

Suzanne Petroni, Ph.D.

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Global leader in research, programs, and advocacy to advance gender equality, adolescent development and wellbeing, and global health. Strategic thinker and policy expert, with three decades of experience in consulting, civil society, philanthropy, and government. Deep experience with research and analysis, evaluation, writing, advocacy, strategic planning, grantmaking, and capacity building, as well as designing and managing research, programs, and policies. Have advised and collaborated with dozens of NGO, bilateral, and multilateral agencies, foundations, the media, and governments on issues related to gender equality, adolescents, youth, and health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and child marriage. Profiled by [The Lancet](#) for commitment to gender equity and youth engagement.

Experience

2017 - PRESENT

Principal & Owner / Gender Equality Solutions, Arlington, VA

Provide strategic advisory, research, communications, and other support to donors, governments, non-governmental organizations, multilateral institutions, and others to advance gender equality and adolescent health and wellbeing through programs, policies, strategies, and investments. Work includes developing strategies, briefs, guides, articles, proposals, plans, and reports; reviewing and assessing grant portfolios; conducting research and synthesizing and communicating evidence; developing, delivering, and facilitating in-person and virtual meetings, trainings, workshops, and webinars; evaluating grant proposals and managing grants; and advising on gender integration and meaningful youth engagement in programs, policies, and strategies. Clients include major global foundations, multilateral agencies, NGOs, and research institutions.

2012 – 2017

Senior Director, Global Health, Youth and Development / International Center for Research on Women, Washington, DC

Led a robust research, evaluation, and advocacy portfolio and team of experts working on various issues at the intersections between health, development, and women's and youth empowerment, including gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), child marriage, adolescent development, youth leadership, and fertility and demographics. Directed and/or served as senior technical advisor on high-profile projects funded by various donors. Managed the portfolio's research, advocacy, communications, and business development work, raising millions of dollars in grants and contracts and quadrupling its budget and staff size over five years. Acted as a spokesperson for the organization, undertook numerous writing and speaking engagements, liaised with a high-level board of directors, and served on the senior management team.

2010 - 2012

**Vice President, Global Health / Public Health Institute,
Washington, DC and Oakland, CA**

Created a new Global Health Department and established a Washington, DC office for a \$100 million/year, 600+ person non-profit organization. Designed and implemented a strategic plan that built the capacity of the organization to expand its global health engagement through resource mobilization, research, evaluation, program, and policy work. Functioned as the organization's spokesperson on a range of global health issues, including SRHR, tobacco control, climate and health, pandemic preparedness, disabilities, and liaised with governments, media, foundations, NGOs, universities, and others. Supervised fifteen principal investigators and project directors and additional staff toward an ambitious organizational vision. Facilitated collaboration and information-sharing among a diverse range of programs and professionals, managed global health advocacy efforts, recruited new staff and projects to join the organization, and led business development efforts that raised tens of millions of dollars for the organization. Led writing and speaking engagements, engaged with the board of directors, and served on the organization's senior management team.

2001 – 2010

Senior Program Officer / Summit Foundation, Washington, DC

Directed the foundation's Global Population and Youth Leadership Program. Designed and implemented grantmaking strategies and grants to mobilize political and financial support and resources for SRHR in low and middle-income countries, as well as for targeted adolescent SRHR and youth leadership programs in Central America. Researched, developed, funded, and evaluated projects to advance SRHR through advocacy, service delivery, and other strategies. Developed and maintained partnerships with a diverse range of non-governmental organizations from the global North and South, as well as with private, public, bilateral, and multilateral donor agencies. Served as liaison with the Board of Directors and with the SRHR community.

2007 – 2009

Chair / Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health & Rights, Remote

Oversaw the functions of the Network (now Funders for Reproductive Equity) to ensure the efficient and effective coordination of grantmaking and advocacy strategies across some sixty public and private foundations, which collectively invested over \$1.1 billion annually in the field. Led the organization's strategic planning efforts and supervised the implementation of its \$600,000 budget and the operations of its three full-time staff and 11-member Board of Directors. (Served as board member from 2003-2009.)

1998 – 2001

**Program Officer/ Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration,
United States Department of State, Washington, DC**

Analyzed international, regional, and country level population and SRHR programs. Developed recommendations for senior officials, engaged in public outreach activities, coordinated and led interagency meetings, and worked closely with USAID and non-governmental and international organizations to advance the role of the United States as a global leader on population, SRHR, and women's rights. Developed, monitored, and evaluated SRHR and refugee assistance programs and grants for the U.S. government, including through field visits to the Middle East, Caucasus, and East Africa. Deployed to Kosovo for six weeks to serve on the U.S. Disaster Assistance Response Team. Served as the U.S. Officer-in-Charge for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5), including as an official delegate to UN negotiations, and supported the five-year review of the Beijing Women's Conference.

1997 – 1998

Special Assistant / Under Secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth, United States Department of State, Washington, DC

At various times, oversaw the Under Secretary's relationships with the Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and liaised with the Office of International Women's Issues. Advanced the status of science and health issues by advising senior officials, facilitating high level briefings on pandemic preparedness, developing and implementing a media strategy, and initiating a [National Academies of Science study](#) on the status of science and health at the State Department. Wrote press guidance and speeches and served as a liaison to the media and non-governmental organizations.

1994 – 1997

Marketing Director / National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Moffett Federal Airfield, CA

1992 – 1994

International Relations Specialist (Presidential Management Fellow) / National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Washington, DC

WINTER, 1993

Legislative Fellow (Presidential Management Fellow) / United States Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-DE), Washington, DC

1991 - 1992

Research Assistant / Professor Madeleine Albright, Georgetown University and the Center for National Policy, Washington, DC

Education and Other Skills

PhD in Gender and Social Policy / George Washington University School of Public Policy and Public Administration, Washington, DC

Master of Science in Foreign Service / Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations / University of California, Davis, CA

Certificate in Public Health in Complex Emergencies / Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. (Residential program in Entebbe, Uganda)

Native English speaker. Proficient in oral and written Spanish.

Author/co-author on dozens of peer reviewed journal articles, including *The Lancet*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, and *Annals of Global Health*, as well as book chapters, white papers, and technical reports. Expert facilitator and featured speaker at numerous high-level conferences and meetings. List of publications and speaking events available upon request.