

CHEN REIS

ORCID 0000-0003-4647-7149

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Program in Public Health & Society, Washington University in St. Louis

Professor of the Practice

7/2025 -

Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

Clinical Associate Professor	9/2011–6/2025
Director, Humanitarian Assistance Certificate	9/2011–6/2025
Interim Director, Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative	9/2021–8/2022
Director, Human Rights MA	3/2023–6/2025
Co-Director, Global Justice Certificate	9/2023–6/2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

World Health Organization

Technical Officer, Health Action in Crises (HAC)	Geneva, Switzerland
2007–2009 <i>Emergency Response & Operations Unit</i>	08/2007–07/2011
2010–2011 <i>Strategy, Policy & Resource Management Unit</i>	

Program Officer, Dept. of Gender Women & Health

5/2006–8/2007

Program Officer, Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)

5/2004–4/2006

Physicians for Human Rights, USA

Senior Research Associate	Boston, MA
Field Coordinator and Human Rights Specialist (Sierra Leone)	12/2001–05/2004
Human Rights Researcher	01/2001–11/2001
	01/2000–06/2000

The Children and Armed Conflict Unit, University of Essex

Research & Advocacy Coordinator

Colchester, UK

05/1998–04/1999

Office of the UN Special Representative for Children & Armed Conflict

New York, NY

Researcher: Seconded by the Children and Armed Conflict Unit

08/1998–09/1998

SELECTED CONSULTANCIES

World Bank – Evaluation of investments in GBV innovations	2020
Elrha & Voice – Review of disability inclusion in GBV Humanitarian Interventions	2019
Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence (WRC, INSPIRE Consortium)	2015–2022
World Health Organization/Reproductive Health and Research	2011–2021

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, Australia

PhD

Thesis: Clinical management of rape in conflict: Exploring the persistence of sub-standard humanitarian responses.

Supervisors: Anthony Zwi, Louise Chappell, Jo Spangaro.

University International Postgraduate Award

JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Baltimore, MD, USA

MPH

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

New York, NY, USA

JD

Certificate of Achievement with Honors in Intl Law, *Parker School of Foreign & Int'l Law*
Head Submissions Editor, *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*
Co-Founder, RightsLink

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Baltimore, MD, USA

BA

Major: social and cultural anthropology.
University Honors & Dean's List
Phi Beta Kappa

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Michelis, I., Makepeace, J., & Reis, C. (2024). Who Is Centered in the Humanitarian Response to Gender-Based Violence? A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Survivor-Centered Approach. *Violence against Women*.

Reis, C., & Meyer, S. R. (2024). Understudied and underaddressed: Femicide, an extreme form of violence against women and girls. *PLoS Medicine*, 21(1).

Stark, L., Seff, I., & Reis, C. (2021). Gender-based violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings: a review of the evidence. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, 5(3), 210–222.

Touquet, H., Chynoweth, S., Martin, S., Reis, C., Myrttinen, H., Schulz, P., Turner, L., & Duriesmith, D. (2021). From 'It Rarely Happens' to 'It's Worse for Men: Dispelling Misconceptions about Sexual Violence against Men and Boys in Conflict and Displacement. *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, 2(3), 25–34.

Cottingham, J., García-Moreno, C., & Reis, C. (2008). Sexual and reproductive health in conflict areas: the imperative to address violence against women. *BJOG : An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 115(3), 301–303.

Reis, C., Heisler, M., Amowitz, L. L., Moreland, R. S., Mafeni, J. O., Anyamele, C., & Iacopino, V. (2005). Discriminatory Attitudes and Practices by Health Workers toward Patients with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. *PLoS Medicine*, 2(8), 0743–0752.

Reis, C., Ahmed, A. T., Amowitz, L. L., Kushner, A. L., Elahi, M., & Iacopino, V. (2004). Physician participation in human rights abuses in southern Iraq. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 291(12), 1480–1486.

Amowitz, L. L., Kim, G., Reis, C., Asher, J. L., & Iacopino, V. (2004). Human Rights Abuses and Concerns About Women's Health and Human Rights in Southern Iraq. *JAMA : The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 291(12), 1471–1479.

Venkateswarlu, D., Kasper, J., Mathews, R., Reis, C., Iacopino, V., & Wise, P. (2003). Child labour in India: a health and human rights perspective. *The Lancet (British Edition)*, 362, s32–s33.

Mathews, R., Reis, C., & Iacopino, V. (2003). Child labor. A matter of health and human rights. *The Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*, 26(2), 181–182.

Amowitz, L. L., Reis, C., & Iacopino, V. (2002). Maternal Mortality in Herat Province, Afghanistan, in 2002: An Indicator of Women's Human Rights. *JAMA : The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 288(10), 1284–1291.

Amowitz, L. L., Reis, C., Lyons, K. H., Vann, B., Mansaray, B., Akinsulure-Smith, A. M., Taylor, L., & Iacopino, V. (2002). Prevalence of War-Related Sexual Violence and Other Human Rights Abuses Among Internally Displaced Persons in Sierra Leone. *JAMA : The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 287(4), 513–521.

Reis, C. (1996). Trying the future, avenging the past: the implications of prosecuting children for participation in internal armed conflict. *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, 28, 629.

Book and Book Chapters

Chen Reis and Tania Bernath (2017). *Becoming an international humanitarian aid worker*. Elsevier.

Chen Reis “Ethical, safety, and methodological issues related to collection and use of data on sexual violence in conflict” in *Prosecuting Sexual Violence as an International Crime: Interdisciplinary Approaches*. (2012) Intersentia.

Chen Reis and Lynn Lawry, “Gender Based Violence” in *Public Health Guide for Emergencies* (2008). International Federation of Red Cross.

Chen Reis “Research methodologies” in *Public Health and Human Rights: Evidence-Based Approaches*. (2007) Johns Hopkins University Press.

Chen Reis and Beth Vann “Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Armed Conflict” in *Handbook of International Disaster Psychology*, Gilbert Reyes & Gerard A. Jacobs (Eds). (2005) Praeger Publishers.

Reports and Position Papers

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020: 2021 Progress Report (2022) Primary Author. [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020: 2020 Progress Report (2021) Primary Author. [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies: Road Map 2021-2025 (2020) Co-Author. [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020: 2019 Progress Report (2020) Primary Author. [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020: 2018 Progress Report (2019) Primary Author. [Link](#)

Elrha & Voice, Rapid Review of the inclusion of People with Disabilities and Older People in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Humanitarian Interventions (2019). Co-Author. [Link](#)

Women's Refugee Commission, Where Do We Go from Here? Moving Forward with the Gender Equality Objective of the Call to Action Road Map (2018). Primary Author. [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020: 2017 Progress Report (2018) Contributing Author. [Link](#)

WHO & UNODC, Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence (2017) [Link](#)

Call to Action, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies: Road Map 2016-2020 (2015) Co-Author. [Link](#)

UN Action, Fact-sheet on "dos and don'ts" of Sexual Violence Data (2008) Primary Author. [Link](#)

WHO, WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting, and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies (2007) Originator and Contributing Author. [Link](#)

Addressing sexual violence in emergencies, Humanitarian Exchange Number 32, December 2005:32-33. [Link](#)

Physicians for Human Rights, Nigeria: Access to Health Care for People Living with HIV and AIDS (2006) Primary Author. [Link](#)

Physicians for Human Rights, War-Related Sexual Violence in Sierra Leone: a population based assessment (2002) Primary Author. [Link](#)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Academic and Professional Conferences

2023 *Who is centered in the humanitarian response to gender-based violence? A critical analysis of the survivor centered approach.* International Humanitarian Studies Association Conference

2023 *Who is centered in the humanitarian response to gender-based violence? A critical analysis of the survivor centered approach.* Virtual International Studies Association Conference

2020 *#AidToo & Gender-based Violence in emergencies: connections and humanitarian system response failures.* International Studies Association Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii (conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

2017 *Research, Monitoring and Evaluation of GBV in Refugee Settings.* Expert Consultation Meeting, George Washington University Washington, DC, USA

2017 *Sexual Violence in Fragile Situations: The right to care, treatment and protection* International Studies Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

2015 *Refugee Co-Instructors: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice,* Humanitarian Innovation Conference, Oxford, UK

2014 *Future of Humanitarian Action,* IDRC, Davos, Switzerland

2014 *Use of research & service data for international prosecutions.* Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict Global Summit, London, UK

2014 *Use of Innovative Experiential Methods to Train Future Humanitarian Aid Workers.* Humanitarian Innovation Conference, Oxford, UK

2013 *Challenges to achieving the MISP standard for clinical management of rape in humanitarian crises,* SVRI Forum, Bangkok, Thailand.

2010 Challenges of civil military coordination in health sector humanitarian response International Military Forum on Emerging Infectious Diseases: the military's role under the 2005 International Health Regulations, St Petersburg, Russia

2010 *Measuring sexual and other forms of gender-based violence: methodological and ethical considerations,* Learning into Action conference (Child Protection Working Group and CPC Learning Network), Geneva, Switzerland

2009 *Ethical Safety and Methodological issues related to collection and use of data on sexual violence in conflict,* Conférence sur la gestion de la sécurité concernant les victimes, témoins et intermédiaires dans les cas de violences sexuelles, Bukavu, DRC

2008 *Gender in disasters.* Asia Pacific Emergency & Disaster Nursing Network Meeting, Jinan, Shandong, China

2006 *Gender and health in disasters* IDRC, Davos, Switzerland

2003 *A Human Rights Approach to Gender and HIV/AIDS and what it means for parliamentarians,* Reducing Women's Vulnerability and Combating Stigma in the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa: The Role of Parliamentary Leadership: Effective Strategies for Change. Gaborone, Botswana

2003 *Prevalence of War-related Sexual Violence & other Human Rights Abuses Among Internally Displaced Persons in Sierra Leone,* Sex and Secrecy: IASSCS Conference Johannesburg, SA

Invited Presentations and Workshops

2024 Presenter: Who is in charge? Examining the Survivor Centered Approach to GBV in Emergencies. GBV AoR Community of Practice, Virtual

2023 Presenter: GBV, conflict, and climate change: seven lessons for integrated action. Interagency working group on atrocities prevention, US Department of State, Virtual

2022 Panelist: “Dimensions of gender-based violence in military conflicts: limiting the scale and assisting the victims” Forum for Research on Gender Economics, Workshop on Domestic Violence, Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, Stockholm, Sweden, Virtual

2022 Expert: UN Framework for the Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence. Scholars’ Roundtable, Virtual

2022 Expert: Humanitarian Policy Group action research workshop – gender in displacement, Virtual

2022 Presenter: Prevention of violence against adolescent girls - sharing experiences from practitioners and researchers, Prevention Collaborative, Virtual

2021 Expert: Expert Group Meeting on GBV Prevention in Emergencies, WHO, Virtual

2021 Presenter: Gender-based Violence against Adolescent Girls in Emergencies. GBV AoR Community of Practice, Virtual

2021 Presenter: Sexual Violence against Men and Boys: Progress, Challenges, Next Steps, Women's Refugee Commission, Virtual

2021 Presenter: Gender-based Violence against Adolescent Girls in Emergencies: Implications for Practitioners, Save the Children International, Virtual

2021 Co-facilitator: Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Annual Partners Meeting, Virtual

2021 Presenter: Graduate Professional Education and Decolonizing Humanitarian and Development Practice, Decolonizing Development Series: Bridging the Gap Between Academia, Implementation, and Justice, Posner Center & Josef Korbel School, Virtual

2020 Co-facilitator: Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Annual Partners Meeting, Virtual

2019 Co-facilitator: Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Annual Partners Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

2017 Panelist: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation of GBV in Refugee Settings. Expert Consultation Meeting, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

2014 Presenter: Gender and health Short Course on Development, Human Rights and Global Health, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

2012 Presenter: Sexual Violence and Evidence-Gathering Methods, Beyond Reasonable Doubt. Using Scientific Evidence to Advance Prosecutions at the International Criminal Court, The Hague, The Netherlands

2009 Presenter: Ethical, Safety and Methodological issues related to collection and use of data on sexual violence in conflict, Sexual Violence as International Crime: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Evidence, The Hague, The Netherlands

2009 Co-facilitator: Interagency workshop on gender-based violence coordination and data collection and use, Goma, DRC

2008 Co-facilitator: Interagency workshops on gender-based violence coordination and data collection and use, Kinshasa, DRC

2006 Expert: Office of the Prosecutor special meeting on sexual and gender violence crimes, International Criminal Court, The Hague, The Netherlands

2003 Presenter: Models of Health Professional Advocacy: Physicians for Human Rights, Open Society Workshop on Healthcare Providers as Advocates for Reproductive Health, Vilnius, Lithuania

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Defending humanitarian aid in terms of national security obscures its real purpose (2025) (With

Maryam Deloffre) [The Conversation](#)

- Ukrainian female refugees are fleeing a war, but in some cases more violence faces them where they find shelter (2022) [The Conversation](#)
- Sexual abuse during humanitarian operations still happens. What must be done to end it (2021) [The Conversation](#)
- 5 ways the coronavirus is making the world's most vulnerable a lot more vulnerable. (2020) [Washington Post](#)
- Abused children and partners, people with mental illness are all especially vulnerable with stay-at-home orders from coronavirus. (2020) (with Lynn L. Lawry) [The Conversation](#)
- How do you reduce sexual and gender violence in conflict? Consider these five key issues. (2019) (with Marie Berry) [Washington Post](#)
- Internal displacement (2017) [Vail Symposium](#)
- Practitioner pathways (2017) [ATHA Podcast](#)
- How Obama can back women's rights abroad. (2013) [CNN](#)
- ICC Must Strengthen Sexual Violence Protections. (2013) (with Lynn L. Lawry) [Jurist](#)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 Technical Reviewer, United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

2023– Associate Editor *Conflict and Health Journal*

2020– GBV in emergencies expert, GBV AoR Helpdesk

2020 Local Peacebuilding Leadership Working Group, Better Evidence Project, GMU.

2018– Advisory Group: WRC Project on sexual violence against men and boys.

2018– Managing GBV in Emergencies Mentoring Initiative

2019 Advisory Council: International Rescue Committee's "Listen Up!," initiative.

2018–2019 Advisory Group: Voice/IRC study on humanitarian funding for GBV.

2012– Editorial Board member *Conflict and Health Journal*
 Guest editor for [supplement](#) on Reproductive Health

2011– Reviewer
 Funding proposals: Humanitarian Innovation Fund; R2HC (Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises) Fund.
 Conference abstracts: Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Emergencies (IAWG); Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI Forum)
 Journals: Disasters, PLOS ONE, PLOS Medicine, Reproductive Health Matters, Conflict & Health, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, Law and Policy, BMJOpen, BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health, Signs.
 Presses: Fordham U Press; Routledge

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS:

- International Studies Association
- International Humanitarian Studies Association
- IAWG Reproductive Health in Crises, GBV Sub-Working Group
- Missing Peace Scholars Network
- GBV AOR Community of Practice
- Child Protection in Crisis (CPC) Learning Network- Faculty Affiliate
- Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy - Faculty Affiliate
- JKSIS Institute for Comparative and Regional Studies - Faculty Affiliate
- DU Center for Immigration Policy and Research - Faculty Affiliate