

Dr. Rachel A. George

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Experienced research, communications and public policy professional holding a PhD in International Relations. Areas of expertise include foreign policy, international law, international relations, security, counterterrorism/preventing violent extremism, human rights, development, women's rights, Europe, Middle East & North Africa.

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics & Political Science

2018

PhD, International Relations

Dissertation Title: *From Contestation to Convergence? The Impact of UN Human Rights Treaty Ratification in the Gulf Cooperation Council States*

LSE Undergraduate Teaching Award Nominee, 2016

Visiting researcher, Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University, Doha, Qatar Autumn 2017

Harvard University

2013

MA, Middle Eastern Studies

Thesis on International Law undertaken jointly with Harvard Law School

Princeton University

2010

BA in Politics; Certificate in French Language and Literature

Graduated *magna cum laude* and awarded thesis award for best undergraduate thesis in Near Eastern studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

fp21

Washington DC, May 2022 - present

Research Director for think tank focused on expanding evidence-based foreign policy. Leading research planning and delivery for research work across policymaking, academia and technology, working with a team of experienced U.S. diplomats, social scientists, congressional aides and technologists.

- Led the development of an innovative foreign policy research agenda, in collaboration with officials from U.S. State Department, NSC, USAID, DOD and other government offices alongside academics and private-sector specialists.
- Supporting fundraising and outreach work to enhance collaboration on U.S. foreign policy research.
- Led management portfolio to expand fp21's research team, partnerships and program design from inception.

Duke University

Durham NC, September 2021 - present

Lecturing Fellow at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, through the Center for International Development. Contributing to research and teaching on human rights, conflict, development and governance.

- Research scholar affiliated with Rethinking Diplomacy Program
- Supporting OECD-funded project on governance indicators in Southeast Asia

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Research Fellow, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

London / DC, July 2019 – May 2022

Led and supported business development, research and management for select research areas within London-based global affairs think tank, with a focus on gender equality, foreign policy, conflict and governance. From July 2021, supporting editorial processes and institutional engagement with US partners, with a focus on Washington DC and New York.

Raised funds for Institute research projects on global issues with UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ford Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Irish Aid, Agence Française de Développement, OECD, Fondation CHANEL, Swedish International Development Agency, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors.

- Conducted research on a range of projects by conducting literature reviews, managing research assistants, developing research design and methodologies, and supporting research project implementation and evaluation.
- Co-Investigator on women's rights for project on Protection - Peace Nexus in Non-State Armed Conflicts.
- Research lead for work on women's and girls' rights and modern slavery with UK FCDO and other donors.
- Research lead for report on counterterrorism and children's & women's rights, with World Vision & UN Women.
- Reviewer for UN Food and Agriculture Organization report on Socioeconomic Conditions and Youth Radicalisation: Implications for Programming in the G5 Sahel Countries
- Advised teams on key messages, identified external communications hooks and developed innovative events. Advised ODI's Chief Executive and distinguished fellows (including former ministers and UN officials) on content for panels, dialogues and media engagement. Led a range of Institute communications and public affairs activities.

ODI (Cont'd) Senior Research Officer

London, UK, 2017-2019

Project coordinator for four-million-dollar Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant research program. Supported donor liaison and reporting, consortium management, communications efforts and research program development. Research co-lead for UN Women project on gender and preventing violent extremism in North Africa, 2018-2; led expert convenings in Tunisia and Morocco and managed the launch of two major reports. Consultant work for donors and partners including Transparency International, OECD, AFD, UNICEF, World Vision and others.

Led development and execution of consultation and dissemination meetings in Laos, Morocco, India, Tunisia, and Kenya.

Foreign Policy

Washington DC, 2021

Research Consultant for Foreign Policy Analytics, a subsidiary of *Foreign Policy*. Led the development of landscaping research and a white paper on international frameworks for global health security with a focus on older populations aged 65+. Contributed conceptual framing and writing to be published in a series of online briefings and in support of upcoming expert meetings convened by *Foreign Policy* in relation to COVID-19 and the global recovery.

The London School of Economics and Political Science

London, UK 2013 - 2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant for three sections of LSE second-year undergraduate course IR 203 'International Organisations' for three years (LSE undergraduate teaching award nominee).

Staff Teacher for LSE Summer School course IR 160 'The Middle East in World Politics' for two years, providing teaching, coordination and tutorial support to students from international backgrounds.

Research Assistant for Dr. Katerina Dalacoura, Associate Professor of International Relations, LSE. Contributed research, writing and editing to a number of successful international relations publications in peer reviewed journals and for grant proposals including the Horizon 2020 grant.

Consultant for UN Secretary General Candidate

New York, NY 2016

Consultant for UN Secretary General candidate Christiana Figueres. Wrote a policy background guide on human rights issues pertinent to the United Nations at the request of Ms. Figueres. Topics covered included migration, labor rights, children's rights and women's rights. Conducted phone meetings responding to human rights questions to update the candidate's team.

Transparency International

London, UK 2014

Consultant for Transparency International's global corruption monitoring index on business and government in asOman and Qatar. Engaged in editing and background research for field researchers building database for an index published in 2015.

Research Assistance, Summer Positions and Writing Roles

The Huffington Post (New York, 2014 – 2017) *Blog Contributor* for Huffington Post Women writing pieces of varied style, from personal essay format to opinion commentary on the latest news. Pitched successful opinion pieces. Clips available.

PolicyMic (Mic.com) (New York, 2013– 2014) *Staff Writer* for the Breaking News section at PolicyMic (now Mic.com), writing daily articles on international news for the fastest-growing US news site for millennials, featuring 6 million+ unique monthly readers and over 2,000 pundits across the world. Writing clips available.

Council on Foreign Relations (New York, Summer 2012) *Summer Intern* in the Women and Foreign Policy program of CFR's Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative.

Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs (Washington DC, 2010–2011) *Research Assistant* at Georgetown University research center for one year.

Bancroft Associates, PLLC (Washington DC, Summer 2010) *Research Associate* at a law and public policy consulting firm. Worked on a diverse set of legal and policy- related consultancy projects.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (Washington DC, Summer 2008) *Intern* with the Advisory Council on Voluntary Foreign Assistance.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Academic

- **George, R.** (2022) “Recognizing Tensions to Improve Impact? International Law and a Post COVID-19 Human Rights Agenda” and “Violence Against Women in Politics: Looking Beyond Legal Change to the Role of Social Norms and Movements,” papers presented at the International Studies Association (ISA), Annual Convention, Nashville, TN, USA.
- **George, R.** (2021) “Why Women’s Rights in the Gulf Matter for Afghanistan,” *E-International Relations*.
- **George, R.** (2020) “The Impact of International Human Rights Law Ratification on Local Discourses on Rights: The Case of CEDAW in *Al Anba* Reporting in Kuwait,” *Human Rights Review*, Vol. 21 pp. 43-64.
- **George, R.** (2020) research cited in “‘Time Is A-Wasting’: Making the Case for CEDAW Ratification by the United States.” Article authored by Rangita de Silva de Alwis and Ambassador Melanne Verver. *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*.
- **George, R.** (2019) “The Impact of International Law on Diplomacy: UN Human Rights Treaty Ratification in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA),” in Lora Wildenthal and Jean Quataerd (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook on the History of Human Rights*. [Book awarded Routledge Humanities, Media and Arts Prize].
- Brown, K. (Chatham House and King’s College London) and **George, R.**, “Can You Have Economic Development Whilst Respecting Rights?” Presentation at The London School of Economics, Human Rights Society, 26 February.
- **George, R.** (2018) “Dialogue as Progress? Islam and UN Human Rights Treaty Ratification in the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCC),” in Marwa Maziad and Dania Khatib (eds.) *The Arab Gulf States and the West: Perception and Realities Opportunities and Perils*. London: Routledge.
- **George, R.** (2018) “The Politics of Islamic Law and International Human Rights Law: The Case of the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT) in the Arab Gulf,” *International Journal of Law and Interdisciplinary Legal Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 4-15.
- **George, R.** (2017) “Getting to Rights: Legal Change and Civic Action in Morocco,” presented at the British Society of Middle East Studies (BRISMES) Conference, June, King’s College, London, UK.
- **George, R.** (2017) “Human Rights Progress in the Gulf: The Role of International Treaties,” Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge UK.
- **George, R.** (2016) “International Law in International Relations and Political Theory: New Debates on Enforcement and Compliance” in the LSE-Cambridge Research Meeting. Cambridge UK.
- **George, R.** (2016) “UN Human Rights Treaty Ratification in the Gulf Cooperation Council,” presented at the British Society of Middle East Studies (BRISMES) Conference, Lampeter, Wales.
- **George, R.** (2015) “Human Rights Law Ratification in the Arab Gulf: Exploring Commitment Politics,” presented at International Studies Association (ISA), March, Baltimore, Maryland, US.
- **George, R.** (2013) “Women’s rights activism in the MENA region: The case of *Musawah*,” presented at the LSE-Cambridge Annual Doctoral Festival, May, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.

Policy

- Bebasari, P. and **George, R.** (2022) “Global Evidence on Adolescence and Modern Slavery: A Review of the Literature,” London: ODI (forthcoming).
- El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S., **George, R.**, Sandhar, J. and Stockman, A.S. (2021) “Protection and Peace in Conflict-Affected Contexts: Understanding the Intersections,” *Overseas Development Institute and Interpeace*.

- **George, R.** (2021) “Merging Aid and Diplomacy Is Trending – Will the US Follow?” *New Global Perspectives*.
- Jimenez Rodriguez, D., **George, R.**, Harper, C (2021) “Mobilising for Change: How Women’s Social Movements are Transforming Gender Norms.” ODI/ALIGN.
- **George, R.** Torassen, M. and Domingo, P. (2020) “Challenging Violence Against Women in Public Life: State of the Evidence,” *Overseas Development Institute*.
- **George, R.** and Rivett, J. (2020) “Counterterrorism and Violence Against Children: Priorities for Action and Advocacy.” *World Vision / Overseas Development Institute*.
- El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S. and **George, R.** (2020) “The Gendered Dimensions of Violent Extremism in North Africa: Approaches, Policy and Practice,” *UN Women, UN Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED)*. UN Women: Arab States. January.
- **George, R.** (2020) “What Other Sectors Can Show for Women’s Leadership in COVID: Lessons on inclusion from the fields of conflict resolution, security and business.” Op-ed in *Think Global Health*. [Council on Foreign Relations]. April.
- El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S., Foresti, M., **George, R.**, Pantuliano, S., Gencsu, I., Manservisi, S., “ODI Med: Towards peace and sustainability in the Mediterranean region.” *Overseas Development Institute*.
- Pereznieto, P., Le Masson, V., Marcus, R., **George, R.** and Jenny Rivett (2019) “Ending Violence Against Children While Addressing the Global Climate Crisis,” *Overseas Development Institute*.
- El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S., **George, R.** and Pinet, M. (2019) “Countering the Caliphate in North Africa: Three Priorities for Action,” *Overseas Development Institute*. November.
- **George, R.** with Saeed, M. and Abdelgalil, S. (2019) “Women at the Forefront of Sudan’s Political Transformation,” *Overseas Development Institute*. November.
- McCullough, A. and **George, R.** (2019) Regional Platform on Gender and Preventing Violent Extremism, Casablanca Report. *UN Women*. April.
- Castillejo, C., Domingo, P., **George, R.** and O’Connell, S. “Politically Informed Approaches to Gender in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings,” *Overseas Development Institute* and *Westminster Foundation for Democracy*. September.
- **George, R.** (2018) Invited Panelist, Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom, Panel Hosted by The International Center for Freedom in the UAE.
- **George, R.** (2018) “The Role of the Private Sector in Shifting Social Norms in International Development” (webinar panelist), *Overseas Development Institute*, 31 October.

Journalism & Opinion

- **George, R.** (2020) “Coronavirus Has Exposed the Need to Reform the United Nations.” Op-ed in *The National Interest*. September.
- **George, R.** (2020) quoted in “Sudanese female advocate for Israel relations highlights hope for women,” 25 October, *The Jerusalem Post / The Media Line*.
- **George, R.** (2020) quoted in “UK-Africa summit ignored gender, climate and poverty concerns, experts say,” *Devex*.
- **George, R.** (2018) Women and Violent Extremism: Four Points for Coordinated Action on the P/CVE Agenda.” *Bond*. January.
- **George, R.** (2018) quoted in, “No world to leave our children: progress on women’s rights still lags, shows study,” 7 December, *The Guardian*.
- **George, R.** (2015) “Where Are All the Women in World Politics?” *The Huffington Post*.
- **George, R.** (2013) “Twiplomacy: How Twitter Might Reshape Global Politics.” *Mic.com*.
- **George, R.** (2013) “Syrian Refugees Reach 2 million as Congressional Hearings Begin,” *Mic.com*.
- **George, R.** (2013) “Silicon Valley’s Solution to Ending World Hunger.” *Mic.com*.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

LSE PhD Studentship Funding Award (2013-2018) \$92,000
William J. Earhart Foundation PhD Research Fellowship (2013-2017) \$40,000
LSE-Cambridge Research Festival Award (2015) \$5,000
McGraw Hill University Studies Merit Award (2006-2010) \$8,000

TEACHING AND REVIEW

Reviewer, <i>Stellenbosch Law Review, Australian J. of Human Rights, Public Administration & Development</i>	2021-Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant, <i>International Organisations</i> , London School of Economics	2013-2018
LSE Syllabus Diversity Review Team, Department of International Relations	2018
Teaching Assistant, <i>The Middle East in World Politics</i> , LSE Summer School	2014-2017
Guest Lecturer, <i>International Relations Theory</i> , Cambridge University Summer School	2014

INTERESTS, ACTIVITIES, AND SKILLS

Media, Membership and Professional Blogging: Arise America TV News (guest commentator); France 24 News (guest commentator); Mic.com (contributor); Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (member); International Studies Association (member); British Middle Eastern Studies Association (member); *Millennium Journal of International Studies* (editorial board member); Women in International Affairs Network (member and advisor); Harvard Women in Defense, Development and Diplomacy (W3D) (member and mentor), London Contemporary Voices Choir (member and section leader)

Professional and Technical Skills: Proficient in Excel, Powerpoint, GroundSpring ListServ, Indaba fieldwork management program. Experience with legal research tools such as Lexis Nexis, PACER and EDGAR. Experience with event planning and online social networking tools.

Language Skills: English (native), French (proficient), Spanish (intermediate), Arabic (basic – modern standard).