

KATHERINE BARTUSKA

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor

Blacksburg, VA

Virginia Tech Department of Economics

Fall 2025

- Design and deliver undergraduate level course on the economics of gender
- Develop course materials, syllabi, assignments, and exams aligned with institutional learning objectives
- Foster an engaging online classroom environment that encourages critical thinking and application of economic theory

Gender, Age, and Social Inclusion (GASI) Advisor

Washington, DC

Institutional Support Contractor to USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

Aug 2024 - Jan 2025

Previously: Jr. Technical Specialist

Feb 2023 - July 2024

- Ensured all humanitarian programming in Central Africa, Western Africa, and Southern Africa (\$3 billion annually) is accessible to marginalized communities by advising BHA teams and partners
- Produced evidenced-based communications materials—including talking points, reports, and presentations—for U.S. government, UN, and public-facing audiences on gender equity in humanitarian assistance
- Developed, managed, and disseminated learning from \$7 million in global programming focused on advocacy, capacity sharing, and learning for grassroots women-led organizations (WLOs)
- Reviewed over 500 grant proposals annually, focusing on gender, age, disability, and community engagement requirements
- Trained 60+ staff on social inclusion to inform programming and practice
- Formulated innovative strategies to increase country team funding to local organizations led by marginalized communities, resulting in a 700% increase in funding to WLOs
- Built and maintained partnerships with NGOs, civil society organizations, donors, and UN agencies to advance evidence based, locally driven programming
- Served as expert and coordinated with key USAID, BHA, and external stakeholders on gender, localization, climate, youth, and women, peace, and security

Protection & Community Capacities (PCC) Division Program Assistant

Washington, DC

Institutional Support Contractor to USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

Sept 2019 - Jan 2023

- Developed, managed, and monitored global award portfolio totaling \$30 million, piloting new approaches on inclusion and safe programming
- Oversaw end-to-end award processes, including drafting programmatic memos, assembling award packages, and coordinating with internal and external stakeholders to finalize agreements
- Reviewed partner proposals for compliance with BHA policies and guidelines, ensuring adherence to technical and operational standards
- Updated and maintained award data in BHA-internal database (Abacus) and Excel, analyzed and synthesized key programming trends
- Facilitated regular engagement with NGOs and UN agencies, contributing to strategic discussions on programming priorities and partnership opportunities
- Completed monitoring trip to Mozambique to assess implementation of programming
- Mentored and trained 5 new Program Assistants on BHA systems and requirements
- Served as the office representative in the BHA-wide Acquisition & Assistance Working Group, ensuring that interests and priorities were clearly articulated in acquisition and assistance policy and guidance
- Provided operational support for virtual, hybrid, and in-person meetings and events from 5-250

USAID Detail Experience:

Administrative Coordinator (AC) – Sudan Response Management Team
Afghanistan Response Management Team

Aug - Oct 2023
Jan - Mar 2022

- Arranged travel logistics for staff, updated policies and guidance, and managed administrative budget
- Served as senior AC, supervised and trained an Administrative Officer

Research Assistant

Penn State Department of Economics

University Park, PA
May 2019 - Sept 2019

- Conducted desk research, collected qualitative data, and synthesized literature pertaining to collusion and competition policy
- Quantified and analyzed data, identified trends, and created figures and presentations to show findings
- Contributed to Kovacic, Marshall, and Meurer's "Patents and Price Fixing by Serial Colluders," Journal of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law (June 2021)

Public Affairs Intern

USAID's Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

Washington, DC
June 2018 - Aug 2018

- Supported external digital communications by capturing success stories and composing social media posts across all USAID sectors
- Drafted engagement plans and narratives highlighting impact, including a social media toolkit for USAID's Youth Month

EDUCATION

American University School of International Service

Master of Arts in International Development

Washington, DC
May 2024

Certificate in Humanitarian Policy and Practice, Concentration in Gender
2024 SIS Outstanding Professional Contribution Award Recipient

The Pennsylvania State University

Bachelor of Arts in International Politics with Honors

University Park, PA
May 2019

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Cum Laude

Minor in History, Concentration in International Political Economy

The Schreyer Honors College, Paterno Fellows Program

Undergraduate Thesis: "The Effect of Economic Sanctions on Respect for Human Rights"

2019 Pi Sigma Alpha Best Thesis Award, 2019 The Center for Global Studies Outstanding Thesis Award

SKILLS, LANGUAGES, & ORGANIZATIONS

Software: Microsoft Suite (Office, PowerPoint, Excel), Adobe Acrobat, Abacus/AAMP (Grantmaking databases), R, Stata, Tableau, Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, X)

Languages: English (native), Italian (intermediate proficiency)

Organizations: Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation (Volunteer); Clarendon Run Club (Group Leader)