



Jenna J Lindeke Heavenrich

Research Fellow & Director, Pacific Connect

Jenna is a mathematician storyteller with a passion for facilitating partnerships for lasting resilience, especially at the intersection of humanitarian assistance, foreign policy, security, and intercultural relations. With regional expertise in Asia and Micronesia, Jenna is an accomplished researcher and writer and has been published in the fields of intercultural relations, Asia studies, international development, Pacific Island affairs, and the utilization of evaluations at USAID. Jenna is currently a doctoral student at Keio University's Graduate School of Media and Governance, where she is pursuing research on intersects between security and development in Pacific Island States, through the lens of dual-use infrastructure. She also leads the YCAPS Pacific Connect series, which elevates Pacific voices on issues of regional importance.

Previously, she served as a research fellow in the Island Nations Program of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's Ocean Policy Research Institute in Tokyo. Prior to that, Jenna served as the Program Officer for YCAPS's Community Conversations seminar series and taught critical thinking classes at the University of Guam. She previously served as an analyst at the DC-based firm Frontier Design, providing high-quality mixed-methods research and analysis to clients ranging from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Export Control and Related Border Security program to the UN Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Jenna also developed an American Red Cross disaster team in close coordination with the U.S. Navy to address key preparedness and response gaps at Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa, Japan.

Jenna holds an MA in International Development from American University: School of International Service, an MA in Global Cooperation from Ritsumeikan University Graduate School of International Relations in Japan, and a BA in Mathematics and East Asian Studies from Oberlin College. Jenna is a former Council on Foreign Relations-Hitachi Tokyo International Affairs fellow, Boren Fellow to Japan, and Oberlin Shansi Fellow to Himachal Pradesh, India. She speaks fluent Japanese, conversational Hindi, and a bit of Korean.