

# Rachel Strohm

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<http://rachelstrohm.com>

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## Professional Experience

**Social Policy Analyst** Aug. 2022 – present  
**Freelance** Nairobi, Kenya

- Currently focused on freelance writing while recovering from Long COVID
- Researching articles on urban social protection in Kenya, and UBI pilots around the world

**Associate Director of Social Protection** May 2020 – March 2022  
**Innovations for Poverty Action** London, UK & Nairobi, Kenya

- Managed a portfolio of 34 evaluations of social protection schemes in 18 countries, with a focus on cash transfers, livelihoods, and the ultra-poor graduation model
- Led project development for new studies in Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe
- Raised US\$5.5 million in committed funding for new evaluations
- Oversaw grant reporting and relationship management with donors including Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the World Bank, and USAID
- Contributed to biweekly newsletter on “Social Protection in the Time of COVID-19,” reaching over 22,000 people

**Chair of the Board** July 2018 – Aug. 2022  
**Mawazo Institute** Nairobi, Kenya

- Recruited a diverse 9-person board with expertise in fundraising, financial and legal compliance, and higher education in East Africa
- Oversaw required financial compliance in the US and Kenya
- Led strategic planning updates and CEO recruitment

**Chief Operating Officer** Dec. 2016 – June 2018  
**Mawazo Institute** Nairobi, Kenya

- Co-founder (with Dr Rose Mutiso) of a non-profit which provides research funding and professional development to women doing PhDs at accredited East African universities
- Raised \$1.25 million in seed funding from individual donors and the Hewlett Foundation
- Designed Mawazo’s PhD Scholars programme and oversaw its implementation, including the selection of the first cohort of grantees and management of the training programme
- Hired, on-boarded, and managed core staff
- Managed the Institute’s finances by creating annual budgets, implementing software backend for accounting and payroll, and developing financial controls for expenditures
- Liaised with external accountants and lawyers in the US and Kenya to ensure compliance with all tax and legal requirements in both countries, including annual audits

**Research Manager** March 2012 – June 2013  
**Innovations for Poverty Action** New Haven, CT, USA

- Supervised more than 20 impact evaluations of financial inclusion schemes 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

**Research Intern** Jan. – July 2010  
**Innovations for Poverty Action** Tamale, Ghana

- Managed an evaluation of an index rainfall insurance policy for maize farmers
- Oversaw 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

**Client Assessment Fellow** May – Aug. 2009  
**FINCA International** Kinshasa, DR Congo

- Co-directed the baseline survey for an observational study examining whether Village Banking microloans raised clients' incomes, with a sample of 800 urban clients
- Translated questionnaire into French and conducted pilot interviews
- Hired, trained and managed surveyors in Kinshasa and Matadi

**Project Manager** Sept. 2008 – May 2009  
**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

**MA in Political Science** Aug. 2013 – June 2017  
**University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, CA, USA

- Enrolled for the PhD, and earned the MA in 2014
- Advanced to candidacy in 2016, then left the university in 2017 to pursue a full-time role as COO at the Mawazo Institute
- Concentrations: comparative politics and African studies
- Dissertation proposal: "The Politics of Welfare Expansion in Africa"
- "Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor" for African Politics (PS146A), Fall 2015

**MA in International Relations** Aug. 2010 – Dec. 2011  
**School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University** Washington, DC, USA

- Concentrations: international development and international economics
- Thesis: "Consociationalism and Ethnic Détente in Burundi"
- Graduated with honors (top 10% of class)

**BA in Geography and French** Sept. 2004 – June 2008  
**Dartmouth College** Hanover, NH, USA

- Foreign study at Université de Toulouse II (2006) & Univerzita Karlova, Prague (2007)
- Honors: *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Guido Rahr '51 Award for Excellence in Geography

## Writing & Teaching

**Commentary** Articles at *African Arguments*, *The Conversation Africa*, *Democracy in Africa*, *Nation* (Kenya), *The New Humanitarian*, and *The Republic* (Nigeria). Available at <http://rachelstrohm.com/writing>

### Academic Presentations

- African Studies Association of Africa (2019)
- British Institute in Eastern Africa (2019)
- Effective States and Inclusive Development (2019)
- American Political Science Association (2014, 2016, 2019)
- African Studies Association US (2016, 2017)
- Development Studies Association (2016)

## Teaching

- Graduate Student Instructor, Gender & Human Rights PS 123S, UC Berkeley (Spring 2016)
- Graduate Student Instructor, African Politics PS 146A, UC Berkeley (Fall 2015)

## Guest Lectures

- Graduate Application International Network, online seminars (2020, 2021, 2022)
- Doctoral Association of Eastern Africa, online seminar (2021)
- Global Policy Analysis BOEC0380, University of Zurich (2020)
- Mathare Social Justice Centre, Nairobi (2020)
- Global Minimum, research methods training for Kenyan students (2019)
- Introduction to International Development GEOG6, Dartmouth (2013, 2014, 2017)
- Effective Altruism Global, UC Berkeley (2016)
- Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley (2016)

## Other Information

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

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

**Pronouns** She/her

## Trainings

- Adaptive Social Protection Course, Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa (2022)
- On Think Tanks Winterschool, Geneva, Switzerland (2018)
- Social Protection Course, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (2016)
- Mixed Methods Evaluation, Harvard Humanitarian Academy (2014)
- Great Lakes Course, Rift Valley Institute, Bujumbura, Burundi (2012)

## Volunteering

- Fundraising volunteer, Mothers of Victims & Survivors Network, Nairobi (2021 – present)
- Dartmouth alumni interviewer, Nairobi & Kampala (2017 – present)
- AuthorAID mentor, remote collaboration with LMIC scholars (2015 – 2020)
- Mentor & judge, Big Ideas @ Berkeley (2014 – 2016)
- Africa Association co-president, Johns Hopkins SAIS (2011)
- WomensTrust Microfinance intern, Accra, Ghana & Hanover, NH (2007 - 2008)
- Students for Africa co-president, Dartmouth (2006 - 2008)