

Innovations for Poverty Action
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The Mawazo Institute
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Professional Experience

- 2020 – pres. Associate Director of Social Protection • IPA • London, UK (remote work)
- Led project development for new impact evaluations of social protection programs with government and NGO partners in Malawi, Rwanda, Togo, the US, and Zimbabwe
 - Organized “New Directions in Graduation Research” conference to highlight innovations in ultra-poor graduation programs in 10 countries
 - Translated research findings on social protection into policy guidance, and presented to partners including the Asian Development Bank, DaNa Facility (Myanmar), Fonkoze (Haiti), Great Zimbabwe University, and UNWomen
 - Led IPA’s engagement as evaluation lead in graduation working groups including the NGO Collaborative (World Bank) and the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (UNHCR)
 - Contributed to biweekly newsletter on “Social Protection in the Time of COVID-19”
 - Created a team within the Diversity & Inclusion Working Group focused on increasing representation of researchers from LMICs at IPA
- 2018 - pres. Chair of the Board • Mawazo Institute • Nairobi, Kenya
- Recruited a diverse 12-person board with expertise in fundraising, financial and legal compliance, and higher education in East Africa
 - Chaired quarterly board meetings
 - Designed fundraising strategy and led outreach to major donors
- 2017 - 2018 Chief Operating Officer • Mawazo Institute • Nairobi, Kenya
- Co-founder (with Dr. Rose Mutiso) of a non-profit which provides research funding and professional development training to women doing PhDs at East African universities
 - Raised \$1.25 million in seed funding for operations from 2017 - 2020
 - Developed a strategic plan by mapping the ecosystem of universities and non-profit organizations providing support to PhD students in East Africa, and identifying key gaps which Mawazo was in a position to fill
 - Designed Mawazo’s flagship PhD Scholars program, including setting policies for eligibility, selecting the value and acceptable uses of research grants, creating procedures for grant disbursement and financial tracking, and writing the curriculum for the year-long professional development program offered to accepted Scholars
 - Oversaw program implementation, including application design, selection of the first cohort of 10 Scholars, grant disbursement, and training events
 - Hired, on-boarded, and managed core program staff
 - Managed the Institute’s finances by creating annual budgets, implementing software backend for accounting and payroll, and overseeing all expenditures

- Liaised with external accountants and lawyers in the US and Kenya to ensure compliance with all tax and legal requirements in both countries
- 2012 - 2013 Research Manager • IPA • New Haven, CT
- Research manager for Dr. Dean Karlan (Yale University), whose work assesses the impact of financial interventions such as microcredit, agricultural insurance, and business training in low income countries
 - Supervised more than 20 evaluations in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mexico, and Uganda
 - Supported project staff on issues of research design, questionnaire development, survey software implementation, data collection, statistical analysis, IRB compliance, and financial management
 - Disseminated research results by creating policy reports for implementing partners and preparing academic papers for publication
- 2010 Intern • IPA • Tamale, Ghana
- Managed an evaluation of an index rainfall insurance policy for maize farmers
 - Organized logistics and finances for a team of 40 surveyors carrying out a survey with 1100 respondents
 - Audited surveyor performance and cleaned survey data in Stata
- 2009 Client Assessment Fellow • FINCA International • Kinshasa, DR Congo
- Directed the baseline survey for an observational study examining whether Village Banking microloans raised clients' incomes
 - Constructed sample of 800 urban clients
 - Translated questionnaire into French and conducted pilot interviews
 - Hired, trained and managed six surveyors in Kinshasa and Matadi
- 2008 - 2009 Project Manager • Rwanda Works • Kigali, Rwanda
- Created a tourism promotion plan for one of Rwanda's poorest districts in collaboration with government officials and local community groups
 - Developed informational signs for local historical sites

Education

- 2013 – 2017 MA in Political Science • University of California, Berkeley
- Enrolled for the PhD program, and earned the MA in 2014
 - Achieved ABD in 2016, then left the program in 2017 to found the Mawazo Institute
 - Subfields: comparative politics and African studies
 - Dissertation proposal: "The Politics of Welfare Expansion in Africa"
 - "Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor" for African Politics, Fall 2015
- 2010 - 2012 MA in International Relations • Johns Hopkins SAIS • Washington, DC
- Concentrations: international development and international economics
 - Thesis: "Consociationalism and Ethnic Détente in Burundi"
 - Graduated with honors (top 10% of class)
- 2004 - 2008 BA in Geography and French • Dartmouth College • Hanover, NH
- Spring 2007: Univerzita Karlova, Prague
 - Winter 2006: Université de Toulouse II - Le Mirail, Toulouse
 - Graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa
 - Guido Rahr '51 Award for Excellence in Geography

Writing & Teaching

Commentary

2017 – pres. Commentary at *African Arguments*, Center for Effective Global Action, *Democracy in Africa*, *The Conversation Africa*, *The New Humanitarian*, and *The Republic* (Nigeria). Available at <http://rachelstrohm.com/writing>

Presentations

2019 African Studies Association of Africa • American Political Science Association • British Institute in Eastern Africa PhD Forum • Effective States and Inclusive Development
2017 African Studies Association (US)
2016 African Studies Association (US) • American Political Science Association • Development Studies Association • Effective Altruism Global
2015 Berkeley Center for Economics and Politics
2014 American Political Science Association

Teaching

2020 Guest Lecturer • Global Poverty Analysis (BOEC0380) • Uni. Zurich
2016 Graduate Student Instructor • Gender & Human Rights (PS 123S) • Berkeley
2015 Graduate Student Instructor • African Politics (PS 146A) • Berkeley
2010 - 2016 Guest Lecturer (4x) • International Development (Geog 6) • Dartmouth

Other Information

Residency USA (citizen) • UK (resident) • Kenya (resident)

Languages English (native) • French (advanced) • Kiswahili (basic) • Latin (intermediate) • Spanish (basic)

Trainings

2018 Winterschool • On Think Tanks • Geneva, Switzerland
2016 Social Protection Course • Institute of Development Studies • Sussex, UK
2014 Mixed Method Program Evaluation • Harvard Humanitarian Academy
2012 Great Lakes Course • Rift Valley Institute • Bujumbura, Burundi

Volunteering

2018 – 2020 Volunteer • Mathare Social Justice Centre • Nairobi
2017 – pres. Alumni Interviewer • Dartmouth • Nairobi & Kampala, Uganda
2015 – pres. Mentor • AuthorAID • Oxford, UK
2015 – 2016 Coordinator • Women in Political Science • Berkeley
2011 President • Africa Association • SAIS
2007 – 2008 Intern • WomensTrust Microfinance • Accra, Ghana
2006 – 2008 Co-President • Students for Africa • Dartmouth
2006 Intern • American Refugee Committee • Chicago, IL