

Mehrunisa Qayyum

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SKILLS SUMMARY

- **Demonstrates 10 years of advanced research skills** in areas of **development assistance, and macro-economic indicators**, Human Development Index, human rights, governance, institutional strength,
- **Possesses 8 years of MENA expertise** regarding Department of Treasury internship in International Affairs Office, Arabic speaking skills, **research of political economy challenges**, and knowledge of both MENA & Islamic contemporary culture/ancient civilization
- **Writes Congressional testimony and reports;** technical memos related to development assistance, human rights, international development; strategic planning articles for GAO & blog sites
- Participated in field work programs for Task Force on Human Development in Pakistan assessing **Vocational skills and micro-credit** targeting women in Pakistan/Afghanistan refugees

EXPERIENCE

International Development & Policy Consultant

Chicago, IL & Washington, DC
2008-present

- Wrote position paper on Syrian Spring for joint conference by *MPAC & New America Foundation*
- Identified & Wrote economic opportunities between Canada and *Gulf Cooperation Council, League of Arab States*
- Developed & Implemented Public Relations Action Plan, *Islamic Society of North America*
 - Moderated “Green Energy & Islam” Panel
- Formulated Donor Engagement Plan, *Muslim Democrats* (Political Action Committee)
- Provided citizen advocacy, political process and lobbying training, *Community Builders* (October 2009)

Government Accountability Office

Washington, DC
2004-2008

Policy Analyst

- Interviewed over 100 U.S. and foreign officials, NGOs, and academics to investigate, inform and influence policy formulated by the Senate and House committees
- **Wrote 5 individual report sections** on U.S. public diplomacy, nonproliferation, and energy assistance (See list of publications)
- Represented GAO while sponsoring International Fellows visiting from **Kuwait, Yemen, and Bahrain**
- Conducted literature review on U.S. Development and Military Assistance and compared to Economic Supports Funds to highlight U.S. trends in funding strategic interests

- Member of International Affairs & Trade team **to consult at behest of Chairman Wolf** on U.S. communications outreach **and public diplomacy efforts in the Muslim world**

Contributions

- **Arranged and oversaw a GAO forum** to support two engagements on **public diplomacy and media** by (1) recruiting a network of experts (e.g. Zogby Poll International and Georgetown University), (2) constructing a Meta-Analysis of Experts’ responses, (3) summarizing Senate and House hearings, and (4) developing presentations for senior management
 - Created and manipulated analysis tools to examine root causes and challenges to U.S. strategic interests
 - Coordinated logistics and **undertook site visits to Africa and Asia** to facilitate agenda setting
 - Compared resource commitments towards public diplomacy initiatives across regional operations, which led to the State Department **implementing one of our recommendations within 1 year**
- Member of Energy team **to consult at behest of Chairman Dorgan** on funding 10 alternative energy industries, **which led to 6 recommendations**
- ##### Contributions
- Assessed and reported Department of Energy efforts by examining energy technologies across 10 alternative energy industries, which led to 6 recommendations

- Compared program selection criteria with selected candidates, which determined that unintended outcomes included overemphasizing biofuels sector over other alternative energy sectors
- Member of Nonproliferation team **to consult at behest of Senator Akaka** on examining Department of Energy's efforts in securing radioactive sources overseas
 - Contributions
 - **Wrote recommendations on program sustainability, which led to receiving an individual 'Spot Award'** for my critical thinking abilities in assessing security breaches
 - Conducted overseas site **visits to Europe and Asia** to gauge nonproliferation efforts
 - Engineered an Excel database to catalogue nonproliferation efforts across 49 countries, **including MENA region**, to inform how to prioritize future U.S. assistance
 - Co-organized a forum on nonproliferation security and post discussion session with Dr. Charles Ferguson from the *Council on Foreign Relations* (May 2006)

Department of Treasury, Office of Middle East and South Asian Nations
Intern

Washington, DC
 2004

- Analyzed and wrote "Economic Updates" by **tracking macro-economic indicators in oil, gas and demographic trends for Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar, and Kuwait** to inform Undersecretary's decision-making
- Examined **Kuwait's efforts towards bank privatization** to inform U.S. position at IMF summit
- Coordinated correspondence for the **Middle East Partnership for Financial Excellence**

Professor Hudson, Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Research Assistant

Washington, DC
 2003-2004

- Investigated economic and political policies in Lebanon and Syria to support presentation that received an award of recognition at a **2003 Military Sciences Symposium**
- Served as a Teaching Assistant to help **moderate online discussion groups**
- Performed government regulations market research on Arab regions' Internet industry and growth to update seminar regarding technology and **Internet growth MENA**
- Systemized a Current Events Index of Arab region and **compiled references to Political Islam and Islamist parties to support editorial research**

President's Task Force on Human Development
Policy Analyst

Islamabad, Pakistan
 2001-2002

- **Member of Education and Micro-Enterprise team** at behest of Pakistan's Chief Executive for "President's Task Force on Human Development Report"

Contributions

- Conducted **focus groups and in-depth interviews** to implement Needs Assessment phase
- Orchestrated approaches **to incorporate feedback from structured panels** to identify common pitfalls in program implementation
- Utilized SWOT analysis on UNDP and World Bank programs to extrapolate best practices for administering teacher training
- Collaborated with team to present recommendations for Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Women's Affairs

Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee
Intern

Washington, DC
 June 2000-August 2000

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

Georgetown University, Masters in Public Policy

Washington, DC

- Practicum: “*Post-Colonial Growth in the Arab World*”
 - Conducted an in depth project that consisted of preparing an Ordinary Least Squares model and collecting secondary data for analysis to assess Arab countries’ economic performance based on institutional strength and the Perceived Corruption Index compiled by *Transparency International*
 - Concatenated various data sets to create institutional strength index
- Certificate in Arab Studies
- Relevant Courses: Political Economy in the Middle East, U.S. Policy in the Middle East, Media and Culture in the Middle East

The University of Chicago, AB Public Policy/ Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Chicago, IL

- Thesis: “*The Efficacy of Economic Sanctions on Iraq*”
- Dean’s List, Graduated with General Honors
- Foreign Language Acquisition Grant 1999
- Relevant Courses: Political Authoritarianism in the Middle East, Human Rights II/III, Contemporary History of the Middle East

The American University of Cairo, Arabic Language Immersion Program

Cairo, Egypt

Training/Conferences

National Council of US-Arab Relations US Arab Policymakers Conference (October 21st-22nd 2010) • *Gallup Poll* Launch of Muslim-West Relations Update (December 2010) • *ISNA* 47th Annual Convention (July 2010) • *Senator Wellstone* Political Leadership Training (July 2009) • *Institute for Social Policy & Understanding* Conference (December 2008) • National Academy of Sciences: Iran's Science & Technology (September 2006) • Transparency between Donors and NGOs (February 2006) • Data Collection Strategies (November 2004) • *Center for Contemporary Arab Studies* Symposium (May 2004) • *Middle East Institute* Annual Conference (November 2005) • Interviewing for Fraud (May 2005)

Publications

- Middle East Institute, “Syrian Diaspora & Public Consciousness”, Policy Brief August 31, 2011
- GAO, “U.S. Public Diplomacy: State Department Efforts to Engage Muslim Audiences Lack Certain Communication Elements and Face Significant Challenges”, GAO-06-535
- GAO, “Department of Energy: New Loan Guarantee Program”, GAO-08-750
- GAO, “DOE’s International Threat Reduction Program”, GAO-07-282
- GAO, “Nuclear Nonproliferation: Focusing on the Highest Priority Radiological Sources Could Improve DOE's Efforts to Secure Sources in Foreign Countries”, GAO-07-580T
- GAO, “Federal Procurement: Additional Data Reporting Could Improve the Suspension Process”, GAO-05-479
- “President’s Task Force on Human Development Report”, 2002
- Human Development Foundation, “Social Capital: Transforming a Community’s Citizens”, May 2007

Articles

- “140 Seconds to Agree, Disagree” <http://www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=30213&lan=en&sp=0>
- “Libya Queues and the No-Fly Quagmire,” <http://www.kabobfest.com/2011/03/libya-queues-in-the-no-fly-zone-quagmire.html>

Languages

- Intermediate Arabic
- Basic Spanish and Farsi

Computer Skills

- SAS, DreamWeaver, SPSS, MS Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Word

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Chairwomen, Network of Arab American Professionals-DC Chapter, May 2011-present

Member, Devex, November 2010-present

Member, Toastmasters International: IMF, GAO-5117 and Hinsdale clubs, September 2006-present

Member, Muslim Educational & Cultural Center of America-Public Relations Cmt., May 2009-present

Member, Middle East Institute, September 2005-present

Sponsor, International Fellows Program, May-August 2005, 2006, 2007

Volunteer, The Newseum Building, September 2007-2008

Volunteer, Barack Obama Campaign, June 2008-November 2008