

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: international relations, security, counterterrorism/preventing violent extremism, human rights, international development, international law and institutions, Europe, Middle East & North Africa.

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) 2018

PhD in International Relations, awarded May 2018

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 Centre at Qatar University, Doha, Qatar Autumn 2017

Harvard University 2013

MA in Middle Eastern Studies

Thesis undertaken jointly with Harvard Law School, Supervisor: Jack Goldsmith

Princeton University 2010

BA in Politics with a certificate in French Language and Literature

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Overseas Development Institute

Research Fellow

Durham, North Carolina, 2021 – present

Leading and supporting business development, research and management for London-based global affairs think tank, with a focus on foreign policy, women's rights, conflict and governance. From July 2021, supporting institutional engagement with US partners, with a focus on Washington DC and New York. Fundraising experience with USAID, 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, Agence Française de Développement, Swedish International Development Agency, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors.

- Co-Investigator for Interpeace project on the Protection - Peace Nexus in Non-State Armed Conflicts.
- Research co-lead for ALIGN project on global gender norms, with Global Affairs Canada and Ford Foundation.
- Research lead on counterterrorism and children's & women's rights, with World Vision and UN Women.
- Advised teams on key messages, identified external communications hooks and developed innovative events and outputs. Advised ODI's Chief Executive and distinguished fellows (including former ministers and UN officials) on content and communications activities. Led a range of Institute communications and public affairs activities.

Senior Research Officer

London, 2017-2020

- Project coordinator for four-million-dollar Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation project 2017-20. Research project management; partnership and publications management; business development; reporting; events; public affairs.
- 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 for Transparency International Global Defense Corruption Index (GI), 2019; Researcher for AFD project on Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region; Researcher for UNICEF gender socialization programme review; Researcher for World Vision on security and violence against children.
- Supported cross-Institute research groups on Covid-19, foreign policy, diplomacy and conflict, and participated in and coordinated activities in countries across North Africa, Asia, North America and Europe.

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 global health security with a focus on older populations aged 65+. Contributed 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.

Molo Global Consulting, LLC.

Washington DC, 2019 - 2020

Project Advisor/Consultant for multifaceted service provider for a variety of writing, editing, publishing, and content management services. Provided a range of advisory, editorial and writing services to global clients, including diplomats and development professionals, on select foreign affairs and professional development projects.

The London School of Economics and Political Science

London, 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, 2016

Consultant for UN Secretary General candidate Christiana Figueres. Wrote a policy background guide as expert consultant 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 telephone meetings responding to human rights questions to update the candidate's team.

Transparency International

London, 2014

Consultant for Transparency International's global corruption monitoring index, most recently on a project on business and government in Gulf states Oman and Qatar. Engaged in editing and background research for field researchers building database for an index to be 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. Writing 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 Researcher* 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

- Seymour, M., Feliciano, T. and **George, R.** (forthcoming) “At the Nexus of International and Domestic National Security: Exploring the Digital Threat Trajectories of Atomwaffen Division and Al Qaeda” (working title)
- **George, R.** (2021) “Merging Aid and Diplomacy Is Trending – Will the US Follow?” *New Global Perspectives*.
- 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.** (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.** and Rivett, J. (2020) “Counterterrorism and Violence Against Children: Priorities for Action and Advocacy.” *World Vision / Overseas Development Institute*.
- **George, R.** (2020) “Coronavirus Has Exposed the Need to Reform the United Nations.” Op-ed in *The National Interest*. September.
- 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.**, Pinet, M., Pantuliano, S., Gencsu, I., Manservisi, S., “ODI Med: Towards peace and sustainability in the Mediterranean region.” *Overseas Development Institute*.
- Perezniето, 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*. December.
- **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*.
- 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.** (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 Quataardt (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook on the History of Human Rights*. [Book awarded Routledge Humanities, Media and Arts Handbook 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.** 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) “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.** (2018) quoted in, “No world to leave our children: progress on women’s rights still lags, shows study,” 7 December, *The Guardian*.
- **George, R.** (2018) Invited Panelist, The International Center for Freedom in the UAE, Parliamentary

Human Rights Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom.

- Greene, M., **George, R.** and Marcus, R. (2018) “Gender norms and Factors Leading to Child Marriage” (infographic), *Overseas Development Institute*.
- **George, R.** (2018) “The Role of the Private Sector in Shifting Social Norms in International Development” (webinar panelist), *Overseas Development Institute*, 31 October.
- **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,” Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge UK.
- **George, R.** (2017) “Gender and Norm Localisation” presented at ActionAid Ireland Conference, *Women and the Grand Bargain*, September, Dublin, Ireland.
- **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, July, Lampeter, Wales.
- **George, R.** (2015) “Where Are All the Women in World Politics?” *The Huffington Post*.
- **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.** (2014) “Untrustworthy Alliances: Why the NSA Snooping Doesn’t Change a Thing,” *The London Globalist*.
- **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.

TEACHING AND REVIEW

Peer reviewer, <i>Australian Journal of Human Rights</i>	2020 - Present
Course Instructor, <i>International Organisations</i> (IR203), London School of Economics	2013-2018
LSE Syllabus Review Team, Department of International Relations	2018
Course Teacher, <i>The Middle East in World Politics</i> (IR160), LSE Summer School	2014-2017
Guest Lecturer, <i>International Relations Theory</i> , Cambridge University Summer School	2014

INTERESTS, ACTIVITIES, AND SKILLS

Leadership: Elected Research Student Representative, LSE International Relations Department; Advisor, Princeton Model United Nations; Vice President and Blog Manager, Harvard Middle East Cultural Association; Alumni Officer, Goodenough College; Singer and Section Leader for London Contemporary Voices choir, world-leading alternative choir.

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