

# Rachel A. George

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

Fieldwork experience in: Tunisia, Morocco, Qatar, Laos, India, South Africa

Research management and collaboration with partners based in: Kenya, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Egypt, Libya

## EDUCATION

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### 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*, Supervisor: Katerina Dalacoura

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 undertaken jointly with Harvard Law School, Supervisor: Jack Goldsmith

### Princeton University

2010

#### *BA in Politics; Certificate in French Language and Literature*

Graduated *magna cum laude*

Awarded Thesis Award for best undergraduate thesis in Near Eastern Studies

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Duke University

September 2021 – present

*Lecturing Fellow*, Duke Sanford School of Public Policy in the Duke University Center for International Development and *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Duke Kunshan University. Contributing research and teaching on human rights, governance, conflict and development.

- Developing book project, provisionally titled “Merging Development and Diplomacy: Lessons in the Search for New Bureaucratic Solutions to Global Human Rights Challenges” (*under contract with Rowman & Littlefield*)
- Principal investigator for USAID scientific and technical fellowships impact assessment, together with NORC (University of Chicago) through the Research and Technical Assistance Center (RTAC). Leading team of researchers for a study evaluating the impact of fellowships on policy and programming outcomes and goals.
- Report co-author for project on anti-corruption programming in low political will contexts for USAID’s Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) program, with cases in Peru, Vietnam, Mozambique and Ukraine.
- Peer reviewer for Oxfam America Humanitarian Advocacy Team Learning Review, reviewing an evaluation of humanitarian advocacy efforts across Oxfam branches for 2021-2022 and for UNDP’s 2023 GSNI Index report.
- Lecturer for Duke - Ft. Bragg executive education program for military Civil Affairs units, with sessions on international development, women’s rights and governance.
- Advisor for master’s in public policy (MPP) and master’s in international development policy (MIDP) projects, including projects on women’s participation in local government in India, on reducing Islamophobia in the United States with the CAIR network, and on foreign policy and middle-class public opinion in the United States.
- Researcher for OECD-funded project on governance indicators in Southeast Asia, exploring the impact of new e-government activities and other activities on the strength of government institutions in SE Asia.
- Lead researcher for ODI report on global development financing, reviewing the impacts of rising Chinese development investment, COVID-19 and the Ukraine War.

- Course Convenor for Duke Kunshan University, China campus, Fall 2023 course on global governance.

## **The Council on Foreign Relations**

New York, NY, November 2022 – present

*Director, Education Content* for leading think tank on world affairs.

- Leading CFR Education's content portfolio, working with contributors and writing team to develop explainers on core foreign affairs relevant topics and offering thought leadership on a range of foreign policy topics.
- Providing thought leadership around areas of expertise, including new CFR explainers and backgrounders on human rights, humanitarian policy, energy security and geopolitics, global development, and global governance.
- Leading research and writing on 'global civics education,' including a new thought paper on global literacy as national security.
- Managing a team of editors, interns, and project support staff to develop and market CFR Education materials and publications. Participated in external convenings such as the CFR College and University Educators Workshop and the International Studies Association Conference.
- Serving as a researcher and thought leader for the Council on U.S. knowledge of world affairs and global civics, drawing on and designing survey research and writing blogs and articles relevant to expanding Americans' knowledge of global affairs.
- Co-developed global affairs commentary with CFR's Vice President and senior leadership to distribute to different audiences on core international relations topics, with a focus on global civics, security, and other areas.

## **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**

*Research Fellow*

London, July 2017 – 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 the SDGs, human rights, foreign policy, conflict and governance. From July 2021, supporting editorial processes and institutional engagement with US partners, with a focus on Washington DC and NY. 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, 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.
- Researcher for project on global development finance trends with Fondation CHANEL.
- 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 and human trafficking 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.

*Senior Research Officer*

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 women 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, 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* magazine. 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 several 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 Oman 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*

**fp21** (Washington DC, 2022) *Research Director* for think tank focused on expanding evidence-based U.S. foreign policy, with funding from Carnegie Corporation of NY and Schmidt Futures Foundation. Leading research planning and delivery for work across policymaking, academia and technology, working with a team of experienced U.S. diplomats, social scientists, and congressional aides in collaboration with DOS, NSC, USAID, DOD and other government offices.

**The Huffington Post** (New York, 2014 – 2017) *Blog Contributor* for Huffington Post 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.** (2023) “Merging Development and Diplomacy: What Might the U.S. Learn?” in *The Washington Quarterly*, Volume 46, Issue 3, Fall, doi 10.1080/0163660X.2023.2261724
- **George, R.** (2023) “Recognizing Tensions to Improve Impact? COVID-19, International Human Rights Law and the Coherence Imperative,” presented at the International Studies Association (ISA), Annual Convention, Nashville, TN, USA [*article under review*].
- Spokojny, D., Scherer, T.L., Bollfrass, A., Lieberman, J., Tama, J., Campbell, S., **George, R.** (2023) “Can Foreign Policy Decision-Making be Made More Scientific?” ISA Roundtable, Conference Summary.

- **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 Verber. *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law* (pp. 36, 55, 58).
- **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 Quataerdt (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.** (2019) “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 Human Rights 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

- **George, R.**, Hallahan, A. and Payumo, J. (2023) “A Review of Literature and Evaluation Assessment of the Policy Impacts of USAID-Managed Government Science & Technology Fellowships.” USAID Research and Technical Assistance Program (RTAC) in collaboration with University of Chicago, NORC [forthcoming]
- **George, R.** (2023) “The Global AI Assault on Women: What Iran’s Enforcement of Morality Laws through Facial Recognition Says About Technology and Human Rights” CFR.org [forthcoming]
- Conceicao, P. (UNDP), Cislighi, B. (LSHTM), Jayachadran, S. (Princeton), **George, R.** (Duke) and others (2023) GSNI Report Launch Event. United Nations Development Program. August 30 [invited speaker].
- **George, R.** and Gulrajani, N. (2023) “Global Development Finance in a Changing Geopolitical Context: Mapping Threats and Opportunities.” London: ODI. [Part of ODI’s Donors in a Post-Aid World Series].
- Malesky, E. with Lempke, M., **George, R.** and Storelli, D. (2023) “USAID Learning Activity: Anti-corruption Programming in Low Political Will Contexts.” USAID Research and Technical Assistance Program (RTAC) in collaboration with University of Chicago, NORC.
- Spokojny, D., DeWalt, B. and **George, R.** (2023) “Lifting the Fog at Foggy Bottom: What NASA can teach the U.S. State Department on Knowledge Management,” fp21.
- Bebasari, P., Samuels F., and **George, R.** (2022) “Adolescence and Modern Slavery: Evaluating the evidence,” London: ODI.
- 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.** Samman, E., Oja, A., and Washington, K. (2021) “Gender Norms and Women’s Political Participation: Evaluating Progress on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration,” London: ODI.
- Jimenez Rodriguez, D., **George, R.**, Harper, C (2021) “Mobilising for Change: The Impacts of Global Women’s Social Movements.” ODI/ALIGN [Cited in UNDP Human Development Report spotlight 6.7].
- **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. [Cited in Report of the Task Force on US Strategy to Support Democracy and Counter Authoritarianism]
- McCullough, A. and **George, R.** (2019) Regional Platform on Preventing Violent Extremism, Casablanca Report. *UN Women*. April.
- Castillejo, C., Domingo, P., **George, R.** and O’Connell, S. “Politically Informed Approaches: Women’s Rights in Conflict Affected Settings,” *Overseas Development Institute and Westminster Foundation for Democracy*. September.
- **George, R.** (2018) Invited Panellist, 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 panellist), *Overseas Development Institute*, 31 October.

### **Journalism & Opinion**

- **George, R.** (2023) “Resolving Sudan’s Crisis Will Require Inclusive Peace,” *Council on Foreign Relations, CFR.org* (Africa in Transition & Women in Foreign Policy program joint article).
- **George, R.** (2023) “America’s Summit Syndrome (Reflections on the U.S.-Africa Leaders’ Summit, Democracy Summit, and Summit of the Americas),” Op-ed in *The National Interest*.
- **George, R.** (2022) “Sweden’s Feminist Foreign Policy Can’t be Undone,” Op-ed in *Foreign Policy*.
- **George, R.** (2022) “The U.S. Should Practice What It Preaches on Good Governance: Implementing the Global Fragility Act.” Op-ed in *World Politics Review*.
- **George, R.** (2021) “Merging Aid and Diplomacy Is Trending – Will the US Follow?” Op-ed *New Global Perspectives*.
- **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. (2015) “Syria’s Red Line,” *Mic.com*. [Provided related commentary on Arise America TV News].
- **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*.
- **George, R.** (2013) TV appearances, Arise America News

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## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

USAID Impact Evaluation of Scientific & Technical Fellowships (with Duke University) \$113,000  
 UKFCDO Grant Research on SGBV in Kenya (with ODI and in-country partnership) \$650,000  
 UN Women Grant on Preventing Violent Extremism (with ODI and in-country partnership) \$850,000  
 Ford Foundation Grant (with ODI) \$1,300,000  
 Global Affairs Canada Grant Research (with ODI) \$1,999,000  
 Wellspring Philanthropic Fund Research Grant (with ODI) \$2,500,000  
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant (ALIGN Project, with ODI) \$4,000,000  
 William J. Earhart Foundation PhD Research Fellowship (2013-2017) \$40,000  
 LSE-Cambridge Research Festival Award (2015) \$5,000  
 LSE PhD Studentship Funding Award (2013-2018)  
 McGraw Hill University Studies Merit Award (2006-2010) \$8,000

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## TEACHING AND REVIEW

Reviewer, *Stellenbosch Law Review, Australian J. of Human Rights, Public Administration & Development, Rowman & Littlefield, International Studies Books, United Nations Development Program GSNI Reports* 2021-present  
 Guest Lecturer, *International Relations*, University of California, Berkeley 2023-present  
 Course Lecturer, Executive Education Course, *Development & Governance*, Duke University 2021-2022  
 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *International Organisations*, London School of Economics 2013-2018  
 LSE Syllabus Diversity Review Team, Department of *International Relations* 2018  
 Teaching Assistant, *The Middle East in World Politics*, LSE Summer School 2016-2017  
 Guest Lecturer, *International Relations Theory*, Cambridge University Summer School 2014

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## 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); Princeton in the Civic Service (mentor).

**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).