Kamran L. Hakiman

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Education

PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY   Pittsburgh, PA
PhD Student, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs   2022-present
- International development, international political economy, and political behavior

HARVARD UNIVERSITY   Cambridge, MA
Master in Public Policy, concentration: Political and Economic Development   2016-2018
Thesis (Policy Analysis Exercise, *awarded distinction):*
- *School Management Committees in Sierra Leone: Understanding Motivation and Effectiveness in Decentralized School Management. With* Christy Lowe.
- Partnered with Innovations for Poverty Action to conduct a mixed-method field study across Sierra Leone, including RCT field experiment and semi-structured interviews with school committee members
- Awarded $8,000 in total funding from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Behavioral Insights Group at Harvard University

Affiliations & Activities:
- Behavioral Insights Student Group, leadership committee member 2017-2018
- International Development Interest Council, member 2016-2018
- Experimental Pitch Innovation Competition, 2017; conducted RCT on decision-making under scarcity

MARYVILLE COLLEGE   Maryville, TN
Bachelor of Arts, double major - Philosophy and Religion   2007-2011
- Study Abroad: Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand   Spring 2010
- Undergraduate Thesis**:** *A Bahá'í Perspective of Knowledge and Its Application in Colombia*
- Awards: Spirit of Service Award, highest annual service award at Maryville College (2010-2011); Bonner Scholarship, selective community service scholarship (2008-2011); Multicultural Scholarship (2007-2011)

Publications

Policy Publications

'Living With Two Worrisome Pandemics': How the COVID-19 Pandemic is Shaping Conflict in Nigeria. With Ryan Sheely. Chapter 2 in *A Clash of Contagions: The Impact of COVID-19 on Conflict in Nigeria, Colombia, and Afghanistan.* Ed. Ryan Sheely, Mayesha Alam, and Adam Lichtenheld. Washington, DC: Mercy Corps. June 2021.

Pathways to Good Governance: Supporting Changes in Norms and Behaviors Among Local Decisionmakers in Myanmar. with Ryan Sheely. Research Report. Washington, DC: Mercy Corps. July 2020.

Building Civil Society Through Humanitarian Assistance: Evidence from Investing in Syrian Humanitarian Action. with Kim Howe and Ryan Sheely. Research Brief. Washington, DC: Mercy Corps. January 2020.

Local Governance Amidst a Pandemic: The Role of Ward and Village Tract Administrators in Myanmar's COVID-19 Response. Research Report. Yangon, Myanmar: Mercy Corps-Myanmar. July 2021. (*Not publicly available due to political sensitivity, contact for copy).*

Works in Progress

Developing a Problem-based Theory of Community Driven Development: Positing an Initial Framework via a Case Study of the SUN Program in Kabul, Afghanistan. Working Paper.

Devolving Devolution: Does Introducing Ward-level Participatory Processes Increase Local Accountability via Institutional Embeddedness in Post-Devolution Kenya? Working Paper.

Experience

RESEARCHER - GOVERNANCE   2019 - 2022

Mercy Corps: New York, NY & Washington, DC • *significant fieldwork*: **Myanmar, Kenya**, **Afghanistan, Ethiopia**

- Assisted in developing a research agenda exploring governance interventions engaging community and local institutions, focus on developing more realistically complex yet testable causal accounts
- **Kenya (2021):** Co-lead researcher (with Ryan Sheely) for a study in Kenya, examining effects of participatory budgeting on political economy at ward and county level, examining whether corrupt behavior is marginally constrained at smaller geographic units, due to increased visibility and/or normative pressure to provide for more proximate in-groups (e.g. village vs. county)
- **Myanmar (2020-2021)**: Lead researcher for a national-level study on local governance in Myanmar during COVID response and 2020 national elections, focused on democratic norms and social cohesion at ward and village level. Trained and managed a research team to conduct longitudinal interviews of local governance leaders (n=115) across three waves. Coding and analysis using NVivo. In partnership with the Centre for Good Governance.
- **Nigeria and Afghanistan (2021)**: Co-author for a comparative report on COVID's effects on governance institutions and conflict in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Colombia
- **Myanmar and Jordan (2020-2021)**: Co-PI for a £100,000 grant (with Reva Dhingra and Ryan Sheely) awarded from Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning for a comparative study of governance trainings in Myanmar and Jordan. *Not completed — suspended due to coup Feb. 2021*
- **Kabul, Afghanistan (2020-2021)**: Lead researcher exploring the construction of democratic norms within a participatory development program in Kabul, Afghanistan. Formative field research carried out in November 2020-March 2021. *Not completed — research halted due to Taliban takeover August 2021*
- **Myanmar (2019):** Designed and led a pilot field study investigating causal mechanisms underlying normative good governance training in Kayah State, Myanmar

RESEARCH ASSISTANT - QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS (part-time)   Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

University of Amsterdam, Professor Abbey Steele, New York, NY

- Conducted large-N quantitative analysis of complex, longitudinal data regarding IDP migration from 1998-2006 in Colombia, investigating its effect on municipal governance outcomes using an original dataset by Abbey Steele, Jake Shapiro, and Juan Vargas

GRADUATE RESEARCH INTERN   Summer 2017

Harvard University, **Center for International Development:** Cambridge, MA • Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Assisted with research effort based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to increase female employment among Saudi nationals, through a Harvard University partnership with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labor
- Prototyped behavioral experiments and surveys to better understand female labor participation
- Conducted field study interviewing with female welfare (Hafiz) recipients

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH   2013 - 2016

Telesis Corporation / Neighborhood Associates: Washington, DC

- Responsible for assessing and producing research relevant to programming in low-income communities
- Led a a ten-month qualitative narrative study across seven communities in DC, VA, PA, and KY
- Created and maintained annual demographic and statistical reports for all national housing communities (in DC, VA, PA, KY, CA, FL) leveraging proprietary and national data
- Managed relationships with foundations and university partners in research-related grant initiatives

- Data collection to support grant-funded programming. E.g. for a pilot urban hydroponic gardening in Southeast DC, in collaboration with the University of DC

CONSULTANT (Short term)   Summer 2014
World Bank Group: Washington, DC
- Provided content and technical assistance to the 2014 Understanding Risk (UR2014) Forum in London

STATEWIDE POLICYOPTIONS COORDINATOR (AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader)   2011- 2013
Bonner Foundation: Princeton, NJ
- Led a foundation funded statewide pilot program (NJ PolicyOptions initiative) to connect research and analytics capacity of major universities to local and state policy issues

INTERN   Summer 2009
US Bahá'í Office of External Affairs: Washington, DC
- Supported research and advocacy on sustainable development, women's rights, and religious rights

SKILLS
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Survey development
- Causal process tracing
- Mixed method research design

- Programming: proficient – NVivo, STATA, R
-                           basic – HTML, UNIX, Git