

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Rahel Kahlert



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Sex Female | Date of birth 09/09/1974 | Nationality Austria, Switzerland, USA

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- Fifteen years of experience in evaluating public programs and policies in a national and international context.
- Managing research and evaluation projects in public health from design to delivery, including planning, implementing, and effectively communicating results.
- Well-versed in qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods approaches.
- Demonstrating leadership in research coordination, acquisition, finance and personnel management.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2/2017 - today

Researcher

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria

- Collaboration in national and international research and evaluation projects as member of the "Health and Care Unit"
- Resource acquisition, evaluation consultancy as needed
- Presentations and other dissemination activities

Business or sector Social Research and Evaluation

4/2016 – 1/2017

Evaluation Consultant (free lance)

Various assignments (European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austrian National Institute of Health), Vienna Austria

- External Review of Home Care in Bulgaria, for the Swiss Development and Cooperation
- Acquisition and coordination of international research projects
- Co-led an impact evaluation of an intervention to enhance health literacy of cardiology patients

Business or sector Social and Public Health Research, Evaluation, and Consultancy

9/2013 – 3/2016

Director (3/2015 – 3/2016), Deputy Director (9/2013 – 3/2015)

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute Health Promotion Research, Vienna, Austria

- (Co)directed the Institute and led its evaluation group
- Project management of national and international R&D projects
- Collaborated with policy partners on health projects (BMG, Hauptverband der Sozialversicherungsträger, Gesundheitsfonds der Länder, Krankenanstaltenverbund etc).
- Cooperated with partners internationally on the acquisition and implementation of projects (e.g., EC Horizon 2020, WHO Collaborating Centres).
- Provided quality assurance for all projects of the Institute during design and completion.
- Led and advised evaluation projects about the implementation and effectiveness of public health programs in organizations.
- Demonstrated leadership in financial and personnel management, including gauging and calibrating Institute and staff performance.
- Successfully acquired funding for evaluating public health and health care projects.

Business or sector Research, Consultancy, Organisational Development

2012 – 2013 Research Associate

Charles A. Dana Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

- Advised in developing a model policy framework for the Education Commission of States.
- Provided content support to improve slide show presentations for the Director.
- Co-advised doctoral students to advance and expedite their dissertation projects.

Business or sector Social Research and Consultancy

2010 – 2011 Ethics Fellow

MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas, Houston, Texas

- Investigated access barriers to medical studies for underinsured and minority patients.
- Designed study on factors affecting low-income patients for participating in clinical trials.
- Trained to assist in ethical decision-making in the intensive care unit of cancer ward.

Business or sector Public Health Research

2009 – 2010 Assistant Instructor

Department of German Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

- Taught courses in German language acquisition and writing in a cultural-political context.
- Designed and applied assessment materials and lesson plans utilizing black-board functions.

Business or sector Academic teaching

2007 – 2009 Research Associate

Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment & Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin

- Developed, piloted, and implemented a performance-based assessment system that benchmarked academic knowledge and professional skills of graduates in Public Policy.
- Coordinated and finalized the evaluation of the Undergraduate Core Curriculum.
- Designed online surveys, content rubrics, focus groups, and in-class-room assessments.

Business or sector Evaluation of higher education

2001 – 2006 Research Associate

Charles A. Dana Center, The University of Texas at Austin

- Led evaluation studies for the National Center for Educational Accountability, the AmeriCorps for Community Engagement and Education, and the UT Master Teacher Summer Institute.
- Cooperated with the federally funded Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) to provide state administrators and legislators with evidence-based educational research and to co-organize policy conferences on resource allocation.
- Co-investigated studies for the U.S. Department of Education on school performance and academic renewal.
- Planned, and implemented Texas-wide workshops on leadership for school principals.

Business or sector Research and evaluation of school interventions

2000 – 2001 Research and Teaching Assistant

Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin

- Performed literature reviews and contributed to the syllabi for Prof. Gowri's courses *Interpretive and Qualitative Methods in Public Policy Analysis*; *Ethics and Government*
- Taught review lessons and assessed student work for the courses *Advanced Financial Management in the Public Sector and Not-for-Profit Organizations* (Prof. Michael Granof) and *Applied Quantitative Analysis for Policy Analysis* (Prof. William Spelman)

Business or sector Research and teaching in public policy

2000 Policy Analyst Intern

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Florida Legislature

- Led a follow-up evaluation on Florida's retirement system
- Co-authored a performance review on Florida's K–12 education and accountability system

Business or sector Research and evaluation in public policy

1998 – 1999 Public Policy Intern

Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin Texas

- Analysed data for a policy handbook to improve food access and reduce poverty.
- Designed a relational SQL database to more easily locate references using various categories.

Business or sector Research and evaluation in public policy

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2012 Ph.D. in Public Policy

University of Texas at Austin

- Evaluation approaches, social science methodologies, financial management
- Studies abroad at the Instituto de Sociedad Civil, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico
- Research partnership with the International Program for Development Evaluation Training, World Bank and the University of Carleton, Ottawa, Canada

2001 Masters of Public Affairs

University of Texas at Austin

- Policy analysis
- Public sector management

1998 Magistra of Protestant Theology

University of Vienna, Austria

- Course work in non-profit management at Vienna University of Economics and Business
- Studies abroad at the University of Zurich, Switzerland and the University of Tübingen, Germany

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue

German

Other language

English

Spanish

UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
B1	B1	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills

- Excellent communication skills gained through leadership positions at the Boltzmann Institute and the Dana Center.
- Profound facilitation skills in guiding focus groups, group as well as individual interviews in an intercultural setting.
- Ability to present evaluation and research findings to diverse stakeholders as well as at academic and professional conferences and policy venues.
- Good ability to adapt to multicultural environments gained through work experience internationally.
- Strong networking skills in interdisciplinary settings.

Organisational / managerial skills

- Excellent leadership skills and organisational skills gained through leadership positions at the Boltzmann Institute and Dana Center.
- Profound experience in project management and team development.
- Thorough expertise in designing, organising and directing national and cross-national studies in the field of public health, education and social science research.
- Consultancy of (inter-)national policy makers and stakeholders on education and health policies.

Job-related skills

- Accustomed to work autonomously and under tight deadlines.
- Persevering in challenging situations and problem solving.
- Team-centred.
- Results-oriented and stakeholder-oriented.
- Topics of expertise:
 - Public health, health literacy, health promotion, social determinants
 - Evaluation approaches: Process, impact, formative, summative evaluation etc.
 - Research in a comparative policy perspective (health, education, social policy)
 - Evidence-based policy and evaluation
 - Financial and personnel management in public and not-for-profit organizations

Computer skills

- Proficient command of Microsoft Office™ tools.
- Knowledgeable in applying qualitative and quantitative data analysis software as well as online survey tools.

Other skills

- Master Scuba Diver, PADI USA.

Driving licence

- B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Selected projects (2013–16)

- 2016–17: Evaluation of „Herzensbildung“—to strengthen health literacy of cardiology patients (Wiener Krankenanstaltenverbund)
- 2016: External Review of the project “Home Care towards an Independent and Dignified Life” (SDC Bulgarian Swiss Cooperation Programme)
- 2015–16: Meta-Evaluation. Learning from health literacy projects (Fonds Gesundes Österreich)
- 2015: Formative Evaluation of „Enorm in Form“— Outpatient therapy services for overweight and obese children (Wiener Gebietskrankenkasse)
- 2013–15: Process evaluation of the pilot project “Mental Health in Austrian Teenagers” (Pharmig)
- 2013–14: Review of the indicators to the Vienna Health Targets (City of Vienna)

Publications

- R. Kahlert. Randomized controlled trials to evaluate impact. Their challenges and policy implications in medicine, education and international development, Texas Digital Library, 2013. <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/19463>
- R. Kahlert. Impact evaluations using RCTs. Reflections on the EES stance. Evaluation Connections, European Evaluation Society, May 2012.
- R. Kahlert, E. Abdullateef, R. Potter. Evaluation use in the context of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training. International Development Evaluation Association. Evaluation Case Studies, November 2008.
- J. Angel, R. Kahlert, K.E. Whitfield. Hispanic and Mexican-American health and aging in a new century. An overview. Report of the Second Conference on Aging in the Americas, National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 2006, 5–22.

- D. Pan, L. Smith-Hansen, D. Hughes Jones, Z. H. Rudo, C. Alexander, R. Kahlert. Investigation of education databases in four states to support policy research on resource allocation, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 2005.
- R. Kahlert. Development of high-stakes testing in education. Texas Study of Secondary Education. 14.1, 31–34, 2004.
- R. Kahlert, A. Picucci, A. Brownson, and A. Sobel. Distributed leadership at the middle school level: Evidence from the field, 2003. Texas Study of Secondary Education 13.2, 20–22.
- A. Picucci, A. Brownson, R. Kahlert, A. Sobel. Driven to succeed: High-performing, high-poverty, turnaround middle schools. The Charles A. Dana Center, 2002. Volume I: Cross-case analysis. Volume II: Case studies.
- A. Picucci, A. Brownson, R. Kahlert, A. Sobel. Shaping school culture. Share the secrets for success of principals in seven high-achieving, high-poverty, urban middle schools, 2002. Principal Leadership 3.4, p. 38–41.
- R. Kahlert. Retirement program addresses backlog, but it defers developing re-engineering indicators, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, 01-2000.
- R. Kahlert. Improving services or increasing savings: The state evaluator's dilemma, Policy Working Paper No. 96, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, 2001.
- R. Kahlert. Kirche zwischen Dogma und Realität. Systematisch-theologische Überlegungen zu einem neuzeitlichen Kirchenbegriff im Anschluss an Kant und Troeltsch. Universität Wien, Unpublished Master Thesis with distinction, 1998

Selected presentations

- Focus group methods in health literacy as applied to children and young people. Preconference, 3rd European Health Literacy Conference, Brussels, 2015 (with A. Merchant).
- Importing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) from drug trials to public program evaluation: pitfalls, policy implications and recommendations. European Evaluation Society, Dublin 2014.
- The evaluation of indicators for implementing policy-oriented health goals. LBG Health Sciences Meeting 2014 (with A. Merchant).
- Using randomized evaluations to assess policy impact in education and international development policies. A comparative analysis of its challenges, Midwest Political Science Association, 2012.
- Quality is more than rigor: A political and a scientific perspective for impact evaluation in development. American Evaluation Association 2010.
- The current debates about impact evaluation using randomization: A political and a scientific perspective, American Evaluation Association 2009.
- Evaluating impact of development training. Approaches and their limitations, American Evaluation Association 2009 (w. Eric Abdullateef).
- Use of evaluation in developing countries, European Evaluation Society, Lisbon, Portugal 2008 (w. E. Abdullateef, R. Potter; presented by L. Morras, World Bank).
- Global diffusion of evaluation theories and practices. Driving forces and implications. American Evaluation Association, Baltimore, ML 2007.
- The professionalization of evaluation and its unintended consequences. American Evaluation Association, Portland, OR 2006.
- Conducting scientifically-based evaluations in education. American Evaluation Association & Canadian Evaluation Society, Toronto, Canada 2005.
- Evaluating public social programs. Addressing federal guidelines and stakeholder needs. Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators, Austin, TX 2005.
- Supervised volunteer literacy tutoring as solution for closing the reading gap? American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada, 2005.
- The evaluator's dilemma: Recommending increased savings or service improvements. American Evaluation Association, Atlanta, GA 2004.
- Optimizing evaluation quality and cost effectiveness: Evaluating the University of the Texas Master Teacher Summer Institute. American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA 2004 (w. M Walker).
- Using state databases for research, policy and practice on instructional resources and student performance. American Educational Finance Association, San Diego, CA 2004 (w. D. Hughes Jones and D. Pan).

Professional activities

- Webmaster & Reviewer, International and Cross-cultural Evaluation, Topical Interest Group, American Evaluation Association, 2011–present
- LBG Health Sciences Meeting, Member of the Scientific Committee, 2014
- Working Group Member, Network of Networks for Impact Evaluation, Consortium of the World Bank, United Nations Evaluation Group, and OECD, 2008–2014
- Reviewer (Consultant), Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, Washington DC, 2011
- Reviewer, American Journal of Evaluation
- Reviewer, The Program Evaluation Standards, 3rd edition (2010), Joint Committee
- Representative, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, 2001, 2005
- Ph.D. Student Representative, Ph.D. Oversight Committee, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, 2006–2008
- Student Representative, Tenure Review Committee, University of Vienna, 1997
- Emmett M. Redford Award for Outstanding Research, 2001.

Honours and awards

Scholarships

- Hadden Scholarship, 2008–2009.
- R.R. Pickle Scholarship, 2006–2008.
- International Development Evaluation Training (tuition), World Bank, Ottawa, Can., 2007.
- Trilateral Civil Society Scholarship, Sociedad Civil Summer Institute at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico, summer 2006.
- Robert Strauss Scholarship, 2004–2006.
- Armand Hammer Scholarship, 1999–2001.
- European Union Erasmus Scholarship, advanced studies in Tübingen, Germany, 1996.
- Swiss Confederation Scholarship, advanced studies in Zürich, Switzerland, 1995.
- Cantonal Government Scholarship, City of Basel, Switzerland, 1993–1998.

Memberships

- European Evaluation Society
- American Evaluation Association
- International Development Evaluation Association

Community engagement

- Certified Foster & Adoptive Parent, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, since 2005.
- Vice Chair of Board, Sustainable Mobility (Zweitauto), Korneuburg, Austria, since 2015.
- Board Member, Balcones Civic Association for local policy issues, Austin, TX, 2005–10.

Rahel Kahlert, 27.1.2017