

GRETCHEN S. PETERS

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Leading authority on transnational organized crime, online crime, unregulated money transfer systems and links between organized crime, terrorism and conflict. Experienced at blending new technologies to combat complex problems. Creative and shrewd analyst with a proven capacity to spot trends early and to research complex issues. Skilled communicator with 15 years experience in public speaking, writing, communications and broadcast. Able to boil down complex issues into succinct and teachable formats.

- Authored *Seeds of Terror*, a game-changing book about the Taliban and the heroin trade.
- Executive Director of the [Alliance to Counter Crime Online](#) which envisions a crime-free Internet.
- Briefed senior policymakers, think tanks, law enforcement officials, intelligence analysts and thousands of U.S. servicemen and women focused on or deploying to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Field research focused on transnational crime in Africa, South Asia and Latin America.
- Extensive public speaking and media experience, on camera and off; strong management skills.
- Lived and worked in South Asia, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, the Balkans, Egypt and México.
- Exceptional research, interviewing and writing skills. High-level spoken and written Spanish.
- Co-Chaired the OECD's Illicit Trade Task Force on fighting wildlife and environmental crime.

EDUCATION

M.A., Josef Korbel School of International Studies, Denver, CO **Nov 2011**
Awarded Sié Chéou-Kang security/diplomacy fellowship, Josef Korbel Founder's Scholarship Association of Former Intelligence Officers Foundation Scholarship to study transnational organized crime.

BA Degree in Art History, Harvard University, Cambridge MA **June 1991**
Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors
Awarded Summa Cum Laude for senior thesis. Editor of Harvard Art Journal and student peer counselor.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Center on Illicit Networks, Transnational Org. Crime **Feb 2015 – Present**

- Led projects to disrupt transnational crime syndicates in Gabon, Tanzania and South Africa.
- Founded Alliance to Counter Crime Online, a leading voice pushing to reform Internet regulation
- Consulted to Drug Enforcement Administration and Special Operations Command (J36).

Senior Fellow on Transnational Crime, GMU **March 2014 – September 2015**
Transnational Crime and Corruption Center

- Awarded a U.S. State Department grant to map networks trafficking rhino horn from South Africa to consumer markets. Findings resulted in international law enforcement action.

Lead Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton **Jan 2012 – March 2014**

- AfPak Subject Matter Expert (SME) to Defense Department (DASD-CNGT and USCENTCOM).
- Developed BAH's strategy for consulting to the U.S. government on complex illicit networks.

Author, Consultant, Public Speaker **March 2009 – Dec 2012**

- Designed and conducted presentations on narcotics and organized crime for clients including the Defense Department, State Department, DEA, NSA, FBI and CIA.
- Collaborated with SOCOM's Transnational Threats office and CTC to study Haqqani network.

- Authored chapters on the Taliban and narcotics in *Decoding the New Taliban, The Rule of Law in Afghanistan: Missing Inaction, and The Future of Counterinsurgency*.

Author, *Seeds of Terror* (St. Martins/Tom Dunne)

Published May 12, 2009

- Groundbreaking research on the Taliban and opium; book sold 40,000+ copies globally.
- Media appearances on *The Daily Show, Fresh Air, PBS, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, BBC* and *NPR*.
- *Barrons* called the book, “a well-written, well-documented and exemplary work of journalism.”
- *The Economist* wrote: “It is rare that a journalist writes about some aspect of American foreign policy, makes an impassioned plea for change and finds her advice adopted.”

Bureau Chief Pakistan/Afghanistan, *ABC News*, Islamabad, Pakistan

July 2005 – July 2008

- Award-winning coverage from Pakistan and Afghanistan for *ABC News* and its global affiliates.
- On and off camera reporting, website articles and regular appearances on national radio shows.

Independent Writer/ TV Producer

April 2000 – July 2005

- Reported in México, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Af/Pak for major news organizations including *ABC News, NBC News, National Geographic, the AP, CNN, Christian Science Monitor*.
- Days after Sept 11th, helped establish *ABC News’* operation in northern Afghanistan, overseeing Emmy-award winning news coverage from the warzone as the Taliban government collapsed.

TV Producer/News Editor *AP Television*, London, U.K.

April 1998 – April 2000

- Asia news editor and global news editor coordinating fast-paced news coverage and budgets.
- Field producer at the NATO campaign in Kosovo and the 1998 U.S. airstrike in Afghanistan.

Writer, *Associated Press*, Islamabad, Pakistan

November 1996 – April 1998

- Reported on Pakistan and Afghanistan, arriving in the region weeks after the Taliban took over.
- Traveled widely in both countries, interviewing Taliban, terrorist leaders and Afghan women.

Managing Editor, *The Cambodia Daily*, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

March 1994 – October 1996

- Developed and helped run Cambodia’s first English- and Khmer-language daily, a non-profit newspaper that trained Cambodian journalists in computer skills and responsible journalism.
- Managed a staff of 50 and helped to expand circulation expanded more than 20-fold.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING EVENTS

“The Curse of the Shiny Object,” *PRISM*. 2017, Washington DC: National Defense University.

“Traffickers and Truckers: Illicit Afghan and Pakistani Power Structures with a Shadowy but Influential Role,” *IMPUNITY*. 2016, Washington DC: National Defense University.

Haqqani Network Financing: The Evolution of an Industry, 2012. West Point: *Combating Terrorism Center*.

Crime and Insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2010. West Point: *Combating Terrorism Center*.

Seeds of Terror, 2009, New York: St Martin’s Press; New Delhi: Hachette. 2010, New York: Picador.

“Straight Outta Kandahar,” August 2010. Editorial in *Foreign Policy*.

“How Opium Profits the Taliban,” 2009. Washington DC: The United States Institute of Peace.

“Take the War to the Drug Lords,” May 2009. Editorial in *The New York Times*.

Keynote Speaker, “Global Synchronization Conference.” April 2010. *Special Operations Command*, Tampa Florida.

Instructor, “Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace Program,” (Naval Post Graduate School), May 6, 2011. Presented for I Corps, Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Washington.

Instructor and Public Speaker, “New Issues in Security Course,” April 29, 2011. Geneva Center for Security Policy.