

Rebecca Winthrop

Rebecca Winthrop, a Fellow and Co-Director of the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution, is an international expert on education in contexts of armed conflict. Her work focuses on international education, humanitarian assistance, children's well-being, forced migration, and state fragility.



Prior to joining Brookings in June 2009, Dr. Winthrop spent 15 years working in the field of education for displaced and migrant communities, most recently in New York as the head of education for the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian aid NGO. There she was responsible for the organizations' education work in over 20 conflict-affect countries. She has been actively involved in developing global policy for the education in emergencies field, especially around the development of global minimum standards for education in emergencies, the United Nations humanitarian reform process for education, and the evidence base for understanding education's role in fomenting or mitigating conflict. She has served on the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Steering Committee, Working Group on Education and Fragility, Working Group on Minimum Standards, and Teacher Training Task Team, as well as the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Education Cluster Advisory Committee, and the UNHCR's Safe Learning Environment advisory group. She has traveled widely in countries affected by armed conflict and has worked with a number of other civil society and UN agencies. She has field experience in a wide variety of contexts, including Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Uganda.

Her academic contribution to the field of education in emergencies include spearheading the development of a masters program on education and crisis, the first in the world, at the University of Nairobi's education school, as well as teaching at Columbia University's Teachers College and School of International and Public Affairs, and the University of Ulster, Ireland. She has published widely on refugee education, girls' education in Afghanistan, opportunities for educational transformation during and after crisis, teacher and student wellbeing during conflict, and women teachers. Her publications have appeared in journals such as *Comparative Education Review*, *Teaching and Teacher Education*, *Journal of Education for International Development*, *Forced Migration Review*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *International Review of Education*. She has chapters in numerous books, including in *Education, Conflict and Reconciliation: International Perspectives*; *Combating Gender Violence in and around Schools*; *Structure and Agency of Women's Education*; *Identity and Motivation, Systems and Support: Teachers and Teacher Issues in Developing Country Contexts*; *Women Teaching in South Asia*.

She was educated at Columbia University, Teachers College (Ph.D, 2008), Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (MA, 2001), and Swarthmore College, (BA, 1996).