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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

African Affairs: Over 15 years of understanding and analysis of the complex relationship between social, political, economic, health, cultural, and religious forces in Africa for adults and youth

Management and Administration: Design and implement international research projects on human rights, civil society, youth issues, governance and public policy, HIV/AIDS and health, corruption, livelihoods and food security, aid, famine, violence/extremism, and trafficking (humans/wildlife); recruit, manage and train international subcontractors in 13 sub-Saharan African countries; manage teaching assistants for university courses

Research and Data Analysis: Extensive knowledge of ethical quantitative and qualitative methods in interviewing, surveys, focus groups, archival research, and ethnography; develop unique methodologies for quality data collection amongst hidden, conflict, youth, and/or displaced populations

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation: Systematically collecting and analyzing data to assist in improving research design, designing indicators, and informing policy decisions; assessing projects to improve future data collection/analysis; conducting needs assessments and country assessments; evaluating projects; ensuring projects provide maximum utility to policymakers; briefing various stakeholders

Capacity Building: Providing best practices for data collection and analysis for international and local research contractors, military, the U.S. government, and NGOs

Networks, Teaching, and Training: Long-term collaborations with NGOs, USAID, U.S. Embassies, AFRICOM/CJTF-HOA, research organizations across sub-Saharan Africa, and academics to successfully analyze political and economic processes, poverty, conflict, and access to resources; teaching graduates/undergraduates and overseeing their international projects; training African research contractors.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Florida, 2009

- Comparative Politics; International Public Policy (sub-Saharan Africa)

M.A. Political Science, University of Florida, December 2004

- International Development, Comparative Politics, Anthropology (sub-Saharan Africa)

B.A. Theatre, Barry University, 1993

Country Project/Program Experience: Mozambique, South Africa, Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Angola, Tanzania, Kenya, Djibouti, Mali, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Liberia, South Sudan

CAREER

Independent Research Consultant and Director, KGF Pesquisas e Associados (KGF Research and Associates), Mozambique (January 2017-present)

- Design, implement, and analyze (1) baseline projects to help establish indicators; (2) mid-term and endline evaluations to assess effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, relevance;
- Design data collection tools and sampling for adult and youth populations; brief stakeholders on findings and recommendations;
- Analyze data, triangulate with relevant documents, and provide country and topical context in succinct analytical reports for multiple stakeholders;
- Partner with sub-Saharan Africa research organizations for qualitative and quantitative projects.

International Research Analyst/Project Manager, Office of Opinion Research, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State (July 2010-December 2015)

- Conceptualize and oversee new research methodologies and projects: large-N surveys and focus groups in East and Southern Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Djibouti, Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia), including projects in refugee camps, wildlife poaching communities, and conflict zones;
- Monitor and evaluate research projects based on best practices and rapidly changing situations; review data source quality and collection methods; retool survey instruments based on evaluation of successes

and challenges; collect data to support indicators; monitor current events, aid/assistance, conflicts, politics, and U.S. foreign policy;

- Manage contractor teams to ensure high quality data; collaborate with policymakers, NGOs, academics, and USAID; work with partners to disseminate data;
- Identify priority countries/topics based on policymaker needs (e.g. governance, corruption, trafficking, policy, institutions); regularly brief high-level policymakers;
- Regularly travel to Africa to train and supervise local researchers and manage projects;
- Conduct analyses (written reports and briefings) on quantitative/qualitative data on various African populations (adults, youth, displaced) for high-level policymakers, embassies, USAID, and AFRICOM/SOCOM/CTTF-HOA to assist African foreign policy and programming.

Policy Advisor for Africa, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State (November 2013-August 2014, for a 9 month temporary detail)

- Oversee grants for women and girls throughout sub-Saharan Africa;
- Monitor trends, coordinate strategies and priority areas, and serve as liaison between the U.S. government and NGOs to build support for gender mainstreaming in programming and policy;
- Monitor, track, and evaluate assistance/programming efforts and write analyses on current situations in Africa for senior policymakers and development program officers; conduct needs assessments and country assessments, particularly in Mozambique and the DRC.

Professor, Virginia Tech (2008-2011)

- *Adjunct Professor, Virginia Tech (Alexandria campus), Summer 2011:* Teach graduate course on Global Conflict.
- *Visiting Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech (Blacksburg campus), August 2009-July 2010:* Teach courses on African Politics, Global Conflict (graduate), Intro to Comparative Politics.
- *Instructor, Virginia Tech, August 2008-July 2009:* Teach courses on African Politics, Intro to Comparative Politics, International Relations.

External Projects (2008-2010)

- *Project Manager, Use of Theatre for HIV/AIDS Education (Mozambique), Summer 2010:* Conduct interviews and document theatre projects to analyze themes and tactics for HIV/AIDS prevention, activism, and education.
- *Consultant, IPG-VBI Infectious Disease project, Virginia Tech, Fall 2008:* Assist with background and conceptualization of infectious disease project for interdisciplinary collaboration between the Institute for Policy and Governance and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.
- *Researcher, Democratic Accountability and Linkages Project, Duke University, (Mozambique) 2008:* Conduct in-depth interviews with key informants on attitudes on democracy, political parties, and legislation; compile laws and political data for part of an 80 country report on electoral politics, democracy, and governance.

Instructor, University of Florida (Summer 2008)

- Design, teach and manage course on African Politics.

Doctoral Research Candidate (Mozambique, 2006-2007)

- Focus on activism, education and development in Mozambique by HIV/AIDS and human rights NGOs (starting in 2002);
- Design and implement one year research project, including quantitative data analysis of in-country survey (N=500); qualitative analysis of 18 focus groups and 70 in-depth and semi-structured interviews in Mozambique; conduct archival research on health;
- Train and supervise 15 research assistants in eight locations throughout Mozambique; cultivate linkages with NGO staff, international donors and government officials;
- Conduct interviews with Treatment Action Campaign activists in South Africa;
- Compile reports summarizing research findings for development associations; write doctoral dissertation.

Research Assistant (2003-2005)

- Archival research for book manuscripts on liberalism, feminist political theory and democracy.

Internships with NGOs in Ethiopia, South Africa, Swaziland (2001-2004)

- *Coca Cola World Citizenship Program/International Orthodox Christian Charities (Ethiopia), June-August 2004:* Focus on health, development, family planning and HIV; project manager responsible for conceptualization, implementation and data analysis of research project with a survey (N=200), 13 focus groups, and 40 in-depth interviews; train and manage three research assistants; write baseline research report for development project with USAID and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.
- *World Health Organization and Red Cross (Swaziland), August-October 2001:* Conceptualize community theatre project; conduct background research on health and facilitate NGO links.
- *South African Red Cross (South Africa), May-August 2001:* Conduct in-depth interviews on public health care system in eight townships and compile development report for funding.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Survey design and implementation (including sampling: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola, South Africa, Djibouti, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Somalia, 2010-present) and prior to the State Department (Ethiopia 2004, Mozambique 2007, 2008)
- Focus groups (Ethiopia 2004; Mozambique 2006, 2007, 2014, 2016; South Africa 2014; Somalia 2013; Swaziland 2017)
- In-depth and semi-structured interviews (South Africa 2001, 2014; Mozambique 2005, 2007, 2014, 2016; Ethiopia 2004; Honduras 2003; Swaziland 2001, 2017; Liberia 2017)

LANGUAGES AND MISCELLANEOUS

Portuguese: Advanced Intermediate

Spanish: Beginner

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

- *State Department, Meritorious Award* (2014)
- *State Department, Meritorious Award, refugee camp research* (2012)
- *Virginia Tech Humanities Research Stipend*, (2010), \$4,000
- *Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, Mozambique* (2007), \$25,000
- *Ruth McQuown Fellowship, for outstanding women scholars* (2005-06), \$5,000
- *UF Pre-Dissertation Research Grants*, (2005, 2006), \$1,500 each
- *UF Ph.D. Alumni Fellowship* (2002-2006), full tuition and stipend, \$90,000
- *Coca-Cola World Citizenship Program*, (2004), \$5,000
- *Numerous Conference Travel Grants* (2002-2009)
- *Barry University full scholarship* (1990-1993), \$80,000

PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH REPORTS, AND CONFERENCES

- Extensive list, available upon request.