



Kassira Absar, M.P.P.

Senior Consultant, The Improve Group

Kassira is a creative problem solver who is committed to social justice. This dedication drives her to better understand how history, the current context, and systems affect change. She has a particular interest in racial justice and dismantling systems of oppression. Outside of work, Kassira boulders, practices yoga, and always has her nose in a book.

Expertise

Evaluation

Kassira brings to the team experience in survey research at the international, national, and local levels. Her other strengths include project management, research design, and secondary data analysis. Trained in intercultural competency, Kassira brings a critical eye to projects to ensure research design is thoughtful, creative, and inclusive.

Consulting

Kassira applies her creativity, compassion, and attention to detail when solving problems for clients. She draws on her background with diverse working environments and organizations to bring a wide variety of important perspectives to her consulting practice.

Intercultural Competency

Kassira is a licensed Qualified Administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and is a trained racial justice facilitator.

Professional Experience

The Improve Group | St. Paul, MN | Associate Consultant | 2020-present | Plan, lead, and execute project activities to make the most of information, navigate complexity, and ensure clients' investments of time and money lead to meaningful, sustained impact. Project experience includes:

Partnering with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs on a skilled nursing needs assessment to examine the ongoing health care needs of Minnesota veterans as they age and how the health care market will affect existing veterans homes and the development of new veterans homes.

The Improve Group | St. Paul, MN | Associate Consultant | 2019-2020 | Worked collaboratively with project team to execute activities.

APM Research Lab | St. Paul, MN | Research Associate | 2017-2019 | Informed and equipped the public, media, and peers with relevant data through both original and curated research, facts, and analysis.

OpenGlobalRights, Humphrey School of Public Affairs | Minneapolis, MN | Research Fellow | 2015-2017 | Designed a study, in collaboration with an international team of researchers from the University of Minnesota and international institutions, for two-year project researching the potential for local funding to sustain human rights organizations given a crackdown on foreign funding.

Education

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota | Master of Public Policy (Barbara J. Stuhler Fellow, Presidential Leadership Award Recipient)

University of Maryland, College Park | Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics and Spanish Language and Literature (High Honors in Government and Politics, Phi Beta Kappa)

Community Involvement

Centro Tyrone Guzman | Board Member | 2018-Present

Certification

Technology of Participation® Facilitation Methods

Languages

Kassira is fluent in Spanish.

Professional Affiliations

American Evaluation Association

Minnesota Evaluation Association