

## Rebecca Winthrop

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



Dr. Winthrop works to promote equitable learning issues for young people in developing countries. She advises governments, foundations, and corporations on education and development issues, and provides guidance to a number of important education policy actors, including the UN and World Bank. 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 as the head of education for the International Rescue Committee. There she was responsible for the organizations' education work in over 20 conflict-affected 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.

Select recent publications include *Beyond Madrasas: Assessing the Links Between Education and Militancy in Pakistan*, with C. Graff (Center for Universal Education Working Paper #2, The Brookings Institution, June 2010) and *Punching Below its Weight: The U.S. Government Approach to Education in the Developing World* (Center for Universal Education Working Paper #1, The Brookings Institution, February 2010). She has authored chapters for numerous books, including "Learning from Humanitarian Aid" in *Delivering Aid Differently*; "Home-based Schools: A Transitional Education Model in Afghanistan" in *Education, Conflict and Reconciliation: International Perspectives*; and "Female Classroom Assistants: Agents of Change in Refugee Classrooms in West Africa?" in *The Structure and Agency of Women's Education*. Additional publications have appeared in journals such as *Comparative Education Review*, *Current History*, *Forced Migration Review*, *International Review of Education*, *Journal of Education for International Development*, *Teaching and Teacher Education*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

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).

