

AYAM SHRESTHA

Arlington, VA

ayshrestha04@gmail.com | M: 405-243-2728 | [linkedin.com/in/ayamshrestha/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ayamshrestha/)

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Core Competencies: Qualitative & Quantitative Research, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning, Donor Reporting, Survey Design

Software Proficiencies: R, Python, STATA, Tableau, LaTeX, WordPress, Microsoft Office Suite, A.I. Research Tools

Interpersonal Skills: Cross-Cultural Communication, Stakeholder & Donor Engagement, Report Writing, Teamwork, Presentation

Languages: English, Nepali, Hindi, French (Intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE, Washington D.C.

April 2024 – Present

Research Associate, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)

October 2024 – Present

- ⇒ Co-authored donor-funded reports by conducting qualitative and quantitative research; supported ecosystem mapping efforts across four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa; conducted desk review on the implications of ESG integration on small & growing businesses (SGBs); supported project management; and led ANDE's yearly monitoring and evaluation.
- Interviewed 15+ program managers and entrepreneurs from business accelerators in Asia, analyzed financial and impact data using Stata and MS Excel, and conducted literature review to co-author three research reports on [gender-lens acceleration in Asia](#), and [Business Development Support \(BDS\) in Fiji](#) to offer actionable insights.
- Co-led two stakeholder working groups with international organizations and 30+ BDS providers after conducting a policy review on ESG integration and its macro-level implications for MSMEs in emerging markets.
- Support project management of the multi-regional IDRC Gender & Climate Project by coordinating re-grantee check-ins, tracking knowledge and financial deliverables, reviewing outputs, drafting funder reports, and managing communications.
- Led ANDE's 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey, analyzing and visualizing data using Stata and Excel to assess institutional performance and inform strategy—translating micro-level data into macro-relevant insights for the organization.
- Developed and implemented multi-country SCALE diagnostic surveys in multiple languages to benchmark BDS programs against global best practices; used Excel programming to automate survey analysis and feed results into cross-country performance dashboards informing ANDE's global training strategy.

Research Intern (Nathanson Fellow), ANDE

April 2024 – October 2024

- ⇒ Managed ecosystem mapping efforts across four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, supported key research projects, and managed the knowledge-hub in ANDE's website with relevant resources for a diverse audience.
- Compiled, validated and cleaned data to map 500+ BDS providers and 600+ resources to map the entrepreneurial ecosystems of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and South African Townships to improve access to funding and scaling opportunities to entrepreneurs. Also synthesized key insights from the Ethiopian Ecosystem Map to co-author a [practitioner-oriented report](#).

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, Denver, CO.

September 2022 – November 2024

Research Assistant, The Frederick S. Pardee Institute for International Futures

- ⇒ Delivered weekly code sheets in MS Excel containing the travel information of 20+ heads of states, governments, and international organizations after conducting research through various channels.
- Tracked, recorded, and validated weekly international visits of world leaders, monitoring foreign aid flows, international agreements, and engagements to a [database](#) of 100,000+ international visits since 1945. The dataset informs macro-level research and policymaking by IGOs and U.S. government agencies on foreign aid, diplomacy, and economic engagement.
- Enhanced measurability of insights by converting qualitative data available in government and IGO websites, news agencies, official social media channels, and LexisNexis in a quantitative format using specific coding guidelines using MS Excel.

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, Denver, CO.

April 2023 – June 2024

Research Assistant, The Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy

- ⇒ Contributed to Dr. Ilene Grabel's research on climate finance and development policy by curating literature, drafting reviews, and managing a knowledge repository for upcoming publications.
- Maintained a research repository on climate finance and development policy to support knowledge-sharing and publications.
- Organized research materials and references to support manuscript submissions.

CEDAR RAPIDS METRO ECONOMIC ALLIANCE, Cedar Rapids, IA.

May 2022 – August 2022

Research and Communications Intern

- ⇒ Conducted data-driven research for the city's chamber of commerce and authored articles highlighting key economic insights for publication on its website. Participated in meetings with investors and city officials to support efforts in attracting new business investments to Cedar Rapids, and the Eastern Iowa region.
- Oversaw the end-to-end execution of the Downtown Business Directory project, managing a database of 200+ amenities, coordinating with local business owners, and leading data collection, mapping, and integration into the city's website.
- Researched and analyzed existing data on topics like food insecurity, housing development, and enterprise growth to produce 11 articles promoting business development in Eastern Iowa interviewing city officials, business leaders, and entrepreneurs.

COE COLLEGE, Cedar Rapids, IA

June 2021 – August 2021

Spellman Research Fellow, The Stead Department of Business and Economics

- ⇒ Administered independent research to evaluate the challenges faced by Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to uncover development patterns among LLDCs impacting growth under Dr. Richard Eichhorn.
- Conducted literature review and empirical analysis using panel, spatial, and timeseries data retrieved from the World Bank, Penn World Tables and the Maddison Project Database using R for empirical analysis.
- Utilized insights from the augmented *Solow Model*, *Endogenous Growth Theory*, along with socio-political, cultural, and geographical factors to conceptualize underdevelopment

NEPAL REPUBLIC MEDIA, Kathmandu, Nepal

October 2017 – July 2018

Trainee Correspondent, Republica National Daily

January 2018 – July 2018

Journalism Intern, Republica National Daily

October 2017 – January 2018

- ⇒ Wrote for the Business and Economic Bureau of the Republica National Daily, and authored 60+ byline stories on Nepal's industry, trade, customs, agriculture, and tourism and translated Nepali articles in English.
- Interviewed politicians, public officials, national & international business leaders, and local entrepreneurs for their perspectives on economic and market trends.
- Analyzed trade, fiscal, and macroeconomic data to produce data-driven news articles on Nepal's economic conditions—communicating complex policy themes to a general audience.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- ANDE, Sasakawa Peace Foundation. 2024. "[*A Decade of Learnings on Gender Lens Acceleration: Case Studies from Asia*](#)"
- ANDE, USAID MS4G. 2024. "[*Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping – Ethiopia*](#)"
- ANDE, Market Development Facility (MDF), Reserve Bank of Fiji. 2025. "[*Business Development Support in Fiji – Landscape Assessment and Recommendations based on Global Evidence*](#)"
- Midwest Political Science Conference Presentation. 2022. "[*Why do children become possible targets for terrorists?*](#)"

TECHNICAL TRAINING & APPLIED COURSEWORK

- Applied Econometrics, Finance in Development, International Monetary Relations, and Data Science with R. Projects included modeling exchange rates, assessing financial system stability, and forecasting macroeconomic trends using Stata and Python.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **President**, Coe College International Club (2021-2022): Led a multicultural student group, managed a \$50K annual budget, coordinated cross-cultural events and trips, managed relations with faculty and student stakeholders, oversaw communications.
- **Editor in Chief**, Coe College Cosmos (2020-2021): Led a student newspaper team, published weekly byline articles on major campus and national events, and coordinated content planning, editing, and layout design with student writers and faculty.

EDUCATION

- M.A., Global Economic Affairs, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, 2024
- B.A., Economics & Political Science, Coe College, 2022