

Renna Bazlen

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EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University

New York, NY

Master of Arts (MA), International Educational Development

May 2023

Emphasis in International Humanitarian Issues

- **Advisor:** Dr. S. Garnett Russell
- **Thesis:** Fostering Community in Displacement: Migrant Parents' Experiences with Informal Early Childhood Education in Tijuana, Mexico
- **Awards:** Dean's Grant for Student Research; Carmela and Marie F. Volpe Fellowship for International Service in Education; George W. Perkins Memorial Scholarship

University of Arizona, College of Education

Tucson, AZ

Bachelor of Science (BS), Literacy, Learning and Leadership

May 2018

Minors in Spanish and Business Administration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack

Remote

Research Consultant

Jan 2023 – Present

- Conduct in-depth research on changes affecting the political, social, and humanitarian contexts in South America, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa in 2022 and 2023.
- Write one-page briefs detailing humanitarian contexts including attacks on education for 17 countries including Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Turkey for the Education Under Attack 2024 report.
- Conduct research for a scoping paper on attacks on education perpetrated by non-state armed groups including specific cases of armed groups attacking and safeguarding education.

Teachers College, Columbia University

New York, NY

Research Assistant

Oct 2021 – Jun 2023

INEE E-3 and Dubai Cares funded project: *Education for Transitional Justice, Reconciliation, and Peacebuilding: The Case of Colombia* (PI: Dr. S. Garnett Russell).

- Co-developed a qualitative codebook that covers themes such as armed conflict, transitional justice, and peacebuilding, iteratively developed from the corpus of 238 interviews with students and teachers.
- Qualitatively coded 36 interviews in Spanish using NVivo software with the codebook that was co-developed by the nine-member research team.
- Inputted 300+ 98-question surveys for 13 schools across three regions of Colombia.

Teachers College, Columbia University

New York, NY

Monitoring and Evaluation

Jan 2023 – May 2023

Columbia World Projects funded project: *Ubumwe: Arts for Education and Psychosocial Support with Refugee Children and Youth* (PIs: Dr. Mary Mendenhall and Dr. Juliana Bol).

- Designed a monitoring and evaluation framework including a theory of change, indicators, monitoring tools and an evaluation inception report to be implemented alongside a pilot arts education curriculum to bolster psychosocial and educational outcomes in Kyangwali refugee settlement in Western Uganda.
- Collaborated with three national partner organizations in Uganda, two New York based art education NGOs, and the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health to ensure feasibility, relevance and sustainability of the monitoring and evaluation plan.

International Rescue Committee

Amman, Jordan

Ahlan Simsim Scaling and Learning Consultant

May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Collected and analyzed data on the scaling processes such as the institutionalization of curriculum by Ministries of Education for the Ahlan Simsim early childhood development project in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria.
- Developed a visual data analysis tool to analyze internal investments in governance and coordination, local needs, flexible adaptation, policy implementation, and financing in comparison to scaling outcomes within each country and across the region.

Teachers College, Columbia University*Research Assistant***New York, NY***Jan 2022 – Jul 2022*

EU-funded initiative: *Building Resilience in Crises through Education (BRiCE)* on teacher and student well-being in Uganda and South Sudan (PI: Dr. Mary Mendenhall).

- Transcribed and qualitatively open coded 10 student and teacher interviews to identify emerging themes and inform the co-development of a qualitative codebook.
- Wrote a memo based on qualitative data analysis of key informant interviews covering the challenges and opportunities that COVID-19 had on their work.
- Managed the data organization of 192 student and teacher interviews in Uganda and South Sudan.

Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack*Research Consultant***New York, NY***Dec 2021 – Jun 2022**Graduate Research Intern**Sept 2021 – Dec 2021*

- Conducted research and qualitative data analysis on attacks on education in South Asia, the Middle East and Africa in 2021 to contribute to the Education Under Attack 2022 report.
- Wrote, edited and fact-checked 10 country profiles for the Education Under Attack 2022 report.
- Drafted and edited the introduction for a case study report on military use of schools in Myanmar.

Plan International*Volunteer Research Assistant***Remote***Nov 2021 – Jan 2022*

- Conducted qualitative and quantitative data analysis of surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews to prepare a summary of data trends as part of a multi-sector needs assessment in Northeast Nigeria as part of Plan International's ECHO grant proposal.
- Collaborated with a small team of Teachers College, Columbia University students to share data findings with Plan International's technical staff in Nigeria and Finland.

International Rescue Committee*Career Development Specialist***San Jose, CA***Dec 2020 – Aug 2021*

- Managed a caseload of 70+ resettled refugee clients; provided one-on-one career counseling including service planning, goal setting, resource mapping, and enrollment in industry recognized certifications.
- Designed a 2-week work readiness training program for 15 newly resettled refugees; cultivated employer and community partner relationships, oversaw participating staff, and developed curriculum.
- Created the professional mentor program; coached volunteers to work with clients and provided guidance to strengthen mentor relationships.

Youth Connections Coach*Jun 2020 – Nov 2020*

- Implemented the youth mentoring program for 40 resettled refugee youth (15-24 years old), designed educational workshops and managed mentor relationships.
- Coordinated and facilitated the summer empowerment program for 18 refugee and immigrant girls to promote confidence and college and career readiness.

Reading Partners*AmeriCorps Site Coordinator***San Francisco, CA***Aug 2019 – Jun 2020*

- Managed the literacy intervention tutoring center at Sanchez Elementary School (Title I) for 52 students.
- Evaluated student data to create individualized reading plans targeting specific areas for growth.
- Trained, scheduled, and oversaw 70+ community volunteers working individually with students to ensure quality delivery of literacy interventions that aligned with common core state standards in phonics, fluency, decoding, and comprehension strategies.

SKILLS

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Proficient)

Software Competencies: Microsoft Office, NVivo, UCINET, Google Suite, Box drive, Zoom

PUBLISHED RESOURCES

- Mendenhall, M., Chopra, V., & Bazlen, R. (Eds.) (2022). Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Education in Emergencies (EiE): A Compendium of Vignettes for Research and Practice. Teachers College, Columbia University.