Off the Silk Road — weekly COVID-19 [newsletter](#) from April 2020 to May 2021 with 700+ subscribers
- Reversals in Colleges' Fall 2020 Reopening Plans — map project in partnership with [Inside Higher Ed](#)
- College COVID-19 Outbreak Watchlist — weekly updated [map](#) to track outbreaks in the fall
- COVID-19 in College Towns — daily updated [dashboard](#) to track cases in college towns
- COVID-19 at the White House — interactive [dashboard](#) tracking White House outbreak in October 2020; dashboard garnered over 800,000 views and featured on [Democracy Now](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Dashboard — [dashboard](#) aggregating doses allocated, distributed and administered in all states and territories; updated daily

Scientific Papers and Publications

- [Brief19](#) — regular contributor to daily medical briefing on COVID-19 with 5,000+ subscribers
- We must 'boost' COVID vaccinations to prevent a winter surge — [The Hill](#) (co-author), October 12, 2021
- Absence of Excess Mortality in a Highly Vaccinated Population During the Initial Covid-19 Delta Period — [MedRxiv](#) (co-author), September 21, 2021
- Vaccine mandates work, but rollout will be bumpy for employers — [ABC News](#) (co-author), September 21, 2021
- For a safe return to school, children must be vaccinated — [The Boston Globe](#) (co-author), July 29, 2021
- How to Get More Americans Vaccinated, Faster — [Elemental](#), January 20, 2021
- Markedly heterogeneous COVID-19 testing plans among US colleges and universities — [MedRxiv](#) (co-author), August 11, 2020

Selected Press Articles

- A Middlebury Student Is Tracking the White House COVID-19 Outbreak — [Seven Days](#), October 7, 2020
- The White House Is Failing To Contact Trace Its Own Outbreak: Report — [New York Magazine](#), October 4, 2020
- Our relationship with wildfires — [Axios Today](#), September 18, 2020
- A Tool to Inform Too Often Confuses — [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), September 18, 2020
- August Wave of Campus Reopening Reversals — [Inside Higher Ed](#), August 12, 2020
- Will Colleges Reopen This Fall? Schools Try to Keep Campuses Safe — [Bloomberg](#), July 10, 2020
- Middlebury student stuck in Beijing during coronavirus emergency says atmosphere is tense — [Boston Globe](#), January 31, 2020

Media (TV and Radio) Appearances

- The Deeper Dig: How a Middlebury student became a Vermont Covid-19 expert — [VTDigger](#), May 31, 2021
- What the new CDC guidelines could mean for Marion County Schools and other districts — [News 9 Chattanooga](#), February 12, 2021
- As Students Return to Vt. Campuses, Colleges Hope Health Measures Will Work Again — [Vermont Public Radio](#), January 29, 2021
- This Middlebury College Student Is Tracking The White House Outbreak From His Dorm Room — [Vermont Public Radio](#), October 7, 2020
- Meet the College Senior Who Built a COVID Tracker After CDC Blocked from Tracing Trump's Contacts — [Democracy Now](#), October 6, 2020
- China, Coronavirus and Coming Home: One Middlebury Student's Story — [Vermont Public Radio](#), February 4, 2020
- As Coronavirus Spreads, U.S. Students in China Scramble to Leave — [NPR](#), January 31, 2020
- As Coronavirus Spreads, New England Schools Put Programs in China on Hold — [NBC 10 Boston](#), January 29, 2020
- Vermont students in China monitored for coronavirus — [WCAX](#), January 28, 2020

Lectures/Talks

- Data and Statistics in the COVID-19 Pandemic — Hackley School, December 1, 2020 and April 5, 2021
- The Road Ahead: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Hesitancy — Middlebury College, April 2, 2021
- Accessing, Visualizing and Communicating Open COVID-19 Data — Middlebury College, February 9, 2021

Social Media

- [@bhrenton](#) on Twitter — nearly 16,000 followers

ADDITIONAL

- President of Middlebury Project Pengyou (U.S.-China relations organization) 2018-2020
- Community volunteer for Middlingo (teaching Chinese to elementary school children) and Middlebury College Access Mentors (working with local high school students through college application process)