+1.808.747.4909
michellebetz@yahoo.com
www.michellebetz.com
@michellebetz

Michelle Betz

I am a senior media development and press freedom specialist, researcher and trainer with experience designing, implementing, managing and evaluating US, European and UN funded projects in conflict, post-conflict and transitional countries.

EXPERIENCE

Betz Media Consulting (2004 – present) – Selected contracts include:
- *East-West Center* (April 2021 – ongoing) – Implement US-government funded project to build capacity at the University of the South Pacific (USP) journalism division.

- *Fojo Media Institute* (April 2021– ongoing) – Conduct assessment of the University of Rwanda School of Journalism and Communication and the campus radio station.

- *Eurasia Foundation* (Sept 2020 – ongoing) – Senior technical advisor for mis/disinformation project in the Middle East.

- *DW Akademie (Dec 2020 – April 2021) –* Evaluate country program in Burkina Faso.

- *IOM (Sept 2020 – Feb 2021*) – Develop training and gaming (online and offline) components for use in West Africa to train journalists about migration.

- *WAN-IFRA (Jan 2020 – Sept 2020) –* Conduct feasibility study of implementing a global journalism safety standard for news organizations.

- *ABC International Development (Feb – May 2020) –* Team leader. Conduct media mapping of media related training needs and organizational resources in Fiji.

- *DW-Akademie (March 2020) –* Conduct feasibility study of a community engagement/media support project addressing information needs of forcibly displaced persons in Cameroon and Nigeria.

- *International Media Support (Dec 2013 – Dec 2020) –* Consultant. Support strategy development (organizational, Africa, CVE, rapid response). Formulate, manage and assess/evaluate rapid response media assistance interventions in numerous countries including Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Iraq, Ghana, Liberia and Burundi. Lead on police-media relations work in West Africa.

- *Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (Jan – Dec 2019) –* Evaluator for experiential,

experimental online and offline human rights advocacy project.

- *Internews (Sept – Oct 2019)* – Evaluator for media support project in Rwanda.

- *DW-Akademie (Nov 2018 – March 2019)* – Consultant for inception report, exploratory mission and drafting of feasibility study for DW-A entry points for media support in Ethiopia.

- *UNDP Sierra Leone (May – Aug 2018)* – Consultant to formulate the second phase of a multi-year media support program in Sierra Leone.

- *UNESCO* – Evaluations of UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence (2018) and Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize (2016).

- *Near Media LLC (Aug 2014 – Dec 2017)* – Project administrator for U.S. State Dept.-funded media development projects in Pakistan.

- *UNDP Oslo Governance Center (Nov 2016 – April 2017)* – Consulting researcher for a background paper on media and conflict prevention for a joint UN-World Bank study on development and conflict prevention.

- *United Press International (July 2012 – Sept 2013)* – Director, UPI Next, UPI's media development division. Oversaw transition to and redevelopment of UPI Next and all activities including US-government grants and other contracts and partnerships.

- *International Center for Journalists (July 2011 – July 2012)* – Senior Project Director, Middle East programs. Program Manager, Reporting Climate Change Adaptation in Africa. Funded by UNDP.

- *International Media Support (2006 – 2011)* – Regional Media Advisor, Africa - Assessed, formulated and implemented media development interventions in conflict/post-conflict and transitional states. Team leader, program formulation Morocco.

- *UNESCO Nairobi Office (2008, 2010-2011)* – Developed media assistance strategy and full proposals for Great Lakes region. Conducted assessment of safety of journalists and developed training modules for safety and human rights reporting, ethics and professional practices and management.

- *Open Society Institute (Democratic Republic of Congo 2010)* - External evaluation of Radio Okapi in the DRC.

- *Institut Panos Paris (Democratic Republic of Congo 2010)* - External evaluation of IrishAid and DFID-FCI funded media assistance program in the DRC.

- *UNESCO - Division of Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace (Paris 2009-*

2010) - Consultancy to develop and implement strategies and programs for conflict, post-conflict and post-disaster states.

- *International Development and Research Centre and Carleton University's Center for Media in Transitional Countries (Rwanda 2009)* - Facilitated roundtable for development of research program on radio and ICTs in Africa.

- *IMS/Danida (Benin 2008)* – Member of formulation team (responsible for media component) for Danida's Governance and Rule of Law Program, 2009-2011. Media component approved for $1.5 million.

- *SIDA/DDC (Great Lakes 2008)* – Evaluation of SIDA-funded IPP Media des Grands Lacs Project, 2005-2008.

- *Academy for Educational Development (Nigeria, Ghana 2007)* – Led workshops for journalists on covering avian influenza. Adapted training manual for West African context.

- *UNESCO (Rwanda 2005 - 2007)* – Set up and launched university radio station (Radio Salus) and led ongoing training of student and professional journalists; assisted School of Journalism and Communication with curricular revision.

- *US Embassies in Tanzania, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire (2006-present)* - Trained journalists in variety of topics including election reporting and covering HIV/AIDS.

University of Central Florida – Orlando, FL (1999 – 2005)
Lecturer, Nicholson School of Communication, Division of Radio - Television
Taught primarily electronic journalism courses. Launched and advised award-winning college radio station. Faculty adviser for RTNDA chapter. Produced weekly television newsmagazine program.

Knight International Press Fellowship (2005)
Assignment: Morocco (and Algeria)
Designed and conducted print and broadcast journalism training and coaching.

Next Generation Radio Training Projects, National Public Radio (2000 – 2005, 2017 - 2018) Mentor/Trainer - Train and mentor college students and early career professionals during week-long multi-media boot camps.

Knight International Press Fellowship (2003)
Assignment: Rwanda (and Uganda)
Conducted broadcast journalism training and coaching.

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN (1998 – 1999)
Instructor, Department of Radio/TV-Photography

Taught variety of communication and journalism courses.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – Newsworld, Halifax, Canada (1995 - 1998)
Segment Producer, The CBC Morning News
Produced 1-2 segments daily including research, booking and writing for national morning TV news program (6 hours live daily).

CTV News, Lillehammer Olympics, Norway (1994)
Production Assistant
Assisted the news team by conducting interviews, booking guests, doing research for the 1994 Winter Olympics.

CTV News, London, England (1993)
Researcher
Researched both news and feature stories for European bureau of Canadian Television as well as a series of nationally broadcast Olympic-related documentaries

EDUCATION

Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Master of Journalism (Broadcast stream), 1994
Thesis: "A Different Channel: The Role of Television in International Conflict Resolution"
Awarded Dept. of National Defence Scholarship for graduate studies

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
Bachelor of Arts (International Relations), 1990

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Selected Publications:
Betz, M. and Beighley, P. (2020). "Fear, trauma and local journalists: Implications for media development and peacebuilding" in Journalist Safety and Self-Censorship, A. Grøndahl Larsen et. al., eds. Routledge.

Betz, M. (2019). "Safer Together? Considerations for cooperation to address safety in the media support, humanitarian and human rights sectors". International Media Support.

Betz, M. and Beighley, P. (2019). "Fear, trauma and local journalists: Cross-border lessons in psychosocial support for journalists". International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2019). "Commitment amid conflict: The experience of Central African journalists covering their country's war," in Media and Mass Atrocity: The Rwanda genocide and beyond, Allan Thompson, ed.

Betz, M. (2019). "Whither Local News? A shift to hyperlocal," in International Media Development: Historical Perspectives and New Frontiers. Peter Lang Publishing.

Betz, M. (2019). "Media and elections: Building coalitions for participation and media safety," in Our Answer is Journalism: IMS Annual Report 2018-2019. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2018). "Connecting with audiences through quality journalism," in Paving the way for good journalism: IMS Annual Report 2017-2018. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2018). Strengthening police and media relations for the safety of journalists and peaceful, free and fair elections in West Africa. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2017). "Media Noise and the Complexity of Conflicts: Making Sense of Media in Conflict Prevention." Background Paper for United Nations-World Bank Flagship Study, Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, World Bank, Washington, DC.

Betz, M. (2017). "The relevance of journalism in a post-truth era," in Reflections on Media Environment Trends: IMS Annual Report 2016-2017. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2016). Constraints and Opportunities: What role for media development in the countering violent extremism agenda. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2015). ABC du journalisme audiovisuel, Nouveaux Horizons, ARS, United States State Dept.

Henrichsen, J., Betz, M. & Lisosky, J. (2015). Building Digital Safety for Journalism: A survey of selected issues. Paris: UNESCO.

Betz, M. (2015). "Capacity building, institutional change and theories of change: Creating an enabling environment for journalists in post-conflict environments," in Communication and Peace: Mapping an Emerging Field. Routledge.

Betz, M and Papper, H. (2015). "UN Peacekeeping Radio: The Way Forward," in Communication and Peace: Mapping an Emerging Field. Routledge.

Betz, M. (2015). Radio Silence: Burundi's Media during the 2015 Election Crisis. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2014). From Crisis to Transition: Media in Burkina Faso. International Media Support.

Betz, M. and Moll, S. (2014). The Central African Republic: Media in a Complex Emergency. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2011). Conflict Sensitive Journalism: Moving Towards a Holistic Framework. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2010). <u>Covering Elections in Sudan: A toolkit for trainers</u>. Sudan Media and Elections Consortium.

Betz, M. (2009). <u>Journalism Training in Sudan: A Move towards Enhanced Cooperation</u>. International Media Support.

Betz, M. (2006). "A Different Channel: The Role of Television in International Conflict Resolution" in <u>Media in Conflict Situations: Roles, Challenges and Responsibility</u>, Fountain Publishers (Distributed by Michigan State University Press).

Betz, M. (2004). <u>"Radio as Peacebuilder: A case study of Radio Okapi in the Democratic Republic of Congo"</u>. <u>Great Lakes Research Journal</u> vol. 1, Dec., 32-43.

Betz, M. (2001). "Chapter 13: The Responsibility Test" in Alan, Jeff, <u>Responsible Journalism: A Practical Guide for Working and Aspiring Journalists</u>, Bonus Books.

Selected Conference Presentations:

Safer Together? Opportunities and challenges for connecting media support and human rights organizations on issues of safety and impunity. 5th annual conference on the Safety of Journalists. Oslo Metropolitan University, November 2019.

Biased or Beneficial? Cross-border lessons on journalists' safety. IAMCR annual conference. Madrid, July 2019.

Fear, trauma and self-censorship of local journalists: Implications for peacebuilding. 4th annual conference on the Safety of Journalists: the chilling effects. Oslo Metropolitan University, November 2018.

Conflict-sensitive Reporting Unpacked. World Press Freedom Day Conference 2017, Jakarta.

But What About Me? Challenges in providing psycho-social support to local journalists during and in the aftermath of psychologically traumatizing events. UNESCO Plenary Session, Global Communications Association, Berlin, July 2015.

Radio as Peacebuilder: Theoretical Perspectives, Empirical Reality. Community Radio as an Instrument of Peace in Guinea-Bissau. Rhode Island College, Providence, September 2010.

The Role of Media as Peacebuilder. International Association of Women in Radio and Television, Nairobi, September 2007.

The Mentor-Mentee Relationship: A Co-orientation Perspective of National Public Radio Training Projects. Radio-TV Journalism Division at Association for Educators of Journalism and Mass Communications (AEJMC) Convention, Miami, August 2002.

Whither Local Public Broadcasting in America? A National Survey of Local Public Broadcasters in America at Public Service Broadcasting: Beyond 2000 in conjunction with the Banff Television Festival. Banff, Canada, June 2000

Professional Affiliations
Registered speaker, U.S. State Department.

Partner, International Media Development Advisers (www.imdadvisers.com)

Member: International Association of Media and Communication Researchers (IAMCR); Overseas Press Club; American Evaluators Association

Languages
French (advanced), Arabic (conversational), Italian (intermediate), German (conversational), Hebrew (intermediate)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST