

Megan Peters

Systems Engineering Professional; Smallholder Market System Expert

email - meganpeters.mlp@gmail.com

phone - +1 479 629 4856

online - [LinkedIn](#)

EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant at The George Washington University, Affiliate at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016–2022

- Developed expertise in mixed-methods research to evaluate systemic change, market relationships, smallholder markets, system architecture, and supply chain resilience, for USAID, MIT, Chemonics, and TetraTech
- Collaboratively designed rigorous quantitative and qualitative research projects that guided USAID's efforts to monitor, analyze, and predict systemic outcomes in agricultural market systems for Feed the Future
- Developed framework for monitoring systemic change with system dynamics, system mapping techniques, and extant tools to predict emergent behavior in humanitarian systems, leading to research and activities
- Contributed directly to new investments and KPIs across market system project portfolio at USAID Uganda
- Co-lead events to aid program design, identify connections between disparate stakeholders' efforts, and reconcile perspectives to find high-leverage opportunities to fund projects, leading to productive alliances
- Consulted to Chemonics and TetraTech, primarily about their activities' monitoring and evaluation efforts
- Employed R for organizing and analyzing data, and other software programs for making use of large datasets
- Supported proposals development, including resource allocation and monitoring of work processes that ensured team success and work process alignment with various partners
- Successfully supported M.S. and B.S. researchers to conduct research, consult with partners, and become familiar with working in Uganda, and collaborated with key partners at DFID and other agencies internationally

Logistics Engineer I-II, J.B. Hunt Transport, 2013–2015

- Consulted to customers and internal business units to reduce CO₂ emissions by about ten percent year over year, incorporating network efficiency techniques, and engineering decision support, sales, and marketing, also leading to alliances around environmental efforts with General Mills, Walmart, and P&G
- Supported restructure of processes and teams, as an Operational Excellence graduate, to lead diverse teams to value stream map, identify bottlenecks, perform root-cause analyses, and develop more efficient and effective processes, and KPIs, that directly led to development of Experience teams to support employees and customers
- Represented company's environmental successes, learnings, and opportunities in federal and NGO environments
- Performed omni channel analyses for C-suite that directly supported C-suite strategy development
- Received company's inaugural Innovation Hall of Fame placement for customer and employee Experience work

Founder, LIGHTSIDEOUT, 2020–present

- Led product development, especially activewear, from purchasing materials to design, testing, and marketing
- Lead cross-cultural team to build community around supporting women through art, through fashion shows, festivals, and being featured as an emerging designer at DC Fashion Week
- Enable Afghan refugees to earn ancillary income to help buy food and pay rent

Teaching Assistant, The George Washington University, 2021–2022

- Taught labs for introductory systems engineering course for all freshmen entering Engineering Management and Systems Engineering program
- Advised all M.S. Engineering Management students on Major capstone project where they consulted to organizations, across private and public sectors, from Department of Defense to innovative startups

Adjunct Faculty, The Elliott School at The George Washington University, 2023 (not yet started)

Megan Peters

Systems Engineering Professional; Smallholder Market System Expert

email - meganpeters.mlp@gmail.com

phone - +1 479 629 4856

online - [LinkedIn](#)

- Designed innovative course to give students in international affairs the ability to use systems engineering techniques to engage systems and ultimately achieve the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Systems Engineering, The George Washington University, 2022

M.S., Engineering Management, The George Washington University, 2018

B.S., Industrial Engineering with Sustainability Minor, University of Arkansas, 2013

DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENCE

Rigorous Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analyses, System Modeling, and Mixed-Methods Research; Research Design and Planning; Systemic Change; Team Leadership; Cross-cultural Teamwork; Intersectoral Teamwork; Interdisciplinary Teamwork; Project Management; Process Improvement; Entrepreneurship; Product Design; Sales and Marketing; Networks; Supply Chains; Smallholder Markets; Technical Writing; Technical Teaching; Sustainability and Resilience; Operations Research; Ability to Understand and Translate Complexity and Technical Products to C-Suite and Executive Leaders in Public and Private Sectors; Ability to Integrate and Translate High-Level Goals into Mid-Level Requirements and Lead Teammates to Execute on Deliverables; Work with Government in U.S. and Internationally; Application Diagramming; Programming; Strategy Development, Decision-Support; Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques; Engaging and Advocating for Vulnerable Groups of People; Contributing to Advancement of Refugees and Women; Advising Teams.

PUBLICATIONS

Blair, C. et al. "A Systems Framework for International Development: The Data Layered Causal Loop Diagram." *Production and Operations Management* 30.12 (2021): 4374-4395.

Goentzel, J. et al. "BRC Mapping Approach." MIT Humanitarian Supply Chain Lab (2022).

Goentzel, J. et al. "Systems Pathway Toolkit." MIT Humanitarian Supply Chain Lab (2022).

Cusack, L. et al. "Humanitarian Supply Chain Setup Decisions: The Case of Haiti." POMS Conference (2016).

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering Lisa Zaken Award for Excellence in Industrial Engineering

Alpha Pi Mu Industrial Engineering Honors Society John L. Imhoff Award

COMMUNITY

Co-Founder, Domou's Syrian Kitchen and Ecosystemic Change – Help Syrian family begin a catering company to earn money and share their gift with the D.C. community

Founder, Early Career Alumni Council, University of Arkansas College of Engineering – Worked with College of Engineering staff and distinguished alumni to found significant source of alumni connection, student development, and fundraising; served as President-Elect, President, and Past-President

Guest-lectured courses in engineering and business academic programs at Rochester Polytechnic Institute, University of Arkansas, and George Washington University, at graduate and undergraduate levels

Creative writing, and coursework, performances at The DC Improv, The Second City, the Alexandria Art League, and the Washington Improv Theatre

Current volunteer / member at Refugee Care, NSF I-Corps, and Neighborhood Small Business and Civic Associations