

Eliza Urwin

Switzerland | +41 77 817 74 10 | eliza.urwin@graduateinstitute.ch | www.elizaurwin.com

PROFILE

Eliza Urwin is a Ph.D. candidate and Teaching Assistant at the Graduate Institute, investigating resistance and civilian agency in spaces of contested authority, and the corresponding impact on conflict and state formation processes. From 2013 to 2017, she lived in Afghanistan working for the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), managing a portfolio of peacebuilding research and programming. Since leaving Kabul, she has conducted research for the Norwegian Refugee Council and Overseas Development Institute on Taliban justice and the Afghan peace process. Her recent research focuses on participatory methods, using “Everyday Peace Indicators” to examine dynamics of peace, violence, and governance. She has carried out fieldwork in Lebanon, Jordan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka, and managed research in Tunisia and Colombia. Eliza speaks fluent French, and can read, write and speak Arabic and Dari.

EDUCATION

- 2018 – 2022 **Ph.D. International Relations and Political Science**
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- 2009 – 2011 **M.A. Relations Internationales** (*Mention bien*)
Université de Paris XIII Sorbonne Paris Cité, France
- 2005 – 2009 **B.A. Political Science** (*emphasis in Arabic language and Culture*)
Concordia University, Canada and the American University in Cairo, Egypt
- 2003 – 2005 **Diplôme d'études collégiales in Communications (DEC)**
Dawson Collège, Canada

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. CANDIDATE/HEAD TEACHING ASSISTANT – The Graduate Institute **Switzerland**
September 2018 – Present
Thesis title: Negotiating the State: Communities And Social Order in Conflict
Advisors: Professor Keith Krause & Professor Elisabeth Prügl, external reader

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER– United States Institute of Peace **Afghanistan**
July 2015 – November 2017

- Managed a \$16.4 million interagency portfolio of peacebuilding research and programming, focused on countering violent extremism (CVE), good governance, peace education, and rule of law. Oversaw design, implementation, financial and regulatory compliance, monitoring and evaluation of 27 research and pilot programmes. Designed evaluation, knowledge management and institutional learning for the interagency agreement, ensuring research and lessons learned were incorporated into policy recommendations
- Identified research priorities and directly conducted research on priority topics for internal use and publication, wrote policy-oriented papers for USIP and US government agencies
- Managed key stakeholder relationships in Kabul, including the Afghan government, US government, and USIP civil society partners across the country, and presented research at global conferences

REGIONAL MANAGER – Sayara International **Lebanon, Jordan, Pakistan, Afghanistan**
July 2014- July 2015

- Developed and implemented countering violent extremism (CVE) and community resilience programmes in Lebanon, Jordan, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Managed client relations with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Hedayah, US, UK, Canadian and European governments, the UN, the EU, and state and security actors in each country
- Managed the programmatic and operational budgets for all programmes

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER – Sayara International **Afghanistan**
July 2013 – July 2014

- Managed a portfolio of CVE and community policing programmes for a variety of actors in Afghanistan including: the UN (UNAMA, UNOPS, and UNDP), USAID, and The US Department of State Political

Affairs Section. Designed research instruments, planned, developed and managed field research for programme evaluations

- Wrote monthly, quarterly and final reports for all projects within the programme portfolio as well as other portfolios as needed; Produced safety outreach training materials for the Afghan Local Police which were subsequently integrated into the Interior Ministry permanent police training curricula

RESEARCH ASSISTANT Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

France

May 2011 – September 2011

- Researched and wrote working papers on secessionist movements in Asia, primarily in Laos, Indonesia and the Philippines for l'Institut des relations internationales et stratégiques as a part of a series of security papers for the French Department of Defense

RESEARCHER - IRAN Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

Canada

October 2008 – June 2009

- Analyzed Iranian media, monitoring government actions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, wrote weekly press summaries published on the official MIGS website

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 – Present **Head Teaching Assistant [M.A./Ph.D. International Relations and Political Science]**
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

Courses taught or assisted: Doctoral Seminar (2019-2021), Theories and Theorists International Relations, Critical Security Studies, International Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Civil War and Genocide in Rwanda, Conflict in Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa, Global Partnerships, Designing and Conducting Field Research,

Other responsibilities: Managing the department colloquium, advising/supporting all TAs

2016 – 2017 **Introduction to Survey Methodology [B.A./M.A.]**
Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, and Herat University, Afghanistan

2012 – 2013 **Research Methods [M.A. Political Science]**
Université de Paris XIII Sorbonne Paris Cité, France

2012 – 2013 **English for STEM [M.A./Ph.D. Physics, Engineering]**
Université de Paris 6 – Pierre et Marie Curie, France

2009 **Global Cities [Teaching Assistant – B.A. Political Science]**
Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

2007 **English classes for refugees**
American University in Cairo, Egypt

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2019 – Present Treasurer of the Board of the Association of Assistants (ADA) for the Graduate Institute

2019 – Present Head teaching assistant: organizing the departmental colloquia and advising assistants

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. **Everyday Peace Indicators** is a research approach producing indicators of difficult-to-measure concepts such as peace, violence, and reconciliation. EPI works with communities to generate these indicators using participatory research methods, to identify indicators that communities use to assess changes in peace and conflict in their locality. As a researcher associated with EPI, I managed indicator collection on several projects. I have carried out fieldwork myself in Afghanistan, and remotely managed research teams in Tunisia and Colombia. I am in the planning phases to do so in Myanmar.
 - a. **Tunisia:** Working with the United Nations Development Program and Brandeis University, I collected indicators of peace and resilience in 21 villages in Southern Tunisia
 - b. **Colombia:** Working with Humanity United and Search for Common Ground, I trained Colombian research teams, and collected indicators of peace and reconciliation in Colombia

- c. **Afghanistan:** Working with USIP, I trained Afghan research organization Saba Story Research, and collected indicators of peace and violence in 18 villages of eastern Afghanistan
2. **Lessons for Peace: Afghanistan** working with the Overseas Development Institute, I carried out a series of research relating to Afghan peace processes. This includes a study of Taliban governance and the implications for future aid engagement, a meta-review of lessons learned from the international intervention, and policy guidance for donor support relating to war-to-peace transition (publication due Sept 2020).
3. Multiple research projects related to violent extremism in Afghanistan for the United States Institute of Peace.
 - a. January 2019: Social Media and Violent Extremism in Afghanistan
 - b. June 2018: Women and Violent Extremism in Afghanistan
 - c. January 2018: IDPs, Returnees and Violent Extremism in Afghanistan
 - d. March 2018: Measuring Peace and Violent Extremism

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- International Studies Association (ISA)
- International Political Science Association (IPSA)
- Swiss Political Science Association (SVPW)
- Women in International Security (WIIS)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jul 2021	Mapping Peace, Violence and Power using Everyday Indicators International Political Science Association World Congress	Lisbon
Mar 2019	Not Just at Home or In The Grave: (Mis)Understanding Women's Rights in Afghanistan International Studies Association Annual Convention	Toronto
Dec 2016	Everyday CVE Indicators: A New Method for Evaluating Impact Hedayah International CVE Research Conference	Jakarta
Nov 2016	CVE Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Representative for the RESOLVE network	Abu Dhabi
Sept 2016	Rethinking the Discourse on Violence and Religious Identity RESOLVE Network, First International Forum	Washington D.C.
Nov 2015	Involving Radical Groups in a Change Process Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, The Second Conference on Non-Formal Dialogue Processes and National Dialogues: Experiences from countries in transition	Helsinki
Oct 2015	Online Radicalization: Counterspeech Club de Madrid: The Policy Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	Madrid
Dec 2014	The Challenges of Implementing CVE in Complex Environments Hedayah Centre of Excellence Global CVE Expo	Abu Dhabi

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2018 – 2020	79,200 CHF	Teaching Assistant Fellowship/Excellence Scholarship Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
2017	14,000 USD	Kathryn Davis Peace Fellowship Middlebury Institute Arabic Language Immersion Program

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages	English Native French Fluent Standard Arabic B2 Afghan Dari B1 Spanish A2
Technical	STATA R Python Adobe Photoshop Atlas.TI NVivo ArcGIS LaTeX