

Bintu Zahara Sakor

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PROFILE

Quadrilingual (Norwegian, English, Mandinka and French) researcher and humanitarian professional with an academic background in International Relations and Conflict Resolution. Effective and targeted communicator with 3 years' experience in international humanitarian programme / public policy management, sustainable development, peace-building, immigration, and women's empowerment services on both national and international levels. Adept at producing quality quantitative and qualitative research outputs, building solid relationships across a wide range of professional and cultural backgrounds with efficient fundraising, administrative, statistical and project / grant management skills.

SKILLS & CORE COMPETENCIES

Public Policy Research | Cross-Functional Communications (Writing, Editing, Presentations) | Reporting EU Agencies | Africa / Middle East Political Expert | Gender Mainstreaming Services | Immigration, Refugee, Asylum Programmes | Statistical Analysis | Quantitative / Qualitative Research Methods | Data Collection and Management | Project Evaluation / Monitoring (design and implementation) | Analytical / Numerical | Social Media Content Development | Conferences / Workshops | Grant Proposals | Fundraising | Problem-Solving | Strong Administrative | Critical Thinking | High-Conflict Environments.

IT/Computer Skills: MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) | R | Stata | SPSS | Ifs | LATEX | Photoshop | WordPress.

Languages: Norwegian & Mandinka: *Native Speaker* | English: *Fluent* | French: *Intermediate* | Spanish: *Basic*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant & Data Analyst, The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

01.2019– Present

Securing Victory- Led by Kristian Skrede Gleditsch

- Create global dataset of how some non-violent uprisings help foster democratization while others do not.

Climate Variability and Security Threats- Led by Halvard Buhaug

- Create global dataset of extent of hunger / malnutrition by country and year from available sources at FAO, WFO, etc.
- Assist Halvard in organisation and coordination of project meetings, workshops and other activities of the PRIO CLIMSEC Research group.
- Edit and update the PRIO CLIMSEC Research group's online blog page; and produce quality policy briefs for the blog.

Conflict Trends – Led by Siri Aas Rustad

- Update the existing Conflict trends dataset and contribute to producing policy briefs.
- Assisting in preparing the project's deliverables, and perform other tasks as agreed with the project leaders.

Research and Fundraising Officer, Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD)

12.2017– 12. 2018

- Managed 3 various projects on gender-related issues such as Gender-Based Violence, child marriage and FGM.
- Carry out research on trusts, and develop an active data gathering to facilitate bid writing and donor communications.
- Responsible of developing 7 project proposals and writing grant applications to range of funders.
- Successfully wrote bids for £5.000, £50.000 to £1 million projects.
- Develop all types of fundraising, and marketing campaigns strategies via traditional and digital channels (including individual giving, trust and corporate fundraising initiatives).
- Support with general administration, including data entry, letter and report writing, taking telephone calls.
- Led a 3 weeks online crowdfunding campaign that successfully reached its target of £3.000 and won a match funding of £3.000.

Head of Partnerships, Women in International Affairs Network (WIAN)

09.2017 – 03.2018

- Responsible of identifying and maintaining potential funding and partnership opportunities both in the UK & International.
- Research and produce developed donor thematic strategies; funding plans for grant proposals for the financial year.

Career Break

03.2017 – 12.2017

- Master Degree
- Founding **Sustainable Positive Peace Initiative (SPPI)** - an NGO that conducts in-depth qualitative and quantitative research about women's contribution to Sustainable Development and Peace-building (still in running).

- Peacekeeping & Reconstruction Project Manager**, University of Essex (Government) **03.2016 - 03.2017**
- Organised 2 teaching conferences / workshops on current political affairs and international peacebuilding efforts, including sessions on Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Female Peacekeepers and Gender Equality, were in total more than 30 professionals and students attended.
 - Responsible for effective programme management, including proper scheduling, managing a budget of £8,300, planning, and implementation of travel arrangements and itineraries for key external stakeholders.
 - Successfully managed relationships with senior official from International institutions and non-profit NGOs such as: United Nations Police (UNPOL), UN Peacekeeping Team, Women, Peace and Security Division (DFID).

- Project Manager for Annual Student Conference**, University of Essex (Government) **01.2016 - 04.2016**
- Allocated and coordinated efforts of a team of 8 peers charged with all aspects of a highly successful conference were over 110 students and 30 academics attended; booked recognised speakers across the UK (e.g. Baroness Shami Chakrabarti) and effectively implementing limited resources.
 - Planned, administered, tracked, and reported £5,500 budget while raising additional funds.

- International Field Researcher**, The Peace Research Institution Oslo (PRIO) and Professor Ismene Gizelis (University of Essex)- Monrovia, Liberia **09.2015 - 01.2016**
- Conducted advanced quantitative / qualitative data collection focused on Maternal and Infant Mortality in Liberia.
 - Transcribed more than 50 qualitative interviews and applied data coding techniques for academic analysis.
 - Reviewed and condensed complex information into concise and communicable briefing papers and presentations.
 - Assisted with fundraising and grant management (£10,000).

- Communication and Social Officer**, University of Essex (Pathways) **10.2015 - 03.2016**
- While working on 6 different projects, I collaborated within a multicultural environment, liaising with co-workers and students of different nationalities; managed 1 other co-worker.
 - Designed and updated online databases and social media pages (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts).
 - Handled a wide range of technical functions including database management, communications, services, and support functions.

- Research Assistant**, Dr. Federica Genovese, University of Essex (Government) **07.2015 - 06.2016**
- Completed thorough research on Migration in Southern Europe (Sicily, Italy).
 - Coded numerical data utilising statistical software (Stata) for results interpretation.
 - Presented research findings to fellow academics, covering global and regional policy relevance.

- Project Leader**, Refugee Teaching Program, University of Essex **10.2015 - 03.2016**
- English Language Instruction to Refugees and migrants from various countries; including Nepal, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, and Poland.
 - Advanced leadership, interpersonal, communication, and problem solving capabilities.

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

University of Essex, UK

- MSc Conflict Resolution (Distinction)** **2016 - 2017**
- MSc Thesis: *"Youth Bulges and Non-violent Resistance Onset: A Quantitative Analysis."* Supervisor: Professor Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, who was named one of the "world's most influential minds" (The Highly-Cited Researchers 2014) and a leading expert in Conflict Resolution.
 - Relevant Modules: Advanced Research Methods; Conflict Resolution; Analysis of Public Opinion and Political Behaviour; Colonialism, Culture and Human Rights; Spanish.
 - Faculty of Social Sciences Masters Scholarship, Essex University (£15,500) (2016-2017).

- BA International Relations with Applied Quantitative Method (AQM) (Distinction)** **2013 - 2016**
- BA Thesis: *"Effects of Geography and Emotions on Attitudes towards Immigration in Europe: A Case Study of Italy: Policies in Developing Countries."* Supervisor: Dr. Federica Genovese.
 - Relevant Modules: The EU - Institutions and Policies; Conflict Analysis; International Economy; NGOs and State Building; Political Development in Africa, Asia and Middle East; Future Global Trends: Forecasting Scenarios; French.
 - Dean's List for Excellence, Essex University (2014, 2015, 2016).
 - Faculty of Social Sciences: Celebrating Excellence Awards (For Academic Research) (2016).
 - Big Essex Award (for volunteer and work experiences within the University of Essex) (2015-2016).

REFERENCES

Available upon request.