

Seema Shah, Ph.D.

EXPERIENCE

COMM | VEDA Consulting LLC, New York, NY

8/2017-present

Founder & Principal

- Conduct research, landscape scans, evaluations, and other assessments for the social sector
- Serve as a generalist with specific expertise in equity and inclusion, community and youth organizing, community engagement practices, and philanthropic effectiveness
- Recent clients include: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The California Endowment, NPower, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Candid, Perrin Family Foundation, Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, Knight Foundation, New York State Census Equity Fund, New York Foundation, and North Star Fund

Cricket Island Foundation, New York, NY

7/2016-8/2017

Deputy Director

- Created assessment protocols to examine the impact of CIF's grantmaking portfolio
- Crafted communications strategy to share Foundation learnings with the broader philanthropic field
- Worked collaboratively with grantee partners to develop their organizational development goals
- Represented Foundation on national and local funder collaboratives, including the Communities for Just Schools Fund, the NYC Table for Girls and Young Women of Color, & the Executives' Alliance

Foundation Center, New York, NY

8/2010-6/2016

Director of Research for Special Projects

- Led cross-departmental teams in creating custom knowledge and learning tools for grantmakers and nonprofits, including issue-focused web portals, research reports, and data visualizations. Areas of focus include black male achievement, the global water crisis, disasters, and diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Managed client relationships and ensured high-quality, on-time delivery of services
- Led communications outreach on projects, including oversight of design and production process (web and print), presentations at national conferences and on webinars, and media interviews

International Baccalaureate, New York, NY

3/2009-8/2010

Global Research Manager

- Created and implemented a research agenda to understand the impact of the IB curriculum on student learning and school culture in schools across the world
- Wrote requests for proposals to secure contractors to conduct research on the IB curriculum
- Collaborated with contracted universities, think tanks, and research firms to ensure quality research and to disseminate findings

Brown University, Annenberg Institute for School Reform¹, New York, NY

9/2004–10/2009

Principal Associate

- Directed a \$2.2 million national, longitudinal, mixed methods study on the impact of community organizing in 8 urban school districts
- Hired, trained, and supervised research staff (20+ team members over the study period)
- Oversaw qualitative and quantitative data collection and analyses of 320+ interviews, 75+ observations, 800+ surveys, 1700+ media articles, and publicly available school and district data

¹ Through August 2006, this research was affiliated with New York University's Institute for Education and Social Policy. In September 2006, the Institute merged with the Annenberg Institute for School Reform.

- Organized biennial convenings of advisory board members and organizing groups
- Co-authored and edited all study documents, including case studies, articles, and website content
- Co-authored *Community Organizing for Stronger Schools: Strategies and Successes*, a book about the study's findings, published by Harvard Education Press

Yale University, The Consultation Center, New Haven, CT
Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellow

7/2002-6/2004

- Prepared quarterly policy briefs and analyzed data on racial and ethnic mental health disparities for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Consulted with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Family Services to improve data coordination across child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health departments
- Evaluated outcomes for parents, children, and student volunteers who participated in an university-based family literacy intervention; conducted interviews and focus groups; authored final report
- Designed and facilitated quarterly workshops for community-based organizations on building capacity for program evaluation
- Piloted protocols and interviewed participants for a study assessing the effectiveness of a supportive housing program for clients dually diagnosed with chronic mental illness and substance use disorders

SELECT PUBLICATIONS *see [LinkedIn profile](#) for complete list of 30+ reports

Shah, S. (2020). *Breaking Through, Rising Up: Strategies for Propelling Women of Color in Technology*. New York, NY: NPower.

Shah, S. (2020). *Partnering with Community for Better Philanthropy*. New York, NY: COMMVEDA Consulting.

Shah, S. & McGill, L. (2020). *A Foot in Both Worlds: Working with Regional Organizations to Advance Equity*. New York, NY: COMMVEDA Consulting.

Shah, S. (2018). *Transforming Young People and Communities: New Findings on the Impacts of Youth Organizing*. Philadelphia, PA: Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing.

Pond, A., Shah, S., & Sak, E. (2018). Cricket Island Foundation: A Case Study of a Small Foundation's Impact Assessment. *The Foundation Review*, 10(2).

Shah, S. & Sato, G. (2015). *Latino Leadership: Foundation Boards*. New York, NY: Foundation Center.

Shah, S. & Sato, G. (2014). *Building A Beloved Community: Strengthening the Field of Black Male Achievement*. New York, NY: Foundation Center.

Rogers, J., Mediratta, K., Shah, S., Kahne, J., & Terriquez, V. (2012). Building Power, Learning Democracy: Youth Organizing as a Site of Civic Development. *Review of Research in Education* (36), pp. 43-66

EDUCATION

DePaul University, Chicago, IL 1997-2003
M.A., Ph.D. *Clinical-Community Psychology*
Doctoral Dissertation: Acculturation and Adaptation of Immigrant and Refugee Youth
Master's Thesis: Cultural Competency in Adolescent HIV/AIDS Prevention

Duke University, Durham, NC 1992-1995
B.A. *Psychology, Minors in Women's Studies and Film & Video (cum laude)*