



Arona Baigal is a Research Assistant for the Middle East Security Program and Securing U.S. Democracy Initiative. Her research interests include Middle East diaspora, nuclear nonproliferation, arms control, Iranian security issues, and emerging violent extremist issues from both domestic and abroad.

Prior to joining CNAS, Baigal interned for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service, where she assisted federal law enforcement officials with infrastructure security concerns. Baigal has also interned for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, where she primarily focused on international sanctions. She then interned for University of Maryland's Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security, where she conducted a case study on the United Arab Emirate's nuclear program and history.

Baigal received both her BA and MPP from the University of Maryland, College Park. She earned her BA in international relations with minors in global terrorism studies and Middle East studies. Within her MPP, Baigal concentrated in international security and economic policy.