Nicola S. Ilario

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences **Philadelphia, PA**
B.A. in Economics and History (double major); GPA: 3.60/4.00 *Expected May 2028*
Relevant Coursework: Statistics for Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Calculus II, Introductory Macroeconomics, European International Relations 1914–Present, American Diplomatic History Since 1776; *Spring 2027:* Econometrics, Intermediate Macroeconomics

EXPERIENCE

American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC) **May 2026 – August 2026**
Research Intern *Washington, D.C.*
- Conducted research and strategic analysis on economic, trade, and geopolitical developments in the Caucasus and Central Asia, producing insights that underpinned **2 published reports, 7 research projects, and 3 policy conferences**.
- Authored and published **2 analytical reports** in the *Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst*, each drawing **10,000+ reads**, on the Caspian fallout of the Russo-Ukrainian war and Russia's move toward de facto union with South Ossetia.
- Coordinated and delivered **7 research projects** with senior fellows, including work on U.S. economic and strategic interests along the Middle Corridor trade route.
- Helped deliver **3 large policy conferences** on Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia that briefed legislative audiences; prepared briefing materials and coordinated stakeholders.

Economic Policy Research Center **June 2023 – August 2023**
Research Intern *Tbilisi, Georgia*
- Delivered **2 evidence-based analytical reports** to governmental stakeholders on South Caucasus economic and political trends, using open and government data and statistical and qualitative methods.
- Produced **6 research briefs** on democratic governance and Georgia's EU accession prospects, used to inform regional policy.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Financing the "Great Return": Cost, Absorption, and Resettlement in Karabakh and East Zangezur, 2020–2026
AFPC research paper, co-authored with Ian Matthews · nicolailario.com/Financing_the_Great_Return.pdf
- Quantified the fiscal scale (**USD 14.6B, ~19% of GDP**) and unit costs (**~USD 170,600 per resident, ~23× GDP per capita; ~USD 523,000 per resettled displaced person**) of Azerbaijan's reconstruction program.
- Built a run-rate feasibility model showing the 140,000-returnee target requires **2.1×** the observed pace (**13.3×** for displaced returnees alone); identified infrastructure sized for 140,000–150,000 residents against a likely durable base under 30,000.

Articles (*Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst***):** "Beyond the Battlefield: Caspian Fallout of the Russo-Ukrainian War"; "Russia and South Ossetia Move Toward de facto Union"

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Penn Pi Lambda Sigma (POLIS) **September 2025 – Present**
Managing Editor, Board Member
- Lead editorial operations and content strategy for one of Penn's most selective pre-professional policy organizations, overseeing publication workflows and quality control.
- Built a Notion knowledge management system for the organization and planned **5 speaker events** with senior policymakers and public leaders.

Penn Political Review **September 2026 – Present**
Staff Writer
- Write articles on global economic and political trends, focusing on energy, technology policy, trade, and supply chains.

Also: Penn Quiz Bowl, Penn Bowl organizer (2024–Present); West Philadelphia Tutoring Project, Math Tutor (2025–Present)

SKILLS

Quantitative: Stata, R, SAS, SPSS, Excel; statistical, fiscal, unit-cost, and sensitivity analysis; feasibility modeling
Research & Analysis: Economic and trade analysis, geopolitical risk analysis, energy and supply chains, policy research, OSINT
Historical: Primary- and secondary-source analysis, source evaluation, historiography, historical and comparative case analysis
Professional: Analytical writing and briefing, editorial and project management, stakeholder coordination, event planning
Tools: PowerPoint, Word, Teams, Notion, HTML, Photoshop, Illustrator; Claude, Claude Code, ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot
Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Working Proficiency), Georgian (Limited Working Proficiency), Russian (Elementary)