

Curriculum vitae

Dr. Sarah Zaidi

Current Address:

Lahore University of Management Sciences  
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Education:

Doctorate in Science, November 1993, Harvard School of Public Health (Boston, MA)

Sc.D. in Population and International Health

Thesis: "Maternal-fetal competition in situations of limited nutritional intake: the role of glucose on the production of placental proteins --Human placental lactogen and Insulin-like growth factor-I"

Thesis supervisors: Dr(s). Rachel Snow, Lincoln Chen, Linda Heffner, and Iain Aitken

Teaching Assistant for PIH 238: Health Economics (January-May 1991)

Minor concentration in Biostatistics and Child Survival

Masters in Science, June 1990, Harvard School of Public Health (Boston, MA)

MSc. in Population Studies

Advisor: Dr. Rose Frisch

Bachelor of Arts, May 1987, Brown University (Providence, RI)

B.A. in self-designed concentration: Hunger, Health, and Disease in Developing Countries

Honors Thesis: "Endemic Cholera in the Gangetic Delta"

Thesis supervisors: Dr(s). Stanley Aronson, Charles C. Carpenter and Lucille Newman

Minor concentration in Biology

Experience:

Project Coordinator, Relief Information Systems Earthquakes Pakistan (RISE-Pak) (January 2006 to present)

Currently coordinating activities of RISE-Pak, a network of institutions and individuals, working on issues related to the October 2005 earthquake in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan. Duties include defining the RISE-Pak agenda, focus, and fundraising; collection and analysis of data related to damages, relief, compensation, and reconstruction; report writing; supervision of full-time and part-time research staff; coordination with Lahore University of Management Sciences and international faculty, district field offices and military divisions in the earthquake affected areas, and international and local relief organizations, and applying new technologies for managing information and communication.

Independent Research and Writer (2005)

I conducted the research and wrote the first draft of a co-authored book on the history of human rights at the United Nations to be published by Indiana University Press in 2007. The book examines present a critical history of the development of human rights in the United Nations system, beginning with the establishment of an interdependent and indivisible set of human rights with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It further discusses the increasing politicization of human rights during the Cold War period, the subsequent gap between the proliferation of human rights norms and the relative weakness of enforcement mechanisms, and the reintegration of a holistic vision of human rights in the last decade through the process of "mainstreaming" human rights in the UN system. It concludes with an assessment of future human rights challenges, in particular the growing human rights impact of non-

state actors such as international financial institutions and private corporations. The book is part of a larger series of an intellectual history project managed by members of the Ralph Bunche Center at the City University of New York. I participated in several critical discussions and seminars related to this book and provided written critiques of several other topics under consideration such as women, human security, and international development

Acting Executive Director (2004) Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)  
Research/Managing Director, (1993 to 2003)

I served as Co-founder and Director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights, a non-profit organization that promotes social justice through the application of international human rights law. CESR works in collaboration with individuals and communities seeking to better their economic and social conditions by establishing linkages between international scientists, public advocates and local non-governmental organizations. Duties included writing proposals, preparing budgets, analyzing scientific and social data, designing surveys, conducting field missions, preparing reports, overseeing staff performances and personnel development, ensuring smooth management of CESR offices in New York and Ecuador, ensuring fiscal responsibility and annual audit, and other administrative and managerial responsibilities. I designed and worked on field research projects in Latin America, United States, and the Middle East. My areas of expertise were research and analysis on conflicts, sanctions, health, water, women, and the environment in relation to international human rights and humanitarian law. I also initiated and planned the International Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), serving as the main person (1998-2002) responsible for its development from an idea to a functional network with mechanisms of governance, selection of staff, thematic areas of pursuit, and website design. The website was the first-ever to include a database on legal cases concerning economic, social and cultural rights adjudication in domestic and international law.

Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (July 1997)

I served as the public health specialist in FAO Mission to Iraq that assessed the impact of the “food-for-oil” resolution on the population. Information was collected on the impact of humanitarian assistance on food and medicine procurement, and subsequent nutritional impact. I designed, organized and conducted a child and adult nutrition survey in Baghdad and Kerbala with the World Food Program and the Nutrition Research Institute. I interviewed several Ministers, including the Minister of Trade, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, and Minister of Agriculture, the Planning Commissioner of Iraq, the Mayor of Baghdad, Governors and Ministers from Kurdish-controlled region of Suleimaniyah and Arbil, UN representatives and various NGOs directors. The Mission debriefed FAO in Iraq and Italy and I was the main author of the situation report prepared for WFP and FAO.

Consultant, Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies, Brown University (January-June 1996)

I served as the development consultant for the Humanitarianism and War Project case study on Haiti. I spent a month in Haiti investigating the impact of sanctions on Haitians. The study reviewed international involvement in Haiti during the decade beginning in 1986. I examined the effects of international aid and sanctions on grass roots and community-based groups. The research was based on original data gathered through interviews in Haiti, New York City, and Washington, D.C. In addition, I was also involved in assessing the effects of sanctions on the humanitarian situation in Haiti. The findings of this investigation were published as a chapter in a book on sanctions and as an official study for the Watson Institute.

Consultant, United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) (February 1996)

I critiqued and reviewed a study on the impact of UN sanctions on humanitarian activities.

Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (August 1995)

I was the public health specialist in FAO Mission to Iraq that assessed the impact of sanctions on the population. I designed the field research for collecting information on agricultural production, food and medicine imports, availability and access to food and subsequent nutritional impact. I designed, organized, conducted, and analyzed the child mortality and nutrition survey in Baghdad with the Nutrition Research Institute. We held several meetings with the Ministers of Trade, Labor and Social Welfare, Health and Agriculture, the Planning Commissioner, the Mayor of Baghdad, Governors and Ministers from Basrah, Najaf and Kerbala in the south and Suleimaniyah, Dohuk and Arbil in the north, UN representatives and

members of various local and international NGOs. The Mission debriefed FAO and prepared a situation report. The work was later published in reputable journals on health and nutrition.

Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (November 1993)

I coordinated the health and nutrition survey for the FAO Mission to Iraq that assessed the nutritional status of the Iraqi population and designed a nutritional surveillance system that would be managed by the United Nations and the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in Iraq. Designed and conducted mortality, child and adult nutritional surveys, collected information on prices, and presented findings to the heads of the UN offices in Iraq and the FAO offices in Italy.

Project Director, Environment Health Mission to Ecuador (April-May 1993)

I designed and conducted a study to investigate the health impact of oil contamination in the regions of Napo and Sucumbios in Ecuador. I also selected the team that undertook this mission. Together we analyzed the results, prepared a report, and organized a press conference in March 1994 on the human consequences of oil development. The report has helped initiate a dialogue between the Government of Ecuador and local environmental and indigenous groups.

Public Health Supervisor, Mission to Post-Gulf War Iraq (August 1991-April 1992)

I was one member of a four member team that designed, executed, and prepared a national study on infant and child mortality and nutritional status of Iraqi children after the Gulf War. I was involved in training 34 Jordanian students and 7 international supervisors on data collection and survey methods in order to obtain maternal histories for mortality analysis and nutritional measurements on children under five.

Consultant, USAID Project on Child Mortality in Pakistan (June-August 1991)

In collaboration with Dr. Michel Garenne, I analyzed census and demographic health survey data on infant and child mortality in Pakistan for an on-going project on child survival. We observed that over 80 percent of deaths in the first year were a result of neonatal tetanus.

Research Assistant for Issues on Contraceptive Policy (August-October 1990)

I researched the population policies of Thailand, Japan, and Pakistan for a paper presented by Rachel Snow and Lincoln Chen at the Population Association of America conference in Washington, D.C.

Research Assistant for Gender, Politics and Population Policy (August 1990-June 1991)

I assisted in organizing a seminar series on the politics of gender and population policy. Issues presented were: RU486, US policy on abortion, contraceptive choice for women in developing countries, and advances in (or lack of) contraceptive technologies.

Research Associate for Commission on Global Health Research (September 1988-May 1990)

I collected and analyzed data on expenditures for health research in developing and developed countries under the supervision of Chris Murray.

### Fellowships:

Population Council Fellowship (1992-1993)

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship for Leadership Development (1990-1991)

### Academic Publications:

“Human Rights Ideas at the U.N.--The Political History of Universal Justice” (Indiana University Press: forthcoming Spring 2007) with Roger Normand

“Health, Rights and Justice,” *Ethics and International Affairs* (Book Review of Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor by Paul Farmer) (Winter 2004).

“Neoliberal Trade and Investment and the Health of Maquiladora Workers on the US-Mexico Border”, in Dying for Growth (J.Kim, J.Millen, A.Irwin, and J.Gershman eds.). (Common Courage Press, 1999) (with J.Brenner, J.Ross, and J.Simmons)

“Haiti: Impact of the Coup and Sanctions on Civilians,” in Political Gain and Civilian Pain (D. Cortright, G.Lopez, L.Minear, and T.Weiss eds.) (1997).

“Child Mortality in Iraq Reanalyzed,” *Lancet* (letters to the editor): (October, 1997).

“The effects of oil contamination in the Ecuadorian Amazon,” official report to U.S. District Court in White Plains, N.Y. on behalf of the Ecuadorian indigenous groups in a case against Texaco, (January 1996) (with T. LaMontagne, S. Kales and L. Azaroff)

“Oil development in the Ecuadorian Amazon: a challenge to legal thinking,” *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* (Fall 1994)

“Rights violations in the Ecuadorian Amazon: The human consequences of oil development,” 1(1) *Health and Human Rights Quarterly* 82 (1994) (with C. Jochnick and R. Normand)

“Conflict and Sanctions: Iraq 1991-1994,” *Medicine and Global Survival* (Fall 1994)

“Effect of the Gulf War on infant and child mortality in Iraq,” 327 *New England Journal of Medicine* 931 (April 1992) (with members of the International Study Team)

### Select Other Publications:

#### *RISE-PAK Reports:*

Damage and Relief: Findings of the Winter Survey (June 2006)

Technical Assessment of District Level Data (Feb. 2006)

#### *CESR Reports:*

US Health Care System: The right to health equity (2004)

The Human Costs of War in Iraq (2003)

Water Under Siege in Iraq (2003)

Human Rights and Reconstruction in Afghanistan (2002)

A General Comment on Women's Economic Equality (1999)

UN-Sanctioned Suffering: A Human Rights Assessment of United Nations Sanction on Iraq (1996)

Rights Violations in the Ecuadorian Amazon: The Human Consequences of Oil Development (1994)

#### *CESR Newsletter and Factsheets:*

Newsletters 1996-1998; 2001-2002

Fact sheets on: Overview of the Iraq crisis, Costs and Consequences of War in Iraq, Weapons of Mass Destruction:

Assessing the Iraqi Threat (2003); The Right to Water (2003); The Afghanistan Crisis (2002)

### Other Experience:

Numerous television and radio interviews; public speaking and debates; reports and short opinion pieces in popular magazines and newspapers; skilled with computers; website and layout; and photography.

Languages: English, Urdu, and Spanish (reading only).