

# RAINER EBERT

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Bethesda, Maryland/  
Houston, Texas

Resourceful project manager, communicator, and facilitator with 16 years of experience in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America (particularly in Bangladesh and Tanzania); driven by a lifelong passion for promoting individual freedom, democracy, and human flourishing; strong record of active engagement with human rights and development issues; educational background in the humanities and sciences.

## SKILLS

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### **Proposal Writing, Budgeting, Fundraising, and Donor Relations**

- Raised \$10,000 to provide housing and education to street children in Dhaka, and for the construction of a children's village in Haluaghat in northern Bangladesh: Wrote a concept note for the children's village; organized a charity concert in Germany; acted as an intermediary between my local partner organization and corporate donors, including McKinsey & Company; wrote proposals for different parts of the construction project; planned and executed outreach campaigns and fundraising drives on social media and offline; created and maintained budgets; drafted contracts and prepared progress reports, financial updates, and presentations; tracked deadlines and deliverables
- Matched children orphaned by the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse with private donors in Germany to cover their schooling and health care expenses, raising a total of \$20,000: Provided donors with profiles of and updates about their sponsored children; met with the children to evaluate their needs; fostered relationships between the donors and the children through the exchange of letters and gifts
- Coordinated the emergency medical evacuation of a 6-year-old girl in a rural community in western Bangladesh who had suffered severe burn injuries to a specialized clinic in Dhaka and raised funds for her treatment and recovery; identified and solved logistical and other problems during her stay in Dhaka; successfully set up a scholarship fund for her school education once she had recovered; the total amount raised was about \$2,500

### **Project and Event Management and Leadership**

- Conceptualized and co-organized two international student conferences, one of them on social and political activism and strategies to achieve local and global change with participants from 14 countries, mostly in the Global South: Wrote the call for abstract; coordinated the selection of abstracts; handled logistics, such as registration; disbursed honoraria; chaired the selection committee for the Best Paper Award
- Coordinated the Master of Arts program in Ethics of Governance and Public Service at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and led efforts to build capacity and increase retention
- Led a student organization that organized more than 22 public events with speakers from 6 countries at the University of Heidelberg in Germany: Successfully raised \$7,000 in grants; made travel and accommodation arrangements; chaired planning meetings; created promotional material and co-authored an organizational handbook; developed and maintained a website for the organization

## **Communication, Public Engagement, and Outreach**

- Wrote an informational brochure about LGBTIQ+ rights with partners at the Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Boys of Bangladesh, arranged for it to be translated into Bengali, and raised the funds necessary to get it printed and distributed in both English and Bengali
- Planned and executed a campaign in Kiswahili against anti-LGBTIQ+ discrimination in East Africa
- Advised an animal welfare organization in Tanzania on effective fundraising and made their website
- Created and have been running for 12 years a Facebook page dedicated to the promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights in Bangladesh (monthly reach: 10,000); a book in which LGBTIQ+ followers of this page share their experiences with violence, discrimination, and prejudice is in the works
- Facilitated the translation of 2 animal ethics books into Bengali and 1 into Kiswahili; raised funds for the translations and to subsidize printing costs; coordinated the printing process and the distribution of books to local animal welfare organizations in Bangladesh and Tanzania
- Delivered more than 40 public lectures to diverse audiences in 15 countries; spoke at schools, colleges, universities, a law school, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Bangladesh's Ministry of Planning, and a number of nonprofits; talked on TV and radio
- Spoke at rallies and with local politicians, village assemblies, and other stakeholders in Mirpur near Kushtia, Bangladesh about women's rights and the urgent need to address gender-based violence

## **Training**

- Conducted workshops for 120 students at Dhaka University and 50 students at Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh on how to apply to graduate school in the US
- Trained graduate students in Tanzania on research methodology and proposal writing
- Coached groups of students from 2 low-income, inner-city high schools for the Houston Ethics Bowl
- Taught 30 courses at universities and colleges in the US and Tanzania; mentored a Philosophy Club
- Ran a 1-day crash course on critical thinking for young members of Anushandhitshu Chokro, a Bangladeshi organization dedicated to the promotion of public science education
- Prepared high school students in Germany for their A-level math exams in 4-week intensive courses
- Organized workshops on human rights at Heidelberg University in Germany, on animal ethics at Jagannath University in Bangladesh, and on philosophy at Pathak Shamabesh in Bangladesh
- Started and led a humanities journal club at Heidelberg University in Germany

## **Copy Editing and Publishing**

- Served as a reviewer for professional journals in the US, Poland, South Africa, and Bangladesh
- Wrote calls for papers and edited special issues for the *Bangladesh Journal of Bioethics*, for which I received the 2019 Bangladesh Bioethics Society Award, "in appreciation of efforts to promote bioethics in Bangladesh"
- Edited 2 books for academic publishers in Germany and South Africa, successfully uniting contributors from diverse disciplines and more than a dozen countries behind a common goal

## Research and Writing

- Wrote 11 articles in peer-reviewed physics and philosophy journals
- Contributed more than 60 op-eds on issues such as gender-based violence, LGBTIQ+ rights, children's rights, racism and anti-refugee sentiment, extreme poverty, free speech, religious freedom, immigration policy, and the war in Ukraine to newspapers in 21 countries, including: *Frankfurter Rundschau* (Germany), *Los Angeles Times*, *Des Moines Register*, and *The Virginian-Pilot* (USA), *Asia Times* (Hong Kong), *Scroll.in* (India), *The Nation* (Pakistan), *Dhaka Tribune* and *The Daily Star* (Bangladesh), *The Citizen* (Tanzania), *Nigerian Tribune* (Nigeria), and *Sunday Times*, *The Star*, and *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa)
- Researched and wrote a 250-page PhD thesis in Moral Philosophy and a 46-page master's thesis in Theoretical Physics

## LANGUAGES

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Bilingual proficiency in **English & German**, and intermediate proficiency in **French**

## PROFESSIONAL WORK AND CONSULTING

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2023-now	<b>Research Fellow</b> , University of South Africa, South Africa
2023-now	<b>Adjunct Professor</b> , Lone Star College & Houston Community College, USA
Spring 2023	<b>Lecturer of Philosophy</b> , University of Houston, USA
2020-21	<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b> , Centre de Recherche en Éthique (CRÉ), Canada
2019-now	<b>Fundraising &amp; Digital Outreach Consultant</b> , Tanzania Animal Welfare Society
2017-19	<b>Lecturer &amp; MA Coordinator</b> , University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
2016-17	<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> , University of Johannesburg, South Africa
2016-now	<b>Coach &amp; Judge</b> , Houston High School Ethics Bowl, USA
Fall 2016	<b>Adjunct Professor</b> , Lone Star College, USA
2013-now	<b>Development, Women's Rights &amp; Health Consultant</b> , GSF/Smile in Life, Bangladesh
2013-18	<b>Fundraising Manager (Germany)</b> , Sneha Foundation, Bangladesh
2012	<b>Program Intern</b> , Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
2012-now	<b>Campaign Manager</b> , Bangladesh Against Homophobia/Rongin Desh, Bangladesh
2009-15	<b>Proposal Writer &amp; Fundraiser</b> , Ekmattara Society, Bangladesh
2005-07	<b>Founding Chairman</b> , Interdisziplinäre Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tierethik, Heidelberg University, Germany

## EDUCATION

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**MA & PhD, Philosophy**, Rice University, USA

Diplom ( $\approx$  **BSc + MSc**), **Physics**, Heidelberg University, Germany