RACHEL STROHM

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rachelstrohm.com

► Professional Summary

Social policy analyst with 15 years of experience managing large-scale policy evaluations in East, West, and Central Africa. Areas of interest: social assistance, social registries, urban poverty, evidence-informed policymaking.



Director, Social Policy Insights

Nairobi, Kenya and London, UK (2023-present)

- Founder of this research consultancy, which tracks the latest developments in social protection across East Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)
- We produce accessible public-facing content on social protection, through platforms including policy briefs, newsletters, and social media

Associate Director of Social Protection, Innovations for Poverty Action

Nairobi, Kenya and London, UK (2020-2022)

- Managed a portfolio of 34 evaluations of social protection programmes in 18 countries, with a focus on cash transfers 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

Board Chair, Mawazo Institute

Nairobi, Kenya and Kampala, Uganda (2018-2022)

- Recruited a diverse 9-person board with expertise in fundraising, financial and legal compliance, and higher education in East Africa
- Oversaw financial compliance in the US and Kenya, and backstopped finance operations
- Led strategic planning updates and CEO recruitment during a period of leadership transition

Chief Operating Officer, Mawazo Institute

Nairobi, Kenya (2017-2018)

- Co-founder (with Dr Rose Mutiso) of a non-profit which provides research funding and professional development to women doing PhDs at accredited African universities
- Raised US\$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 program 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

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Research Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action

New Haven, CT, USA (2012-2013)

- Supervised more than 20 impact evaluations of financial inclusion and social protection programmes in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda
- Supported project staff on issues of research design, questionnaire development, survey software, data collection, statistical analysis, IRB compliance, and financial management

Research Intern, Innovations for Poverty Action

Tamale, Ghana (2010)

- Managed an evaluation of an index rainfall insurance policy for maize farmers
- Oversaw logistics and finances for a team of 40 surveyors interviewing 1100 respondents
- Audited surveyor performance and cleaned survey data in Stata

Client Assessment Fellow, FINCA International

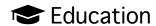
Kinshasa, DR Congo (2009)

- 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, Rwanda Works

Kigali, Rwanda (2008-2009)

- 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



MA in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, USA (2013-2017)

- Enrolled for the PhD, and earned the MA in 2014
- Advanced to candidacy in 2016, then left in 2017 to launch the Mawazo Institute
- Dissertation proposal: "The Politics of Welfare Expansion in Africa"
- "Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor" for African Politics (PS146A), Fall 2015
- Visiting fellow at the University of Ghana (2016-2017)

MA in International Relations, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University Washington, DC, USA (2010-2011)

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

BA in Geography and French, Dartmouth College

Hanover, NH, USA (2004-2008)

- 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



Commentary Articles at *African Arguments, The Conversation Africa, Democracy in Africa, Nation, The New Humanitarian*, and *The Republic*. Available at rachelstrohm.com/writing

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Presentations

- Centre for Social Protection, University of Sussex (2023)
- African Studies Association of Africa (2019)
- British Institute in Eastern Africa (2019)
- Effective States and Inclusive Development UK (2019)
- African Studies Association US (2016, 2017)
- Development Studies Association UK (2016)
- American Political Science Association (2014, 2016, 2019)

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

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

♣ Other Information

Residency USA (citizen) • Kenya (resident)

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

Swahili (basic)

Pronouns She/her

Trainings

- Urban Theory Africa Workshop, Nairobi (2023)
- 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)
- Summer Institute for Entrepreneurship, Stanford University (2008)

Volunteering

- Research and writing trainer, Social Justice Centres Working Group, Nairobi (2023)
- Strategic planning facilitator, Mothers of Victims & Survivors Network, Nairobi (2021–2022)
- Dartmouth admissions ambassador, East and West Africa (2017-present)
- AuthorAID mentor, remote collaboration with LMIC scholars (2015–2020)
- Mentor and judge, Big Ideas @ Berkeley (2014–2016)
- Africa Association co-president, Johns Hopkins SAIS (2011)
- WomensTrust Microfinance intern, Accra, Ghana and Hanover, NH (2007-2008)
- Students for Africa co-president, Dartmouth (2006-2008)

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