

GRANT M. GORDON, PHD

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY

PhD in Political Science, 2016

Expertise: National Security Policy, Humanitarian Intervention, and Statistical Methods

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Resident Fellow, Stanford Law School Center on International Conflict and Negotiation, 2015-2016

Exchange Scholar, Department of Political Science, 2012-2013

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

MPP Candidate at the Kennedy School of Government

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

AB in Public Policy with Honors and African Studies with Honors

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Rescue Committee, Washington, DC

2018 -

Director of Innovation

- Oversee governance and pipeline management for a 20M USD innovation portfolio to ensure that projects deliver on strategic objective of scaling high-impact breakthroughs
- Conceptualize and incubate high-risk moonshot projects that will radically restructure the humanitarian sector
- Drive strategic investments and decision-making in innovation across IRC programming and policy
- Engage key stakeholders to disrupt sector-level reform in high-level policy-related meetings, committees and fora

International Rescue Committee, Washington, DC

2016- 2017

Associate Director of Innovation

- Provided strategic guidance and thought leadership on innovative approaches to humanitarian policy and programming in conflict zones and fragile states
- Designed and managed a portfolio of macro-structural and micro-level labor market interventions to generate employment opportunities at scale in conflict-affected states
- Launched and oversaw projects reshaping refugee resettlement financing and service delivery in the United States
- Raised 6.5M USD for programming and opened a new pipeline of donors for the IRC

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, New York, NY

2012-2014

Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant

- Developed and directed a global, inter-agency mine action monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the United Nations to assess 175 million USD in annual operations for use in over 30 fragile states
- Translated data into actionable policy recommendations adopted by UN agencies and national authorities that led to evidence-based policy making, data-driven resource allocation, and institutional reforms
- Co-led agency-wide strategy development that resulted in principals-endorsed UN 2013-2018 Mine Action Strategy
- Managed inter-agency UN process that facilitated cooperation on M&E processes and implementation

United Kingdom Department for International Development, Garowe, Somalia

2013

Research Consultant

- Assessed the feasibility of randomizing socio-political interventions in the Somali context and crafted recommendations on when donors should use randomized controlled trials for evaluation
- Drafted report for UK Government on community driven development in Somalia
- Led semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders and institutional partners on security and development

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, New York, NY** 2012
Research Consultant
- Analyzed the impact of new technologies on humanitarianism for contribution to a UN Flagship Publication
 - Conducted comprehensive qualitative case studies to examine theories of change in humanitarianism
 - Formulated recommendations on technology adoption, analysis, and information management in crisis
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, New York, NY** 2011
Evaluation Consultant
- Evaluated the implementation of UN Mine Action 2006-2010 Strategic Objectives in 40 countries, which informed strategy, programming and policy reformulation
 - Analyzed 5 years of country-level data and conducted staff interviews to assess progress made towards strategic objectives
 - Authored report on global mine action programming and recommendations for future programming and policy
- International Rescue Committee, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo** 2010
Evaluation Design Analyst
- Collaboratively developed survey instruments and research processes for Columbia led evaluation of an IRC accountability intervention (Tuungane)
 - Managed piloting of household surveys and behavioral games in South Kivu to hone evaluation strategy
- Open Society Justice Initiative, Freetown, Sierra Leone** 2009-2010
Evaluation Consultant
- Co-designed research strategy to assess the impact of justice sector interventions that resulted in a quasi-experimental evaluation of Timap for Justice
 - Evaluated legal service provision program and provided policy recommendations on legal reform in fragile states
- Oxford University Centre for the Study of African Economies, Monrovia, Liberia** 2009
Evaluation Project Associate
- Established baseline study of legal perceptions to be used in Carter Center socio-legal intervention
 - Collaboratively designed household level survey tool for use in three counties
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo** 2008
Evaluation Consultant
- Assessed UN-funded programs on conflict prevention and resolution throughout the Eastern DRC
 - Produced and delivered final report on intervention impact that redirected UNHCR programming and beneficiary conflict resolution priorities
- United Nations Population Fund, Bujumbura, Burundi** 2007
Policy Analyst
- Developed and presented recommendations on youth policy outcomes and governance for UN adoption
 - Conducted community-level survey of 126 internationally-funded youth centers
- Rwandan Ministry of Health, Kigali, Rwanda** 2006
Policy Analyst, HIV/AIDS Task Force
- Led drafting of report on the World Bank Multi-Sectoral AIDS Project for the Government of Rwanda
 - Created surveys and conducted exhaustive on-site assessments of health facilities to evaluate HIV/AIDS policy

RESEARCH, POLICY & MEDIA, AND PRESENTATIONS

Academic Papers

- 2017 “Cooperation, Intelligence and Keeping the Peace: Civilian Engagement with Peacekeepers in Haiti,” with Lauren Young, *Journal of Peace Research* 54(1): 64-79.
- 2016 “Payment and Predation: The Politics of Wages and Violence in the Congolese Army”
- 2015 “Monitoring Conflict to Reduce Violence: Evidence from a Satellite Intervention in Darfur”
- 2014 “Civilian Abuse by Armed Groups: Evidence from Aceh” with Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein
- 2014 “Transparency and Spin: How Political Communication Reinforces (or Undermines) Political Accountability” with Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein
- 2014 “Does Registration Reduce Publication Bias? No Evidence from Medical Publishing” with Albert Fang and Macartan Humphreys. Under Review.

Policy & Media

- 2017 “Putting refugees to work: the greatest challenge in 2017” with Ravi Gurumurthy. *Financial Times*.
2016 “Solving the Refugee Employment Problem in Jordan: A Survey of Syrian Refugees”
2016 “Grant Gordon on studying the world’s worst conflicts.” The Ezra Klein Show.
2014 “United Nations National Authority Engagement Strategy on Mine Action Monitoring and Evaluation”
2013 “Somalia Feasibility Assessment for United Kingdom Department for International Development” with
Guy Grossman and Laura Paler
2012 “Making and Committing to Peace: Political Vulnerability and Civil War Resolution” with Page Fortna and
Eric Mvukiyehe
2012 “Humanitarianism in the Network Age: UN OCHA Flagship Policy Document” (Contributing Author)
2011 “Achieving Goals and Identifying Opportunities: An Assessment of the United Nations Mine Action
Strategy 2006-2010”
2010 “Timap Criminal Justice Pilot: Baseline Evaluation Report.” With Bilal Siddiqi and Justin Sandefur
2009 “Customary Justice and the Rule of Law in Liberia” with Michael Best, Justin Sandefur, Johnny Ndebe,
Bilal Siddiqi, Alaina Varvaloucas and Andrew Zeitlin
2008 “A UNHCR Evaluation of Search for a Common Ground Programming in the DRC”
2007 “UNFPA Report on the State of Youth in Burundi”
2006 “An Evaluation of World Bank HIV/AIDS Services in Rwanda”

Selected Presentations

- 2017 United States National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2016 United States Department of State
2016 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Prevention and Protection Working Group
2016 World Bank Fragility Conflict & Violence and Development Impact Evaluation Unit Seminar
2016 United States Institution of Peace – Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC)
2016 UC Berkeley Institute for Data Science (BIDS)
2016 Stanford University joint CISAC-SCICN Social Science Seminar
2015 United States Institute for Peace
2015 Columbia University International Politics Seminar
2015 Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation
2014 Folke Bernadotte Academy Security Sector Reform Working Group (FBA)
2013 International Studies Association Annual Meeting

SELECTED AFFILIATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Affiliations

- 2017 Center for New American Security Next Generation National Security Fellow
2014- Truman National Security Project Defense Fellow
2014- Folke Bernadotte Academy Security Sector Reform Working Group Member
2014 American University Bridging the Gap Project New Era Foreign Policy Project Affiliate
2009 Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Crisis Mapping Fellow

Fellowships & Grants

- 2016 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship – Doctoral fellowship (\$38,000)
2015 Texas A&M Center for Conflict and Development– Security sector reform research in the DRC (\$24,730)
2014 United States Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar – Doctoral fellowship (\$20,000)
2014 Eisenhower Institute Eisenhower-Roberts Fellow – Doctoral fellowship (\$10,000)
2014 J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant – Security sector reform research in the DRC (\$6,721)
2014 Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity Fellow – Research in Rwanda (\$3,000)
2013 Columbia University Department Dissertation Development Grant – Research in South Sudan (\$3,000)
2012 Eric C. Blackwell Fellowship, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Science – Named fellow
2011 Center for the Study of Development Strategies Grant – Research on peacekeeping in Haiti (\$9,000)
2010 Columbia University Department of Political Science Faculty Fellow – Doctoral funding
2009 Harvard Presidential Public Service Fellowship – Full tuition scholarship for academic merit

LANGUAGES, PROGRAMMING, AND OTHER

- Languages: French (Professional Fluency), Swahili (Advanced Competency)
Programming: “R”, Python, ArcGIS, GeoDa, LaTeX
Interests: Triathlons, bicycle mechanics and pasta making