

ANGELA R. PASHAYAN, PH.D.
Experiential Learning
Student Thesis & Defense Support
Field Research Specialist
Professorial Lecturer

Washington, DC - info@angelapashayan.com

CURRICULUM VITAE - 2025

EDUCATION:

PhD -Howard University, Washington, DC (2021)
Political Science / International Relations - Honors Graduate
Specialization: International Development and Extreme Poverty Reduction

MA -Norwich University, Burlington, VT
International Relations & Diplomacy, Honors Graduate
Specialization: International Commerce and Cross-cultural Relations

BA -Richmond University. London, England
Degree conferred through UCLA
BA -University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Psychology, Department of Social Sciences

DISSERTATION:

A Different Approach to Extreme Poverty Reduction
An analysis of the communication disconnect between development professionals and residents of the Mukuru Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. Theoretical framework: Paolo Freire.

Link: <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2716515245?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true>

Support by:

John Simon-Former Ambassador to the African Union, Susan Fine-Former Deputy Administrator of USAID, Patrick Fine-Former CEO of FHi360.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS AND HONORS:

2022-26 UN Special Consultative Status, ECOSOC
2021 The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Writing Fellow \$7500
2020 Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellow (FLAS), Howard University \$5500
2019 Just-Julian Research Fellow, Howard University \$60,000
2018 StartingBloc, USC Marshall School of Business & Social Entrepreneurship \$2500
2018 Global Peoples Fellow, UN General Assembly International Forum
2016 NAACP Meritorious Women, Los Angeles Chapter
2014 V.P., Sigma Iota Rho International Affairs Academic Scholars, Norwich University
2014 Leadership Summit, Norwich University

COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH GRANTS:

2023 American University Dean's Grant (\$5000.00)

2022 Women Forward International, interdisciplinary research internationally, \$15,000

2020 The Knight Foundation, Howard University team under Dr. Middlemass \$250,000

Black and Urban [Digital Protections](#) and Democratic Knowledge in Washington, DC

CORE RESEARCH THEMES

- Slum Economics and Systems of Informality
- Urban Governance and Citizen Resistance
- Disinformation, Trust, and Social Protest in Marginalized Communities
- Post-AID Development Futures

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT & PEER REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP:

Books

PASHAYAN, A. R. (n.d.). *Development in Africa's informal settlements below the proletariat*. Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/Development-Africas-Informal-Settlements-Proletariat/dp/1648897746/> ISBN 978-1-64889-836-5

VOTED #1 BEST SUMMER READ, 2024 - JOHNS HOPKINS SAIS

Book Chapters

PASHAYAN, A.R. Jan. 2025. A Casebook for Comparative Politics - Kenya. Minnesota State University Collaborative Publication. <https://minnstate.pressbooks.pub/comparativepoliticscases/>

PASHAYAN, A. R. 2021. "ICT in Africa," in *Introduction to Contemporary Africa*, by Anita Plummer and Msia Kibona-Clark. **Howard University African Studies 101**, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/introduction-contemporary-africa>

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 May. Pashayan, A.R. The New Frontier of International Development Podcast. Conversations with Development Experts on the New Era of Global Aid. <https://open.spotify.com/show/3X5aKUVgQ5XopVnIJbdUyx>

2025 March. Pashayan, A.R. A New World Order. https://substack.com/profile/72924383-ar-pashayan/note/c-121746899?utm_source=substack&utm_content=first-note-modal

2024 August. Pashayan, Professor A. R. How debt and taxes conspired to rob Nairobi's slum dwelling youth of the promise of a Better Life. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/how-debt-and-taxes-conspired-to-rob-nairobis-slum-dwelling-youth-of-the-promise-of-a-better-life-237007>

2024 March. Murumba, R., and Pashayan, A. Political Trust in Informal Settlements in the Age of Coronavirus and Beyond: Experiences in Mukuru - Nairobi, Kenya. *Frontiers in Political Science*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/political-science/articles/10.3389/fpos.2024.1331229/full>

2024 January. Pashayan, A. “Brookings Foresight Africa 2024 - Urbanization and Informal Settlements” - Brookings Institution, Africa Growth Initiative. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/informal-settlements-and-climate-change-in-the-last-mile-of-urbanization/>

2023 March. Pashayan, A., Kehlenbach, E., Ye, H., Mueller, G., & Willis, C. (2023). The Realities Facing Graduate Students: Before, During, and After the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 1-7. [doi:10.1017/S1049096523000252](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000252).

2021-22 October. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientist, Disruptive Technologies. An online pandemic: disinformation targeted at Black communities. doi: <https://thebulletin.org/2021/10/an-online-pandemic-disinformation-targeted-at-black-communities/>

2021-22 September-December. The Minotaur Group, Geopolitical Think Tank, 20 articles.

2021 October 28. TV appearance: BNC.TV. Mis/Disinformation targeted at communities of color. https://fb.watch/8_n7kCjgk/

2021 May Newsletter. Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA)

2021 April-June. “The Influence of Nationalism on PanAfricanism.” *Journal of African Studies and Development*. Vol.13(2): 43-46, ISSN 2141-2189. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5897/JASD2019.0544>

2021 June 15. Center for African Studies, Howard University. Howard in Africa Map, Research Interactive Map. <https://cfas.howard.edu/resources/howard-africa-map>

2021 April 16. Department of State, Feed the Future Initiative - Agri-Links. <https://www.agrilinks.org/post/integrating-persons-disabilities-rwanda-mission-success-story>

2021 March 4. Department of State, Feed the Future Initiative - Agri-Links. <https://agrilinks.org/post/women-are-creating-food-security-informal-settlements-nairobi-kenya>

2021 Feb.1. *Foreign Policy Magazine*. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/02/01/propaganda-russia-trump-misinformation-capitol-riot/>

2021 Sept. 10. *Telluride Magazine*. <https://telluridemagazine.com/being-black-in-telluride/>

2020 June 20. *Foreign Policy Magazine*. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/20/trump-antifa-terrorist-organization-kkk-white-supremacy/>

2020 May 27. Lobo, Pedro. “Unraveling the ‘African Silicon Valley’ in Kenya.” Sao Paulo: Brazil. Laboratori, *Journalismo Junior*. Retrieved at <http://jornalismojunior.com.br/desvendando-o-vale-do-silicio-africano-no-kenia/>

2020 April 15. “Human Development, Local Specificities and Foreign Aid; Development in the New Frontier (post COVID-19).” 2020 International Science Council and UNDP Global discussion on re-articulating Human Development. <https://council.science/human-development/latest-contributions/>

2020 Feb. 27-28. Global Academic Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. International Conference on African Studies “Politics and livelihoods in the slums of Kenya; a case study on perspectives of development professionals.”

2020 April 16-19. Mid-Western Political Science Association, Chicago.
“Politics and International Development in African slums; effectiveness in Nairobi.”

2019 July. “The Participatory Structures of Poverty in Africa,” *International NGO Journal*. 14, no. 5 (July 2019): 47-51, <https://doi.org/10.5897/INGOJ2019.0338> 915views/399 downloads

Working Papers

“Gender Realities in Africa’s Informal Settlements.” *For submission* to Journal of Asian and African Studies

“Community-led Development in the Informal Settlements.” *For submission* to African Studies Review or Journal of African Affairs

CONFERENCE / PRESENTATIONS:

- 2024 **International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference:**
Full paper presentation, San Francisco, CA. April 3-6.
- 2023 **American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference:**
Panelist, DEI and Misinformation. Los Angeles, CA. Sept 3-6.
- 2022 **International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP):** “Disinformation, Racism, and Psychological Justification: An American Security Issue.” Athens, Greece. July 13-16. Paper Presentation.
- 2022 **American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR):** “Attitudes and Opinions on Aid and Poverty Reduction; Mukuru Slum - Nairobi, Kenya.” Chicago, IL. May 11-13. Paper Presentation.
- 2022 **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA):** “Race, Disinformation and the Psychology of Justification.” Chicago, IL. April 7-10. Paper Presentation
- 2022 **Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference (SPSA):** “Security in the New Frontier: Race, Disinformation and the Psychology of Justification.” San Antonio, TX. January 12-15. Paper Presentation.
- 2021 **Club de Madrid International Annual Policy Dialog:** “Rethinking Democracy: A Global Agenda for Democratic Renewal.” Washington, DC. October 18-20. Think-Piece Presentation.
- 2021 **Cathy Hughes School of Communication, Howard University:** “Mis/Disinformation & Black Communities in Washington, DC.” Washington, DC. September 30- October 1. Research Brief - Presentation.
- 2021 **International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP):** “Politics, Psychology and International Development in African Slums; effectiveness in Nairobi, Kenya.” Montreal, Canada. July 15-17. Paper Presentation.
- 2021 **International Studies Association (ISA), West Coast Annual Conference:** “Politics and International Development in African Slums pre and post COVID-19: Nairobi, Kenya.” Las Vegas, NV. April 6-9. Paper Presentation.
- 2021 **Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA):** “Inclusive Development in the Informal Settlements; extreme poverty program analysis.”, Chicago, IL. April 14-18. Paper Presentation.
- 2020 **International Studies Association (ISA), Midwest Annual Conference:** “Politics and International Development in African Slums pre and post COVID-19: Nairobi, Kenya.” St. Louis, MO, Nov 20-23. Paper Presentation.
- 2020 **British International Studies Association (BISA):** “The Role of Critical Consciousness in Poverty Reduction.” Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. June 17-19. Paper Presentation.

- 2020 **Global Academic Research Institute (GARI), Pan-African Conference:** “Politics and livelihoods in the slums of Kenya; a case study on perspectives of development professionals.” The Gambia. May 25-26. Paper Presentation.
- 2020 **National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS):** “Mukuru slum dwellers in Nairobi, Kenya; on poverty, development, and self-reliance.” Atlanta, GA. March 11-15. Paper Presentation.
- 2020 **Global Academic Research Institute (GARI):** “Livelihoods in the slums of Kenya; a case study on perspectives of experts and slum dwellers.” Pretoria, South Africa. February 27-28. Paper Presentation.
- 2019 **American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference:** “Thomas Friedman’s Flat World; Populism & Privilege.” Washington, DC Aug. 28-31. Interactive Digital Poster Presentation.

ROUNDTABLES/PANELS/DISCUSSANT/CHAIR:

- 2024 **Moderator:** March 25 “Women and Gender in Development.” Guest: Ambassador John Simon. John’s Hopkins, SAIS - Washington, DC
- 2024 **Moderator:** March 19 “Africa: Through the Looking Glass.” Guests: American University Professors, Washington, DC
- 2023 APSA Annual Conference, Panelist. August 31-September 3 - Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 **Moderator:** February 7 “A Day in the life of an Ambassador.’ Guest: Former Ambassador to the African Union. American University, Washington, DC
- 2022 APSA Annual Conference, September 15-18 - Montreal, Canada
Chair 2yr term: Committee on the Status of Graduate Students Annual Meeting & Roundtable (2021-2023)
 Roundtable Discussion on “Alternative Paths for Academics.”
Lightning Talk: 21st Century Cities in Africa: Resistance, Reform & Renewal.
- 2022 MPSA Annual Conference, April 7-10 - Chicago, IL
Discussant: Taxation, coercive Agents and Political Trust in Africa
- 2022 SPSA Annual Conference, January 12-15 - San Antonio, TX
Chair and Discussant: Digital Politics: Security, Diplomacy, and State Strategy.
- 2021 Howard University Communications Conference, Sept 30-Oct 1 - Washington, DC
Panelist: Mis/Disinformation 101 and the Targeting of Black Communities
- 2021 APSA Annual Conference, September 30-October 3 - Seattle, WA
Discussant: Lenses in White Nationalism and Political Violence in the U.S.
Chair and Discussant: Foundations of Political Theory
- 2021 ISA Annual Conference, April 6-9 - Pasadena, CA
Panelist: Race, Security & Development: Theoretical, Analytical & Political.
- 2021 MPSA Annual Conference, April 14-18 - Chicago, IL
Chair: Elites, Geography, and Political Economy in Comparative Politics.
Discussant: Elites, Geography, and Political Economy in Comparative Politics.
Roundtable Teaching: How to use Simulations & Games
Roundtable Teaching: Experiential Learning in the Classroom
- 2020 ISA Midwest Annual Conference, November 20-23 - Honolulu, HI
Panelist: Graduate Student poster presentations

2020 British Int'l Studies Association (*BISA*) Annual Conference, June 17-19 - New Castle-Upon Tyne, UK
Panelist: Ambitious Development

INVITED TALKS/MEDIA:

- 2025 **Survey & Beyond Int'l Research Methods.** The Ethics of Field Research in Vulnerable Communities. March. <https://bit.ly/4ihEvH5>
- 2024 **Johns Hopkins SAIS** - Experiential Learning MA Preparatory Lecture "Top issues in Nairobi, Kenya."
- 2024 **MSNBC. The Reid-Out with Joy-Ann Reid, Anchor.** Why the global south holds the keys to the world's future. April 4, 2024. <https://www.msnbc.com/the-reidout/watch/why-the-global-south-holds-the-keys-to-the-world-s-future-208360517861>
- 2023 **Brookings Institution.** African Growth Initiative Podcast guest on Informal Settlements. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/learning-from-the-people-of-nairobis-mukuru-slum/>, May 24, 2023
- 2023 **Briefing to: PEPFAR Officials** (Ambassador Nkengasong and team) HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Nairobi Kenya's Informal Settlements. April 30.
- 2023 **Brookings Panelist:** Gender Equality in Slums - Nairobi, Kenya. International Women's Day. March 10, 2023 <https://www.brookings.edu/events/foresight-africa-closing-the-gender-equity-gap/>
- 2022-3 **US Army Corps of Engineers, Presentation DEIA:** Lived Experiences - DEIA Insight. Alexandria, VA. August 10, 2022, March 23, 2023, April 8, 2023
- 2022 **United Nations General Assembly 3rd Committee meeting with the Civil Society.** Spoke as a UN Member of ECOSOC on the needs of slum dwellers in Africa's informal settlements. February 16 - New York, NY
<https://youtu.be/rGuKhX0cYgk?si=WoM78rDa60zU61dU>
- 2020 **Progressive Women's Caucus**, Telluride, CO
Presentation, "Black Lives in Telluride and Beyond." September 12.
- 2018 **Atlantic Council**, Ph.D. Top 5% PhD Student Deliberation, Washington, DC.
"Shaping the Principles of a New Global Order." November 15.
- 2016 **GWU Elliot School for The Osgood Institute**, Washington, DC.
Presentation, "Politics, Nascent Kenya, Nascent World." June 8.
- 2014 **Norwich University, Leadership Summit**, Northfield, VT.
Presentation, "Diplomacy and Utilizing Human Resources." June 5.
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SPECIAL INVITATION CONFERENCES:

2024	UN Summit of the Future, Nairobi, Kenya UN Headquarters
2024	UN Summit of the Future, New York, NY UN Headquarters
2019-22	World Bank Spring Meetings, Washington, DC
2019	State of Africa Bi-Annual Conference & CSO Forum, Washington, DC
2019	World Bank Poverty Conference with GW University, Washington, DC
2019	AIDF Summit, Africa Development and Technology, Washington, DC
2019	African Political Conference Group, APSA Chapter, Washington, DC
2019	Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), Washington, DC
	Global Dev. Forum: Tony Blair, USAID, Rockefeller Foundation.
2019	SANKALP for Development and Social Entrepreneurship. Nairobi, Kenya
2019	AIDF Summit with USAID, UN Habitat, IOM - Nairobi, Kenya
2018	Wilson Center African Program: The Role of the Business Sector in Peace-building in Africa with the WTO. Washington, DC
2018	Wilson Center Africa Program: UN Sustainable Development Goals in Africa with Ambassador Tibor Nagy, Washington, DC

SERVICE:

2022-24	Volunteer to the UN, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
2022-23	Volunteer for ONE, Bono's Campaign Against Extreme Poverty
2022	Service to the academy as APSA Chair, Committee on the status of Graduate Students in the Profession, 3yr term
2022	Mentor for undergraduates, Black Professionals in International Affairs
2022	Service to the academy as AAPOR, Inclusion & Equity Committee Member
2021	Service to the academy as symposium contributor to Political Science Journal
2021	Service to the academy as Peer Reviewer for World Affairs Sage Publication and AcademicJournals.org
2020	Departmental Speaker at Howard University Graduate Recruitment Session
2020	University Volunteer for Howard University Research Week
2020	Community Volunteer Census Enumerator for the Homeless in Washington, DC
2020	Service to the academy as Peer Reviewer for AcademicJournals.org
2019	Service to the academy as Peer Reviewer for International NGO Journal
2019	Departmental Volunteer for Howard University African Women's Day
2015	Service to the academy as V.P. Sigma Iota Rho International Affairs Scholars

Service At Large

2021	Clinton Foundation Global Initiative/Howard University Service Day
2021	Congressional Candidate Campaign Strategist for Don Valdez (D-CO) District 3
2018	Congressional Candidate Campaign Strategist for Don Valdez (D-CO) District 3
2018	Jimmy Carter Habitat for Humanity, Home framing, Montrose, CO. Summer.
2017	Telluride Parks and Recreation Board, Telluride, CO
2015	Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign Office Manager District 3-CO
2016-22	Town of Mountain Village, CO Ethics Board
2012-21	Non-profit projects; India, Africa, Peru, Australia, Indonesia, Middle East, Nepal

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2022-25 Faculty Full-time Professorial Lecturer

American University - School of International Service, Washington, DC

Courses: Global Inequality, Power & Practice in Development, Gender & Development, Complex Problems: Informal Settlements, Community-led Development, International Research.

Led Experiential Learning in Nairobi, Kenya (Summer 2023 and 2024)

Faculty Advisor for four MA Thesis and one Undergraduate Honors Thesis.

Research: Oversight of primary research including IRB application process.

2023 Lecturing Adjunct Professor

Johns Hopkins (SAIS) - School of Advanced International Studies-Washington, DC.

Course: Gender and Development.

Prep Lecture: For MA Experiential Learning.

2020-21 Lecturing Adjunct Professor Online Course

London School of Economics - London, England.

Course: World Economy from the Industrial Revolution to the Present

Other:

Cultural Linguistics in Survey Design 2021

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:



Independent Affiliate Writer and Guest, Washington, DC

- Brookings Institute Jan. 2022 to Jan. 2024

Analysis of critical global issues for clients and global stakeholders in private sector business and government. Production of two articles per month to provide salient information on current political happenings around the world.



Dean of Faculty & Students - Johns Hopkins CTY Summer Program

Baltimore, MD Homewood Campus - June to August 2022

Management of 26 faculty and 1000 students in an accelerated summer educational program for youth who test up to four grade levels above their age. Curriculum oversight, administrative review of weekly student reports, daily classroom observations, correspondence with parents, organizing parent-teacher conferences, and troubleshooting student behavioral issues. Worked closely with one person higher ranked, the site manager.



Research Consultant: Congressional Black Caucus State Legislators and HU Walters Center for Public Policy. Washington, DC - 2022

Work with a team of three to launch a Policy Institute. Creation of the institute's organizational structure and six research centers to specialize in policy areas where model legislation and research will be made available for the advancement of communities of color.



Howard University Lead Research Assistant (RA) - Knight Foundation

Washington, DC - 2021 to 2022

Oversee a team of eight RA's including training for fieldwork; interviews, surveys and focus groups. Project is to research dis/mis-information in the Black Community of Washington, DC surrounding the 2016 elections and the 2020 pandemic.



Program & Policy Analyst - USAID

Washington, DC - 2020 to 2021

Research & Policy analysis in coordination with ADS Ch. 205 and 201 for inclusive development and gender initiatives. Collaboration on presentations with Division Chief of the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) to achieve State Department Global Food Security objectives. Analysis of World Bank & field data+industry trends for the bureau.

Independent Geopolitical Writer - The Minotaur Group, Think Tank

Washington, DC - 2020 to 2021

Analysis of critical global issues for clients and global stakeholders in private sector business and government. Production of two articles per month to provide salient information on current events.



International Political Policy Analyst, Africa & African Union

USAU Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Washington, DC - 2019 to 2020

Remote operating unit of the US Mission to the African Union (USAU). Provided research and wrote briefs on issues for diplomatic presentations.

Editor and Analysts, Total Impact Capital

Bethesda, MD - 2019

Research, grant editing, and analytical contribution in the review of multi-lateral impact investments in Africa and Central America. Worked under the direction of former Ambassador to the African Union, John Simon.



Exec. Director of Programs, YOD-international.org Community-led Development, Nairobi, Kenya - 2010 to 2022

Founder and development of poverty reduction for Nairobi's Informal Settlements with focus on Mukuru Slum. Designed and led Experiential Learning programs for adults and students for 10+ years in Africa, Asia, Middle East, South America and Indonesia.

Experiential Learning & Field Research Leadership

- Over a decade of leading immersive global seminars on informal settlements and poverty reduction.
 - Led American University's Nairobi Summer Seminars (2023 and 2024), immersive field-based courses on urban poverty, governance, and innovation in Kenya's informal settlements.
 - Designed hands-on experiences in Nairobi, Bali/Jakarta, Peru, Andhra Pradesh, and UAE.
 - Maintain in-country partnerships for cross-disciplinary programs in Engineering/Infrastructure, WASH, Maternal Health, Political Economy, Gender, Agriculture, Housing, and Micro-business.
 - Programs requested by students across institutions for hands-on education in low resource economies and grassroots development strategies.
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REFERENCES:

Aloysius Ordu, Director -Brookings Institution, African Growth Initiative. Global Economic Development. Washington, DC aordu@brookings.edu

Former Ambassador to the Africa Union, John Simon. jsimon@totalimpactcaptol.com

Roger Caruth, Ph.D. and JD Associate Professor, Department of Strategic, Legal, and Management Communications. Howard University roger.caruth@howard.edu

Meredith Soule, Ph.D., USAID Division Chief (RFS) and Inclusive Development. Washington, DC msoule@usaid.gov

Three letters of reference from American University (*attached*).