

George Frederick Willcoxon, Ph.D.

Strategic Leader | Political Economist | Policy Advisor | Quantitative Analytics
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SUMMARY

Mission-driven United Nations official with 11+ years of global leadership experience driving policy, partnerships, and innovation in complex, high-stakes environments. Proven track record of leading high-impact teams, advising senior decision-makers, and coordinating diverse stakeholders in conflict-affected and politically-sensitive contexts. Skilled in strategic planning and delivery, shaping strategy, delivering results, and facilitating quantitative and AI-enabled decision-making. Doctorate in Political Science from UC Berkeley; quantitative social scientist. Seeking a leadership role to drive strategic impact in public, private, or non-profit sectors. Deep, active network across the global and multilateral systems.

- Senior coordination officer/economist at United Nations office in Kosovo. Quantitative Analytics, Strategic Foresight
- Head of Office/Chief of Unit at United Nations mission in Jerusalem. Led multinational, multidisciplinary team of 12 in support of senior UN officials mediating and responding to Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- United Nations surge officer supporting strategic planning and crisis response in Iraq, Myanmar, and Afghanistan
- United Nations economist in Jerusalem and Beirut, focusing on conflict-related and socioeconomic development issues
- United Nations mediation team in Cyprus during the last high-level, UN-led round of settlement negotiations
- Experience acting as chief of staff, advisor, and close support to senior officials on conflict, development, and governance
- Subject-matter expert on international affairs, conflict, recovery, governance, humanitarian crises, sustainable development, international organizations, multilateralism; risk and resilience frameworks; quantitative methods

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Doctorate in Political Science, 2015

Master of Public Policy, 2006

- Dissertation: *Peacebuilding, Political Order, and Post-War Risks*
- Subdisciplines: International relations, comparative politics, comparative political economy
- Area studies: Southeastern Europe, Middle East, Africa
- Methods: Multivariate regression, survey research, econometrics, set theory, qualitative research
- Teaching: Instructor for twelve semesters at graduate and undergraduate levels, 2007 to 2011

Princeton University

Bachelor of Arts in Politics, 2001, with honors

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Development Coordination Officer – Economist

United Nations Office of the Development Coordinator – Kosovo

June 2025 to present

- Spearhead socioeconomic analytics for the senior-most UN development official in Kosovo. Apply creative and innovative methodologies to strategic planning and implementation for UN Kosovo Team.
- Provide strategic advice on political and economic matters to senior UN officials.
- Cultivate strategic partnerships, including with local authorities, international financial institutions, the European Union, and member states. Engage and brief diplomatic corps.
- Develop high-impact projects to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Head of Resident Coordinator's Office/Chief of Coordination Unit

United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process – Jerusalem

June 2024 to June 2025

- Led integrated office supporting Assistant Secretary-General at the UN mediator's office in Jerusalem. Supervised 12 geographically-dispersed, international and national staff. Managed office budgets and business operations.
- Led work for Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General on recovery and reconstruction planning for Gaza, conflict prevention and socioeconomic development in the West Bank, and Palestinian institution-building.
- Supervised diverse workstreams amid major conflict and crisis: political and economic analysis, strategic planning, communications, reporting, partnerships, diplomatic engagements, and other core deliverables.
- Coordinated work of 23 resident and non-resident agencies of the United Nations Country Team in responding to the war in Gaza and the crisis in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Cultivated partnerships with diplomatic corps, donors, multilateral financial institutions, and others. Coordinated advocacy by international community for rules-based responses to the crisis.
- Liaised and advocated with Israeli and Palestinian government counterparts.

**Senior Development Coordination Officer/Crisis Management
United Nations Development Coordination Office – Roving
October 2022 to June 2024**

- Deployed on short notice to UN Resident Coordinator Offices in conflict and crisis settings. Deployments supported Resident Coordinator's Offices in Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Supported UN Resident Coordinators in developing strategic responses to crisis and conflict. Articulated objectives, facilitated meetings and retreats, consulted multilateral partners and stakeholders, and drafted strategic frameworks.

**Development Coordination Officer – Economist
United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process – Jerusalem
December 2019 to October 2022**

- Advised and supported the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General on political and economic matters relevant to the peace mediation, socioeconomic development, and Palestinian institution-building.
- Spearheaded numerous major political and socioeconomic reports and strategy papers, including the UN COVID-19 socioeconomic response plan; formal UN reports; Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessments.
- Coordinated work of the United Nations Country Team to promote socioeconomic development and institution building. Built partnerships with diplomatic community, international donors, international financial institutions, and others.
- Liaised and advocated with Israeli and Palestinian government interlocutors.

**Economic Affairs Officer
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia – Lebanon
March 2015 to September 2016; July 2018 to December 2019**

- Published research on risks, conflict patterns, socioeconomic development, and governance in the Arab region.
- Implemented technical assistance projects for conflict-affected countries in the Arab region.
- Advised and supported United Nations efforts to build peace and recover from conflict in the Arab region.
- Developed a risk assessment framework for the region. Organized workshops, mobilized experts, wrote framework.
- Provided briefings and research on conflict in MENA region for the Under-Secretary-General and other senior officials.

**Political Affairs Officer
United Nations Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General – Cyprus
September 2016 to July 2018**

- Lead facilitator on economic power sharing during latest, intensive round of Cyprus talks. Facilitated negotiations of the bicomunal Working Group on Economic Matters.
- Advised the Under-Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General on political and economic matters relevant to the negotiations. Supported the USG and ASG in the negotiation room.
- Focal point for World Bank, International Monetary Fund, European Commission, and other multilateral institutions.
- Wrote background notes, situation reports, options papers, briefing materials, talking points, and key messages for the United Nations Secretary-General, Under-Secretaries-General, and other senior officials.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

World Bank, United Nations, and European Union. (2025). Gaza and West Bank Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. (Co-lead).
UNCT in Afghanistan. (2024). UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan. (Facilitator/Contributor).
UNCT in Myanmar. (2024). UN Transitional Cooperation Framework for Myanmar. (Facilitator/Contributor).
World Bank, United Nations, and European Union. (2021). Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. (Co-lead).
Chiodi, V., Grigoriadis T., and Willcoxon G.F., (under submission). Conflict, inequality, and development in the Arab region.
Willcoxon, G.F. (manuscript). Regimes, rights, and growth: Post-war risks in the Arab region since 1946.
Willcoxon, G.F. (manuscript). The Cyprus Negotiations and the United Nations.
UN ESCWA. (2020). Trends and Impacts VI: Developing a Risk-Assessment Framework for the Arab Region. (Co-lead).
Willcoxon, G.F. (2019). Civic values, extremism, and conflict. MPSA Conference Paper.
Nygard, H.M. and G.F. Willcoxon. (2019). Anticipating risks in the Arab region: A machine learning approach. ESCWA Technical Paper.
Willcoxon, G.F. (2019) Understanding Risks. ESCWA Technical Paper.
UN ESCWA. (2018). The Arab Governance Report: Vol. 3.
Willcoxon, G.F. (2017). "Why do countries relapse into war? Here are three good predictors." Washington Post. Mar 2017.
Willcoxon, G.F. (2017). Violence, Contention, and Stalemate in Post-War Libya. Mediterranean Politics. 22 (1) 91-114
Willcoxon, G.F. (2016). Political Transformation and Conflict: Post-War Risks in the Arab Region. ESCWA Technical Paper.
UN ESCWA. (2016). The Arab Governance Report: Vol. 2.
UN ESCWA. (2015). Trends and Impacts IV.
Gartenstein-Ross, D., Barr, N., Willcoxon, G. F., and Basuni, N. (2015). The Crisis in North Africa: Implications for Europe and Options for EU Policymakers. Clingendael: Netherlands Institute of International Relations.
Willcoxon, G.F. (2015). Peacebuilding, Political Order, and Post-War Risks. Dissertation. University of California, Berkeley.
Willcoxon, G.F. (2014). Some Reflections on the Revolution in Libya and on Avoiding a Recurrence of Civil War. The Diplomatist (India).
Chivvis, C.S., Oliker, O., Liepman, A., Connable, B., Willcoxon, G., & Young, W. (2013). Initial Thoughts on the Impact of the Iraq War on U.S. National Security Structures. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. PE-111-OSD.

- Willcoxon, G.F. (2012). The Security Sector After Qaddafi: Challenges for the Transition in Libya. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. WR-964-SRF.
- Willcoxon, N.E., & Willcoxon, G.F. (2011). The Political Economy of Decline in California. California Journal of Politics and Policy, 3(1).
- Willcoxon, G.F. (2008). How does Peacebuilding Work? Quantitative Evidence from Kosovo. Thesis in Political Science.
- Willcoxon, G.F. (2007). An Invitation to a Summit. San Francisco Chronicle. (Op-Ed)
- Willcoxon, G.F. (2006a). Introduction. In G.F. Willcoxon (Ed.), Handbook on Terrorism and Organized Crime Law in Kosovo. Pristina, Kosovo: Kosovo Law Centre.
- Willcoxon, G.F. (2006b). On the Brink: Transitional Policing in Kosovo. Thesis in Public Policy.

OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

- Political and conflict risk consultant in Washington, DC.
- Twice Summer Associate at RAND Corporation.
- Strategic planning, policy analysis, crisis management, stakeholder engagement.
- Leading multidisciplinary and diverse teams through long-term research and technical assistance projects.
- Fluent in navigating complex political environments and delivering results.
- Quickly getting up to speed on new portfolios and learning new research methods.
- Expert proficiency in R and LaTeX. High proficiency in Tableau. Native AI professional.
- Member: American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, International Political Science Association, Academic Council of the United Nations System.
- Experience in political campaigns and political consulting in the San Francisco Bay Area.