

April 2017

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EMPLOYMENT

**Director of Global Humanitarian Policy, Senior Lecturer
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy,
University of Virginia**

Virginia, USA

August 2016-Present

- Building a research agenda an engaging in global policy processes related to humanitarian crises. Research areas include humanitarian architecture and leadership, use of data and technology in humanitarian crisis, and climate-induced displacement.
- Developing coursework and applied/experiential learning for students on international humanitarian assistance.

**Chief, Policy Analysis and Innovation
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

New York, USA

Policy Advisor Sept 2012-February 2013

Chief of Section February 2013- January 2015

- Served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on all major humanitarian policy issues.
- Led and managed one of OCHA's largest sections with a focus on policy analysis and innovation. The section conducted, facilitated and communicated policy-relevant research and analysis to anticipate and interpret global humanitarian trends, and to advance humanitarian policy and practice.
- Managed a US\$2.6 million budget to undertake and facilitate research on humanitarian assistance. This included publishing major research reports, organizing a major global humanitarian policy forum, and delivering presentations and representing the UN at major international conferences and events.

Humanitarian Advisor

UN Special Envoy for Haiti, President William Clinton

Port-au-Prince, Haiti/New York, USA

Feb 2010-April 2010

- Seconded by OCHA to serve as the humanitarian advisor for the UN Special Envoy, President William Clinton, and the UN Deputy Special Envoy, Paul Farmer on operational and policy humanitarian issues following the 2010 Haiti earthquake.
- Helped to increase links between civil-society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations.

Head, Advocacy and Visual Media

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

New York, USA

Sept 2009 to Jan 2011

- Developed OCHA's 2010 Advocacy Policy and served as a senior advisor to OCHA's Under-Secretary-General on key advocacy platforms.
- Built and managed OCHA's new Advocacy and Visual Media Unit responsible for leading advocacy campaigns and emergency communication initiatives, including community-outreach programs.

Head, Global Challenges Unit, Humanitarian Policy Advisor

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

New York, USA

Oct 2007 to Sept 2009

- Served as the policy advisor to the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and supported the Secretary-General's missions to the Rome High-Level Food Summit, G8, and General Assembly.
- Led the development of the Comprehensive Framework for Action, the consensus policy document of the United Nations system, including Bretton Woods institutions, on how to respond to the global food crisis.

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- Developed and led OCHA's policy analysis on the "Implications of Global Challenges on International Humanitarian Action" to support ongoing field operations, the 2009 ECOSOC, and OCHA's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan.
- Developed and implemented OCHA's internal evaluation methodology and protocols to assess internal performance following disasters and crises.

Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Asia and the Pacific Section

Coordination and Response Division

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Dili, Timor-Leste/New York, USA

July 2006 to Oct 2007

- Served as the Senior Desk Officer, supporting all emergency operations in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as preparing briefs on the emergencies for the Under-Secretary-General, Security Council, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.
- Managed the response to the security crisis in Timor-Leste.
- Acted as the primary link between OCHA field offices, the UN Humanitarian Coordinators and OCHA in establishing appropriate coordination mechanisms, organizing needs assessments and producing consolidated appeals.

Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Pakistan Earthquake

Coordination and Response Division

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Islamabad, Pakistan/Geneva, Switzerland

Oct 2005 to Jan 2006

- Managed the immediate search-and-rescue phase and establishment of OCHA humanitarian operations in five field offices in earthquake-affected areas.
- Served as the lead desk to support field operations, provide policy advice, and liaise with humanitarian actors in response to the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake. Drafted key reports, situation updates, and policy briefs for the Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- Deployed to Pakistan to establish an NGO Liaison Unit in Mansehra, Muzaffarabad, and Batagram.

Humanitarian Liaison Officer, Hurricane Katrina

Coordination and Response Division

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Washington, D.C., USA

Sept 2005

- Deployed to Washington, D.C. to participate in the UN Inter-Agency Team responsible for supporting US Government agencies responding to Hurricane Katrina. Drafted documents for donor support and information and briefing papers for UN Headquarters.
- Supported UN technical missions on information management, registration, and logistical systems establishment.

Internally Displaced Persons Officer, Tsunami

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Jan 2005 to Aug 2005

- Deployed as the IDP Advisor for the tsunami response in Banda Aceh by facilitating operations, policy development and coordination forums.
- Wrote and developed the "Humanitarian and Early Recovery Assistance Framework", conceived and implemented the IDP Transitional Settlement Monitoring System and facilitated all IDP coordination meetings to support the humanitarian community in assisting those who were displaced and lost their homes and/or livelihoods.

Head of Sub-Office/Humanitarian Field Officer

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Monrovia, Liberia

March 2004 to January 2005

- Deployed to establish and run the sub-office for the post-conflict south-central region of Liberia.
- Carried out humanitarian assessments, established coordination mechanisms, and developed humanitarian programs.
- On behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator, served as the manager of the Humanitarian Action Committee in Monrovia, which oversaw macro-humanitarian issues and made operational policy decisions.

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Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Africa Section

Coordination and Response Division

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

New York, USA

Sept 2002 to March 2004

- Served as the principal desk officer in response to the Southern Africa food-security emergency, with responsibilities for facilitating operations, providing briefings for senior UN staff including the UN Special Envoy.
- Analyzed links between HIV/AIDS, food security, and political instability.

Programme Associate

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

New York, USA

June 1997 to June 1999

- Supported information and media needs for UNIFEM programs on human rights and development.
- Helped produce documents and outreach events, including "Promoting Accountability for Women's Human Rights," 1997 UNIFEM Annual Report, UNIFEM's Internet site, the First Mayan Women's Congress, and the 1998 global videoconference on Eliminating Violence Against Women.

RESEARCH

Senior Strategic Advisor/Principle Investigator

Virginia, USA/London, UK

ELRHA Global Prioritization Exercise

- Serve as the PI to conduct research on mapping global humanitarian research and innovation capacities to develop a global framework for prioritizing investment in research and innovation for humanitarian action.
- Research includes a systematic literature review and key stakeholder interviews.
- Drafting of a final report for presentation to major donors and humanitarian practitioners.

Senior Advisor/Project Expert/Board Member

Virginia, USA/The Hague, Netherlands

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Conceptual Framework for Centre for Humanitarian in the Hague

January 2016-On-going

- Serve as the Senior Advisor and Board member to support policy development, strategic planning, and conduct public advocacy for the Centre.
- Worked with Dalberg Global Development Advisors to conduct research and develop the policy and administrative framework for a new Centre for Humanitarian Data in The Hague.
- Led and conducted stakeholder interviews and worked to establish the framework for the new Centre.

Senior Researcher

Virginia, USA/London, UK

Livelihoods, Social Protection and Basic Services in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations Research

Programme Consortium

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)/Feinstein International Center (FIC), Tufts University

May 2011-June 2012

- Served as a senior researcher in developing a proposal and successfully securing a six-year US\$1.8 million research grant from DFID to investigate the appropriate building blocks (social protection, basic services, etc.) required in post-conflict Uganda and South Sudan to support livelihood recovery.
- Was a partner in the ODI Research Programme Consortium, bringing together communities of practice and leading research organizations (Centre for Poverty Analysis, Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University, and Save the Children UK) to bridge the knowledge gap on when it is appropriate to try to support the building of secure livelihoods in fragile and conflict-affected situations.
- Managed, researched and wrote evidence papers on Uganda, South Sudan, and a regional Africa evidence paper.

Principal Researcher

World Food Programme, Darfur Evaluation

Feinstein International Center (FIC), Tufts University

Virginia, USA

April 2006-July 2006

- Managed the production of a design-phase evaluation for WFP on its projects in Darfur, Sudan.

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- Drafted a meta-evaluation on historical assessments and evaluations between 2002 and 2004 in Darfur.

Evaluation Researcher

**World Food Programme, Sudan Food-Aid Evaluation
Feinstein International Center (FIC), Tufts University**

Khartoum, Sudan/Massachusetts, USA

Jan 2006-March 2006

- Researched, developed and drafted the Evaluative Guidance Document that set a policy-level framework for WFP Sudan in the post-conflict environment.
- Assisted in coordinating WFP's Food Aid Forum held in Sudan, 6-9 June 2006.

Research Consultant

CARE Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

May 2001 to Sept 2001

- Deployed to Borana, Ethiopia, to review which emergency programs had most helped recovery following the 1999/2000 food emergency in southern Ethiopia, focusing on community-based animal-health programs.
- Designed and wrote a three-year community-based animal-health and drought-mitigation program submitted to USAID OFDA.

Research Emergency Officer

CARE Ethiopia/East Africa Regional Management Unit

Borana, Ethiopia/Nairobi, Kenya

May 2000 to Dec 2000

- Deployed during the famine to support emergency food distributions, water-tankering for drought-affected areas of southern Ethiopia.
- Facilitated the research and writing of "The Failure of operations of the Ethiopian Food Security Reserve 1999-2000".
- Develop training modules for rights-based and household livelihood security programming.

PUBLISHING and EDITORIAL WORK

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Daniel Maxwell, Nicholas Haan, Kirsten Gelsdorf, and David Dawe. "The 2011-12 Famine in Somalia: Introduction to the Special Edition." Special Edition, *Global Food Security Journal*. Elsevier 2012.
- Degan Ali, Kirsten Gelsdorf. "Risk-Averse to Risk-Willing: Learning From The 2011 Somalia Cash Response." Special Edition, *Global Food Security Journal*. Elsevier 2012.
- Kirsten Gelsdorf, Peter Walker, and Dan Maxwell. "The Future of World Food Programme (WFP) Programming in Sudan." Special Issue: Food Security in Sudan, *Disasters Journal* 2007 Vol. 31 S1 S1-8.
- Kirsten Gelsdorf, Daniel Maxwell, and Dyan Mazurana. 'Livelihoods, Basic Services, and Social Protection in Northern Uganda and Karamoja.' Overseas Development Institute. Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium, London, United Kingdom. August 2012.
- Daniel Maxwell, Kirsten Gelsdorf, and Martina Santschi, 'Livelihoods, Basic Services, and Social Protection in South Sudan.' Overseas Development Institute, Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium, London, United Kingdom. July 2012.

International Reports/Articles

- "Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow: Crisis Risk Management in Humanitarian Assistance." United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *OCHA Policy Publication Series*, March 2014.

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- Kirsten Gelsdorf, 'Implications of Cash Transfer Programming on Humanitarian Coordination.' United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *OCHA Occasional Policy Paper Series*, May 2013.
- Kirsten Gelsdorf, 'Global Challenges and their Impact on International Humanitarian Action.' United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occasional Policy Paper Series*, January 2010.
- The Secretary-General's Report, High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. 'Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA)', July 2008.
- Kirsten Gelsdorf, 'Humanitarian and Early Recovery Assistance Framework' South-East Asian Tsunami, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. 2004.

Publication Advisory Board Appointments

- "The State of the Humanitarian System." ALNAP, 2014.
- "Fit for the Future: Are NGOs, UN organisations, donors, governments and policy makers that implement, fund and influence emergency cash transfer programming 'fit for the future'?" Humanitarian Futures Project, January 2014.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Politics department

Virginia, USA

University of Virginia (UVa)

2015 (1 semester)

- Taught an undergraduate course on 'Professional Engagement'. The course reviews emerging and growing trends in employment with a focus on innovation and social impact. It also provides case studies and practical assignments to gain skills in leadership and team-building to help prepare students for entry into professional life.

Adjunct Professor, Politics Department

Virginia, USA

University of Virginia (UVa)

2012 (1 semester)

- Taught an undergraduate seminar on 'International Humanitarian Assistance'. The course reviewed theory and practice of international humanitarian response and incorporated a case-study approach.

Adjunct Associate Professor, International and Public Affairs

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

New York, USA

2008-2010 (3 semesters)

- Taught graduate-level courses 'Humanitarian Policy and Practice'. The courses focused on case studies and practical assignments to both debate current challenges in humanitarian assistance and learn applicable skills in aid delivery.

EDUCATION

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Massachusetts, USA

Sept 1999 to Dec 2001

Masters of Law and Diplomacy in Humanitarian Affairs and Food Security

Dartmouth College

New Hampshire, USA

Sept 1993- Jun 1997

Bachelors of Arts with double major in History with a focus on Asian Studies and International Environmental Affairs

University of Nairobi

Nairobi, Kenya

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Dec 1994-March 1995
Certificate in Environmental Studies

FELLOWSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team Member

Since 2005

- Trained and served on the UN's immediate emergency response team available to deploy to natural disasters and conflicts within 24 to 72 hours.

InterAction Humanitarian Affairs Fellowship Recipient

May 2000-Sept 2000

- Completed fellowship in humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia following 2000 food emergency.

Rockefeller Waterhouse Scholar

June 1997-August 1997

- Completed research on Hinduism and agriculture, and developed an educational CD-ROM in Indonesia.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Centre for Humanitarian Data

The Hague, Netherlands

Board Member

Appointed January 2017

- The Center will increase the use and impact of data in the humanitarian sector by developing policy for shared standards and integrated data systems, increasing the capability of practitioners and operational partners to access and use humanitarian data, build new partnerships in data problem solving, and promoting a data services platform for key decision-makers and leaders in the humanitarian system.

Platform on Disaster Displacement

Geneva, Switzerland

Advisory Committee Member

Appointed October 2016

- The Platform is the main global body undertaking policy and normative development for the millions of people displaced by climate driven disasters.

Girl Determined

Myanmar

On Board of Directors

Appointed March 2016

- Girl Determined is a girl's leadership and empowerment International Non-Governmental Organization.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Charlottesville Virginia

Virginia, USA

On Community Advisory Board

Appointed July 2016

- IRC is a US refugee resettlement Non-Governmental Organization.