



identities, and more. When advising students, I have found that my knowledge in this field gives me a variety of lenses to understand their choices and needs, and more importantly, the tools to push them to begin these reflections on their own. They are in a position to give so much back to some of the communities who need it the most, and these are crucial skills for them to develop.

My classmates usually express some surprise that I have chosen to stay in Monterey. As a continuing student of conflict resolution and someone who has been a part of CCS since its beginning, it is crucial to me that my job allows me to work for change. If knowledge leads to action and action leads to change, it only makes sense to work to provide more knowledge for populations that historically have had less access to it. The actions of my students will spread far beyond the actions I could undertake by myself, and I have faith in them to take positive action. As it turns out, I didn't have to go far at all to work for change.

Journey After MIIS

by Omar Salem

I received an M.A. in International Policy Studies with a focus in Conflict Resolution. During my time at MIIS I was fortunate to work for the Center for Conflict studies. I had a wonderful learning experience designing and conducting a conflict resolution course for students at the North Monterey County Middle School. I traveled to Gujarat, India where I conducted field research on the Hindu-Muslim conflict there. I also lent analytic support to a CCS research project on the use of social media by political leaders. In all, my time as a Conflict Resolution student and working for CCS gave me skills and experience which have greatly contributed to my post-graduation success.

Since I graduated from MIIS in 2013, I had the opportunity to work as a research fellow at the Mixed-Methods Evaluation, Training & Analysis (META) Lab, a research initiative at MIIS, founded around the same time. As a research fellow, my work focused on cultivating relationships with government agencies and non-profit organizations throughout Monterey County which share an interest in youth violence-reduction in Salinas.

Through these relationships, I have designed and implemented projects which employ innovative, mixed-methods approaches to support and evaluate youth and gang violence prevention efforts while contributing to the larger policy conversation on the subject.

