

# DR. DAFNA H. RAND

## PROFESSIONAL ROLES

---

The BROOKINGS INSTITUTION <i>Senior Fellow</i>	2025-
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT) <i>Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow</i>	2025-
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE <i>Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor</i>	2024-2025
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY <i>Instructor, School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)</i>	2023-2024
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE <i>Director, Office of Foreign Assistance</i>	2021-2023
MERCY CORPS <i>Vice President for Policy and Research</i>	2017- 2021
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE <i>Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor</i>	2015 – 2017
CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN SECURITY <i>Deputy Director of Studies and Leon E. Panetta Fellow</i>	2014-2015
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT <i>Director for Development and Democracy, International Economics Directorate</i>	2012-2013
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING <i>Policy Planning Staff</i>	2010-2012
U.S. SENATE, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE <i>Professional Staff Member</i>	2008-2010
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SIPA) <i>Instructor and Teaching Assistant</i>	2005-2008
U.S. SENATE, OFFICE OF SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG <i>Foreign Affairs and Defense Legislative Assistant</i>	2002–2004

## EDUCATION

---

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

MA, 2005; M.Phil. 2007; Ph.D. 2009

## PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS, HONORS, AND SERVICE

---

- Commissioner, U.S. Helsinki Commission, U.S. Congress, 2024-2025
- Commissioner, Congressional Executive Commission on China, 2024-2025
- Senior Fellow, Federation of American Scientists, 2023- present
- Superior Honor Award, U.S. State Department, 2023
- Life Member, Council on Foreign Relations
- Appointed by the Secretary of Defense to serve as the Vice Chair and then Acting Chair of the Board of Visitors, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, U.S. Army, Ft. Benning 2017-2021.
- Appointed by the Senate Ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to serve on the Congressionally established Syria Study Group, 2019.
- Chosen by the U.S. Institute of Peace to serve on the Congressionally mandated Afghan Study Group, 2020-2021.
- Recipient of Columbia University's Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2006

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer Reviewed Books

*Re-Engaging the Middle East: A New Vision for U.S. Policy* (Editor, with Andrew Miller), Brookings Institution Press, 2020.

*Roots of the Arab Spring: Contested Authority and Political Change in the Middle East*, University of Pennsylvania Press, May 2013.

### Congressional Testimonies

"The Crisis in Yemen: Addressing Current Humanitarian and Political Challenges," Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, March 6, 2019.

"Syria After the Missile Strikes: Policy Options," Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 27, 2017.

"Resolving the Conflict in Yemen: U.S. Interests, Risks, and Policy," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing, March 9, 2017.

"Hearing on U.S. Middle East Policy," Senate Armed Services Committee, March 24, 2015.

"Testimony on the Threat from ISIS," House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing, February 12, 2015.

"Testimony on Iraq and Syria," House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Hearing on Iraq and Syria, September 18, 2014.

### Select Articles

"Start Small to Stop the Next ISIS," *Foreign Policy*, Argument, (with Rebecca Wolfe), December 11, 2018.

- “Extricating the United States from Yemen: Lessons on the Strategic Perils of Partnered Operations,” *Lawfare Blog, Foreign Policy Essay*, November 25, 2018.
- “Security Cooperation and Assistance: Rethinking the Return on Investment,” *Report* (with Dr. Stephen Tankel), Center for a New American Security, August 2015.
- “The Right Way to Fight ISIS,” *Foreign Affairs*, June 1, 2015.
- “Iraq’s Sunni Reawakening: How to defeat ISIS and Save the Country,” (with Nicholas Heras), *Foreign Affairs*, March 16, 2015.
- “The Postmodern Autocrat’s Handbook,” Dafna H. Rand (with Robert D. Kaplan), *Bloomberg Views*, February 1, 2015.
- “The South Will Rise Again,” *ForeignPolicy.com*, December 29, 2014.
- “A Big Step Forward: Tunisia’s Fragile Democratic Consolidation,” *The National Interest*, November 13, 2014.
- “How this Ends: A Blueprint for De-Escalation in Syria,” *Policy Brief*, Center for a New American Security, November 2014.
- “Bringing the Fight Back Home: Western Foreign Fighters in Iraq and Syria,” *Policy Brief*, Center for a New American Security, August 2014.
- “The Crisis Prevention Directorate,” *The National Interest*, May 21, 2014.
- “Opportunities for American Influence in a Changing Middle East,” *Policy Brief*, Center for a New American Security, April 2014.
- “Drivers of Political Change in the Middle East and North Africa,” in *Interpreting the Middle East*, ed. David S. Sorenson (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2010).
- “Going Legit: Qaddafi’s Neo-Institutionalism,” *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 4, Issue 2 (Spring and Summer 2009), pp. 27-39.
- “Civil-Military Power Struggles: The Case of Mauritania,” *Current History*, Vol. 108, Issue 718 (May 2009), pp. 221-227.
- “Countering Terrorism in an Unstable Democracy: Mauritania’s Political Crisis,” *CTC Sentinel*, Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, Vol. 1, Issue 9 (August 2008), pp. 17-19.
- “Divergent Democratization: The Paths of Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania,” *Middle East Policy*, Vol. 14, Issue 4 (Winter 2007), pp. 67-83.
- “Rehabilitating a Rogue: Libya’s WMD Reversal and Lessons for U.S. Policy,” *Parameters*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Spring 2006), pp. 63-78.