

## GSPiA Profiles

Christian Hald-Mortensen  
Master of Public Administration, 2007



As student body demographics go, GSPiA's is pretty diverse: Students come from as far away as Kazakhstan and China to study government and international affairs. When Christian Hald-Mortensen enrolled at GSPiA in 2005, Denmark was added to the long list of countries represented by GSPiA's student body. Hald-Mortensen, a native of Denmark majoring in Public Management, possesses an impressive range of talents which have already been put to good use.

During the fall 2006 semester, Hald-Mortensen participated in GSPiA's Washington, D.C., semester program with a European Union Public Diplomacy internship. There, he studied pressing global environmental issues, working alongside writers such as European

Commission Delegation senior journalist Kasper Zeuthen. On February 28, 2007, Hald-Mortensen saw his research acumen showcased in an op-ed piece for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The recent Chronicle article, authored by EU ambassador to the United States John Bruton, contains a great deal of Hald-Mortensen's writing from his D.C. semester.

"The European Union thinks that climate change is a serious problem," Hald-Mortensen says. He lauded California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's statewide cap on carbon dioxide emissions as a positive effort, calling it an American "revolution from the state level." He regards the recent Massachusetts lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Authority -- the state charged that the EPA failed to regulate auto exhaust emissions -- as another positive indicator that state governments view global warming as a threat to human survival.

Hald-Mortensen was awarded a J. William Fulbright Scholarship - one of the most prestigious academic scholarships possible -- from GSPiA in November 2005.

"I think they are very high-caliber, very accessible during office hours," says Hald-Mortensen of his professors at GSPiA. He appreciates the small class sizes and the lectures emphasizing real-life issues students will face in the workforce. Rajendranath Mookerjee's macroeconomics lectures and Donald Goldstein's classes, in particular, are awe-inspiring. "[Dr. Mookerjee] has a storehouse of knowledge," says Hald-Mortensen. "And, Dr. Goldstein is practically oriented. When he teaches leadership, he brings in leaders from different fields: business, government, nonprofit.

Hald-Mortensen's post-graduation future looks bright. Armed with speechwriting skills and a confidence in addressing the public that he acquired in his D.C. semester, when he took a course from George H. W. Bush speechwriter Daniel McGroarty, he now has a "solid grasp of political rhetoric." In the immediate future, he's returning to Copenhagen to complete another Master's degree in political science, and plans to work in a related field. There's no doubt that he will find success: his political astuteness, combined with his GSPiA education and his facility with language, are equipping Hald-Mortensen to take on the world.

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