

## **Elika Somani**

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### **EDUCATION**

**Macalester College**, Saint Paul, MN B.A. Dec 2021, GPA: 3.79/4.0  
*Major:* Global Health and International Development (Independently Designed), Pre-Medicine  
Honours Thesis: The Value of Education: School Policy Decisions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**United World College**, Singapore August. 2016-May 2018  
International Baccalaureate Diploma. Marks: 40/45 (97th percentile)  
Thesis: Malaria Control in the Gambia and Sierra Leone: The Effect of Biological Control Methods and Socio-Political Governance on Malaria Disease Control Outcomes

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**National Institutes for Health (NIH)** Aug. 2022 - ongoing

- Fellow with the Department of Bioethics (two yr. appointment)
- Research topics: biosecurity, dual use, ethics and regulations of AI and biosecurity, institutional review board and regulations, global health priority setting

**Atlas Fellowship** June 2022 - Sept. 2022

- Deputy Head of Events organising and overseeing the Atlas fellowship summer programs (bringing 100+ students from around the world to an 11-day program on critical thinking rationality, and the most pressing global problems)

**Minnesota Department of Health / C.D.C Foundation** Nov. 2021-June 2022

- Managed the Semi-Permanent Testing and Vaccine COVID-19 program
- Managed 30 testing sites conducting upwards of 100,000 tests/week and 3 vaccine sites administering over 10,000 doses/week
- Conducting statewide strategic planning and research on long-term COVID-19 response

**Minnesota Historical Society History Day Mentor**, Saint Paul, MN Aug. 2019-May 2022

- Coordinate and judge state-wide History Day competitions
- Mentor and teach research skills to 100+ middle and high-school students yearly

**Macalester College Honors Research**, St Paul, MN Jan 2021-May 2022

- Investigated the rationales and factors underpinning COVID-19 K-12 public school reopenings in Minnesota

**U.S. Senator Tina Smith, St. Paul, MN** Aug. 2021-Dec.2021

- Interned for Senator Tina Smith focusing on healthcare policy

**Institute of State Effectiveness, Washington D.C.** May 2021-Sep.2021

- Analysed socio-economic and government data to track reform planning and execution
- Developed five country case studies for the Reform Sequencing Tracker
- Published a report on health system reform post-Ebola in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia

**National University Hospital (NUH), Singapore** May 2020-July 2020

- Tracked the COVID-19 outbreak in a foreign worker (FW) dorm of 25,000+
- Analysed epidemiological data to implement location-based outbreak response and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures
- Established a medical data system for tracking FWs' health and clinical care
- Organised full dorm swab and serology exercises for 25,000+ FWs

**Release MN 8 St.Paul, MN** Sep. 2020-Nov. 2020

- Increased Asian American voter participation in the 2020 Election by registering and providing resources to 1000+ Asian American adults

**Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) St. Paul, MN** June 2020-Nov. 2020

- Developed and implemented a training curriculum on juvenile justice and suicide prevention for staff working in the juvenile justice system across the state of Minnesota

**International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)**

Dhaka, Bangladesh May 2019-Sept.2020

- Strengthened health systems through a quality assurance assessment of medical education in Bangladesh and pilot intervention studies
- Improved infection control and anti-microbial resistance policies among high-risk groups (tertiary care facility staff and low-income urban communities)

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Freetown, Sierra Leone May 2017- Aug. 2017

- Conducted a study on hand hygiene and infection control measures among tertiary care hospitals in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Strengthened national Ebola surveillance through training primary care staff on Ebola response and rapid-diagnostic tests (RDT)

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

**Effective Altruism** Jan. 2018-ongoing

- Committed to working in highly-effective cause areas and organisations
- Took the [Giving What We Can](#) Pledge to donate more than 10% of my income
- Facilitate in EA Introductory, In-Depth, 80,000 Hours Career Fellowships

- Participant in multiple fellowships and EA Global conferences
- Organiser for the Effective Altruism Global x Berkeley conference (exp. 900 ppl)
- Piloting a 1-on-1 mentorship program and other improvements to EA Virtual Programs

**HealthEast and Fairview Hospice, Minneapolis, MN** Jan. 2020-Dec.2021

- Worked with hospice patients to improve their pain management and quality of life

**Macalester EcoHouse and MacCARES St.Paul, MN** Aug. 2019-Dec 2021

- Managed MacCARES and MULCH, two sustainability organisations, with over \$3000 in operating budget
- Lived in a zero-waste and carbon-neutral in the EcoHouse testing sustainability initiatives

**Ramsey County Public Health Department, St Paul, MN** Jan 2021-May 2021

- Coordinated and managed COVID-19 vaccine clinics for Ramsey County residents

**Co-creator of the Online Learning Program** June 2017- Aug. 2020 ● Co-founded that Online Learning Program, an Internet-based educational programme in place in libraries across Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Bangladesh

**East Side Freedom Library, St.Paul, MN** Jan. 2019-Jan. 2020

- Successfully petitioned for the name change of a Macalester building
- Engaged in dialogue on Macalester's role in the displacement of the Dakota and Ojibwe people through various public talks

**Rainwater Harvesting System, Sierra Leone** June 2017- Aug. 2017 ● Improved the \$13 million dollar water system to make the U.S. embassy self-sufficient in water through a rainwater harvesting system

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Somani, Erika W., "The Value of Education: School Policy Decisions During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (2022). [https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/idim\\_honors/1](https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/idim_honors/1).

## **AWARDS**

2022 Presidential Leadership Award, Macalester College

2021 Truman Scholarship Finalist

2021 Hamre Award, Macalester College

2020 Servant Leader Award, Macalester College

2020 COVID-19 Hero Award, National University Hospital (NUH), Singapore