

Rajika Bhandari, Ph.D.

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Global expert in international education and senior leader with over 25 years of executive and management experience in research, monitoring and evaluation, and strategy in education across nonprofit, private and higher education settings. Skilled at leading large-scale global research and impact studies; shaping thought leadership; leveraging data for insights and learning; forging networks across multilateral, governmental, and philanthropic sectors; and serving as a spokesperson with media and at key events. Dr. Bhandari has over 50 publications, including five books, and several articles and op-eds, with her work covered by global media. She is also an expert in people-to-people exchanges between the U.S. and India; has been an Adjunct Associate Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University; and has served on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. Dr. Bhandari offers strategic consulting and research and advisory services to higher education institutions, multilateral organizations, governmental agencies, and the nonprofit sector.

Professional Experience

PRESIDENT & CEO

JAN., 2020 - CURRENT

IC3 Institute, U.S. & India

- Lead the global strategy of the IC3 Institute, a mission-driven and systemic effort that partners with high schools, colleges and universities, and employers to bring career and college counseling to high school students globally, making them college and career ready. Impacted 40,000 students in India and Nepal, with activities of the IC3 Movement reaching 1M students in 17+ countries.
- Shape research and thought leadership on global talent and youth skills; student decision-making and mobility; and college readiness and workforce development.
- Engage with higher education, industry, and government leaders to build partnerships and collaborate with the high school sector in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE)

Senior Advisor, Research & Strategy &

Director, Center for Academic Mobility Research and Impact

Deputy Vice President, Research & Evaluation

Director, Research & Evaluation

April 2017 – Sep. 2019

Jan. 2010 – March 2017

Jan. 2006 – Dec. 2009

- Guided and shaped IIE's research, monitoring and evaluation, and thought leadership portfolio to deliver innovative research and data insights. Provided quality assurance for 30+ projects, including large-scale studies for key clients: the U.S. Department of State-funded *Open Doors* project on international educational exchange, collecting and analyzing data from 8,000 respondents at U.S. colleges and universities about international students and U.S. students going abroad; a 10-year mixed-methods impact study of the Ford Foundation's International Fellowships Program covering 4,300 alumni in 22 countries, including India; and Graduate Learning Overseas (GLO), a U.S. Department of Education-funded groundbreaking study of U.S. graduate students studying abroad.
- Built IIE's influence and visibility, positioning it as a nonprofit partner with U.S. colleges and universities; global higher education institutions, associations and nonprofits; multilateral and international development agencies; U.S. government agencies; and private corporations and foundations. Represented IIE as key spokesperson with the media and at speaking engagements globally, including briefings to senior government officials and policymakers.
- Cultivated donors and leveraged networks to fundraise and attract new clients such as foundations (Ford Foundation, Macarthur Foundation, and Carnegie Corporation); multilateral organizations (UNESCO and the World Bank); U.S. government agencies (Departments of State and Education; USAID); and foreign governmental agencies (Government of Australia; Qatar Foundation).

- Advised IIE's strategy and engagement in India especially in relation to higher education exchanges, liaising regularly with Indian governmental and nonprofit organization and higher education institutions, as well as agencies focused on the Indo-U.S. partnership in the U.S.
- Represented IIE on various National Science Foundation engagements including: Expert Working Groups for evaluations of NSF initiatives; led workshops on evaluating the impact of international graduate experiences in STEM; and reviewing the NSF Science and Engineering Indicators.
- Authored books, research and policy briefs, op-eds, and blogs, including IIE's flagship printed Open Doors report drawing 6,000 readers.

ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, SPRING, 2014

- Invited to teach first-ever graduate-level course on *International Higher Education and Student Mobility*, providing an overview, profession, and scholarship of the field of international education.
- Curated list of guest speakers featuring national and global experts in international education.

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, MPR ASSOCIATES (ACQUIRED BY RTI), BERKELEY, CA, 2000 – 2005

- Designed and managed research and evaluations of U.S. primary, secondary and higher education programs for clients including federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, non-governmental organizations, and foundations. Areas of focus included: adult education and lifelong learning; immigrant parents' involvement in children's education; and exemplary high schools.
- Collaborated with project teams on all aspects of qualitative and quantitative research including survey design, multi-site data collection, advanced data analyses, and report preparation.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROGRAM EVALUATION, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION NETWORK, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, 1998 – 1999

- Implemented a comprehensive research and evaluation system for 10 centers on university campuses statewide that strengthen primary and secondary mathematics and science education in North Carolina. Coordinated evaluations for grantees of the federal Eisenhower Professional Development Program for math and science teachers in North Carolina.

Education

PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY & EDUCATION, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, 1998

(Minor: Program evaluation and policy analysis)

M.S., PSYCHOLOGY, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, 1995

B.A. (HONORS), PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, INDIA, 1991

Select Recent Publications

Bhandari, R. (2020). [COVID-19's impact on the world's largest youth population](#). *University World News*.

Bhandari, R. (2019). Intelligent Internationalization in the Context of the U.S.: Realities, challenges and opportunities. In K. A. Godwin and H. de Wit, *Intelligent Internationalization: The Shape of Things to Come*. Global Perspectives on Higher Series, Volume 43. Brill/Sense Publishers.

Bhandari, R. (2019). [Global Competition for Talent: A Comparative Analysis of the Effectiveness of Higher Education Internationalization Strategies](#). WISE Research Report.

Bhandari, R. (Nov., 2019). [Open doors are the key to international understanding](#). *Times Higher Education*.

Bhandari, R. & Robles, C. (2018). [International Higher Education: Shifting Mobilities, Policy Challenges, and New Initiatives](#). 2018 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO: Paris.

- Farrugia, C., & Bhandari, R. (2018). Global Trends in Student Mobility. In P. Nuno Teixeira & J. Shin (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of International Higher Education Systems and Institutions*. New York, NY: Springer.
- Bhandari, R. & Miller, T. (2018). Harnessing data to advance internationalization. In D. Deardorff & H. Charles (Eds.), *Leading Internationalization: A handbook for international education leaders*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
- Farrugia, C., & Bhandari, R. (2017). *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange*. NY: IIE.
- Russell, J.K., Martel, M. & Bhandari, R. (2017). [*Social Justice Leaders in Action: IFP Impacts in Asia*](#). Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program Alumni Tracking Study, Report No. 2. New York: IIE.
- Bhandari, R. & Mirza, Z. (2016). *Scholarships for Students from Developing Countries: Establishing a Global Baseline*. Paper commissioned by UNESCO for the 2016 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002455/245571e.pdf>
- Lane, J. & Bhandari, R. (2014). The role of “big data” in international higher education. J. Lane (Ed.), *Big Data in Higher Education*. SUNY Critical Issues Series, Volume 3. Albany, NY.

Select Speaking Engagements

- AIEA Town Hall: *How international education can contribute to racial and social justice*, June 2020.
- Center for Studies in Higher Education, University of California, Berkeley: *COVID-19: The end or revival of international higher education?* May, 2020
- Times of India Mission Admission: *Options for Indian students seeking an international education*. May 2020.
- Panelist, *Access to quality: how higher education competes for talent*, WISE Summit, Doha, Nov. 19-21, 2019.
- Invited speaker, *International Students and Global STEM talent: Implications for Science and Innovation*, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Policy Forum, DC, May 2-3, 2019.
- Invited Speaker, *Global Academic Mobility and Knowledge Flows: Megatrends, Challenges and Opportunities*. National Science Foundation Global Insights Distinguished Speaker Series, Washington, DC, Dec. 13, 2018.
- Invited Speaker, *Trusting Numbers: How Reliable is Data for Education?* WISE@NY, Learning Revolutions: Creating Educational Environments for Empowerment and Inclusion, New York, September 21-22, 2018.
- Keynote address, *Megatrends in Global Higher Education with a Focus on India*, College Board’s India Global Higher Education Alliance, Global Launch Event, New Delhi, India, May 21-22, 2018.
- Invited speaker, *Research, Evaluation and Learning Summit*, Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Washington DC, February 2018
- Panelist, *Economic impacts of international exchange: A Capitol Hill briefing on trends in student mobility*. IIE Washington Forum and the House International Exchange Caucus, Washington DC, January 2018.

Professional Service

- Commissioner, U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
- Board of Directors, ISEP
- Editorial Boards: *Journal of Studies in International Education*; *Journal of International Students*
- Advisory Committee, NSF Workshop on Best Practices in Evaluating Research Experiences for Graduate Students, January 10-11, 2019, Washington DC.

Professional Affiliations

Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA); NAFSA: Association of International Educators; American Educational Research Association (AERA); American Evaluation Association (AEA)