

Alen Amirkhanian CV

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Education

GRADUATE: 1997 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (Cambridge, MA); Masters in City Planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

UNDERGRADUATE: 1987 **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA); B.A. in Philosophy & Psychology, magna cum laude. Dean's Honor List; Phi Beta Kappa

Current Employment

2010-present American University of Armenia (Yerevan)

Director, AUA Acopian Center for the Environment (ace.aua.am) (Nov 2012 to present):

The Center houses AUA's activities on environmental research, education, and public outreach. In my tenure as director of the Acopian Center, I've:

- Expanded the focus of the AUA Acopian Center beyond biodiversity to include sustainable energy, sustainable cities, role of IT in environmental restoration and protection, and more. I did this by bringing in more capacity and forming strategic partnerships.
- Overseen development of environmental curriculum now offering 12 environmental courses;
- Developed a minor in environmental studies for the AUA undergraduate students;
- Proposed a new Bachelor's of Science in Environment and Sustainability Management slated to start in fall 2023 (and soon to be followed by Master's programs).
- Expanded the overall externally funded research and innovation portfolio from US\$20,000 a year to about US\$500,000 a year and growing, soon to reach US\$1 million a year. I've secured partnership in 3 large-scale EU Horizon 2020 projects (PERITIA, RESPONDRONE, and ILIAD). I have led the team to work intensively with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to launch a multiyear project on solid waste management, implementing extended producer responsibility, source separation, extracting value from biowaste, and introducing circular economy principles to Armenia. We are actively applying for EU Horizon projects and increasingly taking a lead role in them. I have propelled and overseen this growth.
- Developed educational materials on environmental sustainability from training modules for civil servants with 5 of the 11 modules being developed personally by me; I've developed and been the principal author of the first ever textbook in Armenian and English on "green architecture" with focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy (which I believe are used in courses offered at AUA and at National Architecture and Construction University of Armenia); and more.
- Spearheaded large-scale community outreach activities including call for papers for AUA publication; large-scale international conferences on mining, forests, landscape use, and 4 consecutive years of conferences on ecotourism mobilizing the sector in unprecedented scales (conferences would bring 600 people to share ideas and experiences and form networks); community engagement on sustainable energy and environmental education; and more; and
- Chaired and participated in countless academic committees ranging from academic recruitment to operations.

Interim Director, AUA Center for Responsible Mining (crm.aua.am) (March 2014 to present): The AUA Center for Responsible Mining conducts research, trainings, and advocacy to promote adoption of best practices in socially, environmentally, and economically responsible mining. I have overseen several projects of the Center including the mining legislation reform initiative, mapping of mines and tailings in Armenia, independent monitoring of mining communities for heavy-metal pollution, and dialogue on mining (a multi-stakeholder forum for discussing key issues facing mining in Armenia today), and more.

Strategy Advisor, AUA College of Science and Engineering (June 2011-November 2012): Tasks have included devising a strategy plan for the Engineering Research Center. The strategy plan seeks to increase the number and size of grants as well as more effectively integrate it with the educational mission of the College. In addition, I formed partnership and Erasmus, Black Sea Cross-Border Cooperation, as well as private research contracts. From private sources, we've been able to secure funding from the Samsung Corporation, Volkswagen Foundation, and ITC, a local engineering and product-development company.

Lecturer, American University of Armenia (AUA) (since 2010): College of Science and Engineering – Graduate-level courses called “Greening the Built Environment” and “Decision-Making Tools for Energy Use and Generation.” The first course introduces students to the latest practices and technologies in reducing the environmental impact of buildings and the built environment with specific focus on energy, water, and waste. The second course offers an in-depth understanding of policy and investment decision tools in making energy use or production decisions. Other graduate-level courses taught through the AUA Acopian Center for the Environment include “Natural Environment and Humans” and “Business and Environmental Sustainability.” Undergraduate courses taught include “Introduction to Environmental Science” and “Environmental Projects.”

Other Relevant Professional Experience

2016-17 Expert and Advisor on preparation of the Yerevan Green City Action Plan (GCAP) funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and implemented by EY Czech Republic.

2016 – Preparation of EU Sector Notes on Water, Solid and Hazardous Waste, and Environmental Protection

Prepared three sector notes for the EU delegation in Armenia. One paper focused on water covering topics such as drinking water, irrigation, water quality, etc. The second paper focused on solid and hazardous waste covering the topics of waste generation/reduction, management, landfilling, and elimination. The third paper focused on issues of environmental protection and discussed biodiversity, forests, land erosion and degradation, and eco education. Each paper presented the sector context, donor involvement and lessons learned, and priorities and recommendations in the short, medium and long terms.

2015 – Millennium Development Goals: National Progress Report, Armenia (published 2016)

Wrote the section on MDG 7 Environment, reviewing the country's progress in meeting the targets set for 2015. Work included collection and quality check of data available for the 16 national indicators in MDG 7. Review also included a background section on policy and programmatic context related to the 3 national targets in MDG 7 that included the extent to which principles of sustainable development are integrated into country's policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

2013-2015 – Green Architecture: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (2015)

Lead author of a textbook funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Armenia that introduces environmental sustainability challenges and solutions in the buildings and cities, particularly as they related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

November 2011-March 2012 – Istanbul Sustainable Design Workshop – Focus on Energy

Project Manager (and initiator) of a weeklong workshop bringing together 24 young architects, urban planners, and engineers—half from Armenia and half from Turkey—to focus on energy efficiency and clean energy in construction and urban design. The project will also publish joint articles by participating faculty and young professional from both countries. The primary aim of the workshop was to create a cross-border network of students, young professionals and faculty members interested in environmentally sustainable building and city design. The project was organized by Civic Forum, an Armenian NGO in cooperation with Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul and Izocam, a manufacturer and distributor of insulation materials headquartered in Turkey. Funding and support was provided by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, which administers USAID's Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement Project.

2010 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Antenna NGO (Yerevan)

Program Director of "Depi Ur Yerevan," a radio and podcast program on environmentally sustainable cities. The topics covered are transportation, energy, water, waste, green zones, construction, and land use. The broadcasts will be in Armenian and is the latest project of "Antenna" NGO, an organization dedicated to the production of social programming and public service announcements. Funding for the project is from Yerevan office of the OSCE.

2009 Armenian International Policy Research Group (Yerevan)

Independent Analyst: "Armenia's Construction Industry: Its Growth, Decline, and Future." I conducted an analysis of the 2000 through 2008 period during which Armenia experienced a construction boom followed by a sudden bust. The analysis was based on data from ArmStat, the Armenian Central Bank, the IMF, and industry experts. The results were presented at AIRPG's annual conference.

2004-2008 Brookings Institution, Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy (Washington D.C.)

Independent Consultant: Conducted research and analysis on the economic competitiveness of the Kansas City metropolitan area. The project examined the economic growth engines of the region (its industry clusters, functional specializations, occupational concentrations), with particular attention given to its regional innovation capacity. The project is also looking at the interconnectedness of the Kansas City metropolitan area with other metro areas in the Heartland region of the U.S.

1997-2004 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (Boston, MA)

Vice President of Research and Strategy: The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) is a national non-profit founded by Harvard Business Professor Michael E. Porter to identify market-based strategies for inner city economic revitalization. My responsibilities included product development, project management, and research:

- Product development
 - A competitiveness assessment methodology that helps identify economic growth opportunities and barriers;
 - Industrial cluster mapping for inner city and regional economic analysis (in conjunction with Michael E. Porter's Cluster Mapping Project);
 - Tools for neighborhood level business growth strategies (in conjunction with ICIC Boston, a local affiliate of ICIC); for details see www.neighborhoodconnections.org;

- E-business readiness scorecard for inner-city locations; and
 - Local-government scorecard for effective brownfields remediation.
- Managed projects
 - Best practices research on linking inner-city economies to regional economic growth opportunities;
 - Design and production of annual economic performance indicators for 100 largest U.S. cities;
 - Study on Leveraging Colleges and Universities for Urban Revitalization (May 2002); and
 - E-Business and Inner-City Competitiveness (June 2002).
 - Principal advisor/researcher
 - Impact evaluation of ICIC; reviewing the 10-year nationwide impact of the organization;
 - Authored "This Works: Encouraging Economic Growth" (published by the Manhattan Institute, March 2003);
 - St. Louis Competitiveness Assessment & Strategy Project (September 2000);
 - Boston Inner City Business Benchmark Study (conducted in conjunction with The Boston Consulting Group, October 2000);
 - Inner City Business Development: Benchmarking Federal Spending and Guidelines for Action (conducted in conjunction with PWC, May 1999); and
 - Five case studies for the U.S. Department of the Treasury on business-to-business advisory programs (December 1998).

1995 & Summer 1996 The World Bank (Washington DC)

Consultant: Conducted a study on the flow of financial and technical resources from Armenian communities around the world to Armenia's health, education, and welfare sectors. The study examined both formal transfers and informal remittances. The final report contained recommendations on ways to enhance such transfers within the framework of international donor activities.

1993-1994 United Nations Development Programme (Yerevan, Armenia)

Programme Officer: Formulated and managed country and regional projects. Initiated and sustained UNDP, NGO, and government coordination. Specific tasks included preparations for Armenia's National Human Development Report, preparation of a rural rehabilitation programme, and creation of a national environmental database.

1992-1993 Center for Business Research & Development, American University of Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia)

Project Coordinator in charge of several projects including preparing a "Country.Brief" on Armenia, preparing a feasibility study for "Dzoragiugh" historic district restoration project; and finalizing an evaluation of construction phase of a UNIDO executed Cold Storage facility in Gyumri, Armenia.

References and Publications

Available upon request.