

## **AMIRA SHAHEEN, PhD**

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### **EDUCATION**

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**PhD in Epidemiology and Population Health**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London, UK, 2005-2009

*Thesis: The epidemiology of injuries in school-aged children in the Palestinian Territory.* Explored the distribution and causes of injury mortality and morbidity in Palestinian children. Along with other risk factors thought to be associated with the occurrence of serious injury, the behaviour of schoolchildren was investigated in association with serious injury. Data on morbidity were collected through the project entitled Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC).

**MSc in Public Health**, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 2000-2002

*Thesis: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice among Farm Workers Applying Pesticides in a Cultivated Area of the Jericho District.* Pesticides are heavily used in this environment; this study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of farmers towards their use. Data were collected using a questionnaire and face to face interviews.

**BSc in Chemistry and Chemical Technology**, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 1991-1995

*Thesis: Use of X-rays in Chemical Reactions.*

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

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**Assistant Professor, An-Najah University**, Nablus, Palestine, September 2011-Up to now

I am acting as the head of the Public Health Division. Indeed, I am teaching public health and epidemiology in addition to clinical nutrition to the students at the Medical and Medical Sciences School. In the first semester I taught mother and child health, and health promotion for Public Health master students. I taught as well research methods to medical students. I am helping in reviewing several research proposals submitted by students in either the public health master program or the medical school.

**Researcher, BMJ Group**, London, June 2010 – January 2011

I participated in reviewing evidence on the affectivity of screening programmes in diagnosing sexual transmitted disease. My role in this project was to extract data on screening tools used to diagnose Chlamydia and Hepatitis B, as well as on the diagnostic accuracy of these screening tools. I assessed the quality of the relevant articles by using the Cochrane risk of bias tool (ROB), in addition to AMISTAR, which assessed the quality of reviews. I helped as well in doing the grade for the relevant articles, and in writing the evidence based summary for these pathogens.

**Research assistant, LSHTM**, London, June 2009- December 2009

I worked at SAFIR project that is aimed to assess health risk of using treated waste water in irrigation. My role in this project was to extract data from the project website, manage, and analyse these data using STATA. Additionally, I helped in drafting the results in a report to be shared with other collaborative. I worked as well at another project called the C8. My task in this project was to review evidence on the association between PFOA (C8) and various health outcomes such as cardiovascular diseases. Relevant articles were managed using the EndNote X3.

**Researcher, BMJ Group**, London, November 2008 - January 2009

Extracted data in a systematic review on type-2 diabetes and heart failure to update a previous report on this issue. Also involved in trialling a data extraction tool that was developed for this purpose.

**Tutor, LSHTM, London, September 2008 - December 2008**

Facilitated computer based practical sessions on the Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health (STEPH) course for MSc students and helped mark exams.

**Clerical Assistant, LSHTM, London, March 2005 – 15 July 2005**

Produce materials needed for the CRASH2 site files that were sent to the collaborating hospitals around the world. This involved printing, photocopying, and laminating. Organised these materials into files and collated into folders, mailing of newsletters and other materials.

**Researcher, Learning Disabilities Project, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, January 2003 - September 2004**

Organized focus group sessions. Assessed the tool used in data collection. Participated in modifying the project questionnaire and in data collection from schoolchildren.

**Lecturer, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 2002-2003**

Prepared materials to be presented to the students, marked students' assignments and exams.

Courses: Logical thinking.

**Administrative Assistant, School of Public Health, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 1999-2000**

Communicated with other national and international organizations working in the health field with the aim of fundraising. Prepared workshops and conferences by communicating with the presenters and audience, booking the rooms, etc. Prepared teaching schedules for each semester and allocated rooms for lectures. Wrote the school annual report.

**Teaching Assistant, Department of Chemistry, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 1996-1999**

Prepared teaching laboratories. Presented theoretical aspects and demonstrated practical aspects of experiments to students. Supervised students during experiments. Marked lab reports. Prepared/marked laboratory exams. Marked exams for other courses given by the department. Played a role in setting up the chemistry lab manual for the medical students.

**Teacher, Al-Sheikh Saed School for girls, Jerusalem, 1996**

Prepared and presented maths and science lessons for elementary and preparatory school students. Prepared and marked exams. Developed maths and science curriculums.

**Aid Nurse, Gynaecology Ward, Al-Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem, January 1990 - October 1991**

Clean the delivery sets, staff, pack them, send and bring them from the sterilization unit. Then distribute them to the delivery rooms. Transfer the new babies to the neonatal ward, and transfer the women after giving birth outside the labour. Send and bring the requested blood and urine tests to and from the hospital laboratory. Join the pregnant woman to the ultrasound room.

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**VOLUNTEER WORK**

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**Researcher, June 2014,** Delivered a presentation about the situation of mental health in Palestine and assist in research that investigated the Syrian refugees' health in Turkey through volunteering in the department of psychiatry/Gaziantep University/Turkey.

**Mentor, 2007-2010.** Supervised the work of 14-year old school children attending the LSHTM as a part of a project that aims to introduce children coming from low income families to academic life.

**Reviewer, 2007, 2009, & 2012, up to now.** Invited reviewer by the Journal of Emerging Theory in Epidemiology, the International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion, the Cochrane Injury Group, the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal, and for the Saudi Scientific International Conference 2012/London.

**Arabic-English translator (and visa-versa), 2006-2008.** For several studies run by LSHTM.

**Shop assistant, 2007.** Climate change campaign London.

**Research Student Representative, 2006.** LSHTM.

**Health Educator, 2002.** Al-Zawayah Health Care Centre, UNRWA, Jerusalem. Residency course in a non-communicable disease community clinic under the supervision of the UNRWA (part of the requirements for the MSc in Public Health). Responsible for providing health education to diabetes and cardiovascular disease patients and their families. Focused on changing patient behaviours with an emphasis on physical activity and dietary change.

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## **SKILLS AND PERSONAL QUALITIES**

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### **Presenting information**

20<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Epidemiology (WCE), Alaska, USA, 17-21 August 2014. Self-Reported oral health, oral hygiene habits, and dental attendance of pregnant women in Tulkarem city. (Poster presentation)

Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, Grand Palace Hotel, Amman, Jordan, 17-18 March 2014. Distribution and factors associated with the occurrence of road traffic crashes in the West Bank: A Cross-Sectional study (Sep. 2009-Sep 2012)". (Oral Presentation)

9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety promotion (March 2008). The Epidemiology of Unintentional Injuries among Palestinian School-Aged Children. Merida-Mexico. (Oral Presentation)

LSHTM (2006). The Epidemiology of Injury in School-Aged Children in the Palestinian Territory. London. (Preliminary results of thesis work presented at a unit meeting, LSHTM.)

### **Project management / Prioritization of workload**

Able to prioritise time effectively, juggling workload and undertaking external volunteer work and other activities successfully.

### **Teamwork**

Able to work alone and in a team. Systematic reviews research often involved co-ordination of a team of epidemiologists, statisticians, and IT staff.

Established good working relationships with people from different cultural and educational backgrounds.

### **Training**

An-Najah National University Strategic Planning 16-26 May 2012 Turkey/Istanbul

LSHTM Short course on Infectious Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies, World Health Organization, 30 March to 3 April 2009  
Editing Papers, 2009  
Small Group Teaching, 2008  
Statistics Training for Social Scientists, 2007  
NVIVO Introductory Workshop, 2007  
Workshop on Multilevel Models for Realistically Complex Data, 2007  
Making Posters for Scientific Conferences, 2007  
Writing Biomedical Research Papers, 2005-2006  
Systematic Review, 2005  
Workshop on Publications, 2005  
Writing up Research Grants, 2005

Al-Quds University Introduction to Learning Disabilities, 2004  
Mother and Child Health, 2000  
Leadership, innovation, and transformation, Al-Quds University, 14-19 July 1996

### **Overseas experience**

Carried out a project in The Palestinian Territories as a final report for the MSc in Public Health. This provided an exhaustive understanding of health issues - such as access to services - in countries in conflict. Currently I am working in collaborative researches with Turkey, USA, UK,

and Denmark. The fruit of which will be published papers in peer reviewed journals, kindly view Publications.

### **Adaptability and flexibility**

Can adjust to a variety of socio-political/cultural environments.

Key characteristics: open mindedness and sensitivity to cultural differences.

### **Computer skills**

Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint), STATA and EndNote. Also internet use. I have a working experience in using Excel and SPSS.

### **Language ability**

Arabic (mother tongue), English (fluent), Hebrew (GCSE level), French (beginner).

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## **OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS**

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Passionate about working with children. Walking. Enjoying nature. Belly dancing. Reading novels.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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GBD 2013 Mortality and Causes of Death Collaborators. Global, regional, and national age-sex specific all cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *Lancet*. 2014 Dec 17. pii: S0140-6736(14)61682-2. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61682-2. [Epub ahead of print]

Behavior and Psychological Distress in University Students: A 12 Nation Study. Mehmet Eskin<sup>1,16</sup>, Jian-Min Sun<sup>2</sup>, Jamila Abuidhail<sup>3</sup>, Kouichi Yoshimasu<sup>4</sup>, Omar Kujan<sup>5</sup>, Mohsen Janghorbani<sup>6</sup>, Chris Flood<sup>7</sup>, Mauro Giovanni Carta<sup>8</sup>, Martin Voracek<sup>9</sup>, Anwar Mechri<sup>10</sup>, Motasem Hamdan<sup>11</sup>, Senel Poyrazli<sup>12</sup>, Khouala Aidoudi<sup>10</sup>, Seifollah Bakhshi<sup>6</sup>, Hacer Harlak<sup>13</sup>, Maria Francesca Moro<sup>8</sup>, Hani Nawafleh<sup>14</sup>, Louise Phillips<sup>7</sup>, **Amira Shaheen**<sup>15</sup>, Shahama Taifour<sup>5</sup>, Ulrich Tran<sup>9</sup>, Kanami Tsuno<sup>4</sup>. Under Review

Khubaib Ayoub, **Amira A Shaheen**, Shakoor Hajat. Postpartum Depression among Arab Women: A Call for Action. Under review

Zakirson TL, **Shaheen A**, Mortaja S, Hamel PA. *The prevalence of psychological morbidity in West Bank Palestinian Children*. Can J Psychiatry. 2004 Jan; 49(1): 60-3.

**Shaheen A**, Edwards P. *Flying bullets and speeding cars: Analysis of child injury deaths in the Palestinian Territory*. East Mediterr Health J. 2008 Mar-Apr; 14(2): 406-14.

**Amira Shaheen** (2010). *Injury Epidemiology in Palestinian School-Children*. Mauritius: VDM Publishing House Ltd. (Book)

Khubaib Ayoub, **Amira A Shaheen**, Shakoor Hajat. Postpartum Depression among Arab Women: A Call for Action. The World in Denial? Global Mental Health Matters' Conference. Royal Society of Medicine, London. 26-27 March 2013. (Abstract)

Suad A Samara, **Amira A Shaheen**, Niveen Abu-Rmeileh. Self-Reported Oral Health, Oral Hygiene Habits, and Dental Attendance of Pregnant Women in Tulkarem City. 1<sup>st</sup> Arab World Conference on Public Health, Dubai. 4-6 April 2013. (Abstract)

Khubaib Ayoub, **Amira A Shaheen**, Shakoor Hajat. Postpartum Depression among Arab Women: A Call for Action. 1<sup>st</sup> Arab World Conference on Public Health, Dubai. 4-6 April 2013. (Abstract)

**Amira Shaheen**, Mohammed Awad, Omar Abu-Zaydeh, Jon Mark Hirshon. Distribution and factors associated with the occurrence of road traffic crashes in the West Bank: A Cross-Sectional study (Sep. 2009 – Sep. 2012). Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, Grand Palace Hotel, Amman, Jordan, 17-18 March 2014. (Abstract)

Khubaib Ayoub, **Amira A Shaheen**, Shakoor Hajat. Postpartum Depression among Arab Women: A Call for Action. Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, Grand Palace Hotel, Amman, Jordan, 17-18 March 2014. (Abstract)

**Amira A Shaheen**, Suad A Samara, Niveen Abu-Rmeileh. Self-Reported Oral Health, Oral

Hygiene Habits, and Dental Attendance of Pregnant Women in Tulkarem City. 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Epidemiology (WCE), Alaska, USA, 17-21 August 2014

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## **AWARDS**

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Open Society Fund, USA, 2013 & 2104. Professional development fund.

Elmer Villanueva Fund, USA, 2012. A sponsorship fund with International Epidemiological Association (IEA)

Mary Trevelyan Fund, London, 2008. £500 grant for living expenses.

International Arab Charity (IAC), London, 2008. £1500 grant for fees for writing up (£500) and living expenses (£1000).

The National Institute of Public Health, Mexico, 2007. Grant for flights and accommodation to attend and present at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, 15-18 March, 2008, Merida, Mexico.

Ford Foundation Fellowship, USA, 2005. Grant to continue PhD studies in epidemiology at LSHTM, 2005-2007. Covered fees and living expenses.

Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 2000. Grant covering fees to continue MSc studies in Public Health at Al-Quds University, 2000-2002.

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## **Membership**

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International Epidemiological Association (IEA). 23 July 2014- 22 July 2017

Institute Review Board (IRB), support team, An Najah National University. 03/02/2013-Now

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## **REFERENCES**

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Will be provided upon request.