

Mellon/ACLS 
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

Job Title:	Research and Policy Advisor
Organization:	Oxfam America
Location:	Washington, D.C.
Start Date:	September 1, 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Oxfam is a confederation of 19 affiliate organizations globally with a core mission to support lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. Oxfam takes a partner-based, rights-based approach to this work through humanitarian assistance, long term development programs, policy advocacy and campaigning.

Oxfam seeks to understand how shifts in global power, particularly China, Brazil, Russia, and India's growing global influence, are re-shaping international development. Like others, Oxfam is observing how changes wrought by the rise of emerging powers affect international order, global cooperation, human rights, and the traditional state-led approach to development. We anticipate these changes will challenge established ways of financing development and global efforts to fight poverty and promote social justice. An analysis of these changes, which includes views from the global south, explores historical analogy and examines development trends, and will provide greater clarity to discussions often characterized by simplistic accounts. Oxfam will use its unique vantage point as a global organization to appraise the effect of these changes on Oxfam's (and the world's) efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality and use these findings to develop strategic programming and advocacy. Learn more at <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/>

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Oxfam seeks a Research and Policy Advisor to assist in understanding the changing landscape of global development in the context of the current geo-political shifts. The advisor will work to support the development of analytical vantage points by which Oxfam can interrogate the changes taking place in international development that result from these shifts. The interrogation should question the changing balance of power among actors in the global system, and the changing influence of multinational stakeholders, which result from this change. The intention in doing so is to support the development of relevant policy and advocacy responses considering Oxfam's basic mission as it pertains to priority areas for Oxfam America: eradicating poverty, confronting inequality, attaining gender justice, addressing climate change, and upholding human rights.

This advisor will identify and explore this issue using a variety of methods and approaches. These include but are not limited to reviews of literature describing the nature and scale of geopolitical change, reviews of literature documenting the impacts of analogous shifts in geopolitical power, and efforts to detail trends in international development which are driven by shifts in the global geopolitical system. The advisor will be pushed to consider these dynamics from the vantage point of low and middle income countries and the people and communities within those countries. The research team welcomes candidates from disciplines that explore political actors and dynamics through historical and cultural disciplinary lenses. Lastly, the current strategic framework at Oxfam encourages the use of intersectional feminist theories, and to include reading from authors publishing outside the United States and in particular from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Ideally the advisor will be able to articulate the dominant pathways by which shifts in

global power is shaping Oxfam's priorities, and what tools Oxfam should be exploring in order to advance our efforts to pursue human rights and poverty alleviation.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Managing a small portfolio of research projects (which includes conducting research and analysis for select ones)
- Translating research into materials for Oxfam
- Attending external meetings on relevant issues and communicating findings
- Networking with other organizations and research institutions
- Disseminating/communicating work internally for use

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Demonstrated experience researching geopolitical changes in international systems;
- Understanding of international development, postcolonial history and politics, and/or historical geopolitics;
- Background and interest in feminist theory and intersectionality;
- Strong interpersonal communications and writing skills;
- Strong analytical and research skills; and
- Strong research communications skills.

Preferred

- Proficiency in Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, or a language spoken on the Indian subcontinent;
- Data visualization skills a plus.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow receives an annual stipend of \$70,000, as well as access to employer-based health insurance through the host organization. In addition, ACLS provides funds for relocation and professional development. Fellows receive professional mentoring and participate in career development programming, both in-person and virtually.

APPLICATIONS

- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 18, 2020, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time