Sara Johansson de Silva

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Personal Details:
Born in Rödeby, Sweden • Swedish
Female • Married

International Development Advisor

Goal-oriented, innovative and analytical professional with extensive experience in economic development policy work and research. Ph.D. Economist with 30+ years of experience across a broad range of topics including project evaluation and aid effectiveness, labour markets, education and skills policy, social and economic exclusion, poverty analysis, human capital, gender, and migration; across multilateral and bilateral development institutions and across developing regions. Author of multiple books, reports, and journal articles on development.

Transversal skills include analytical and creative thinking, curiosity for new ideas and approaches, strong communication skills in Swedish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Excellent) and Spanish (Excellent), outstanding ability to translate research into policy and context relevant findings, strong organizational capacity, and experience of successfully leading multi-cultural teams and projects and sustaining high-level policy dialogue.

Areas of Expertise and Technical Skills

- Project Management
- Research and Analysis
- Policy and Program Formulation
- Policy and Program Evaluation
- Economic Development
- Labour Markets, Education and Skills
- Social Exclusion
- Gender
- Private Sector Development
- Private Public Partnerships
- Team Building/Leadership
- Written and Oral Communication
- Policy Dialogue
- Quality Assurance
- Performance Benchmarking

Professional Experience

Independent Expert, Various Organizations **2003-present**

Leading project preparation and evaluation, research, analytical and advisory services, and policy dialogue on jobs, inclusive growth, poverty and social inclusion, gender, skills development, and governance. Key projects:

World Bank (2003-present)

Main author and/or key team member for analytical and advisory services in jobs diagnostics, employment policy, skills development, demographics, poverty analysis, gender, social protection and human capital reviews in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia (Croatia, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Armenia), Sub-Saharan Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Liberia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Niger), and Asia (Indonesia), (2003-present). Contributing author to knowledge products for the Human Capital Project (ongoing), the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice (2017 to present) and (former) Poverty Reduction Vice Presidency, including Gender Action Plan and the Employment and Inclusive Growth Agenda (2009-2014). Coordination of research program for EU-Med Migration Project (2008-2009).

Riksföreningen Sveriges Stadsmissioner (2021-2022).

Main author of report on effective approaches for reducing homelessness in Swedish communes.

Continued…

USAID (2019-2020, 2024-2025).
Green Jobs Diagnostics Technical Approach (2024-2025). Team leader and main author. Consultancy for IEG. Youth Assessment and Private Sector Engagement Assessment towards the Development of USAID/WA Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (2019-2020). Main author. Consultancy for ASSESS.

European Commission (January-May 2018).
Gender analysis of the TVET sector in Liberia with a view to informing a large EU programme in the sector. Team leader and Main author.

UNIDO (2014-present)
Strategic advisory support in project preparation and project evaluation to various USAID, EU or Sida funded Private-Public Development Partnerships in skills development (Ethiopia, Zambia, Kurdistan/Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone), team lead for independent terminal project evaluation in private sector development and employment generation (Uganda, Tunisia), team lead for evaluation of the Learning and Knowledge Development Facility.

UNDP (2012, 2015, 2018)
Technical support to Turkmenistan Ministry of Labor (2018). Team member. ASEAN review of MDGs and Emerging Challenges (2015). Main author. Swaziland National Human Development Report (2012, unpublished). Team leader.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida (2013, 2014, 2017)
Desk Study to enhance Sida's global commitments to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth (2017), for the Unit for Global Economy and the Environment (GECO). Main author. Consultancy for FCG. Scoping Mission for the Establishment of a Private-Public Development Partnership in Skills Development in Zambia (2014). Team leader. Consultancy for FCG. Desk Study on Existing Models for Productive Employment and Possible Models for Funding (2013). Team leader. Consultancy for FCG.

DFID (2016)
PEAKS study: Evidence on the economic returns to support targeted youth employment interventions globally and in Kenya. Team leader. Consultancy for Adam Smith International.

Danish International Development Agency, DANIDA (2012)
Project Evaluation, Support to Local Governance and Employment Creation in Tunisia. Team leader. Consultancy for NCG.

Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA), (2015-2018)
EBA quality assurance team member, review of Swedish aid in the area of Private Sector Development to Bosnia-Herzegovina (2018). EBA study of the implications for Swedish development cooperation of development partnerships between the private and public sector (2015). Lead author.

African Development Bank (2008-2010)
Aid effectiveness evaluations: Project Completion Reports for ADB budget support operations and institutional support projects for Sierra Leone (2008, 2010) and Liberia (2009). Team member.

International Labor Office (ILO) (2009)
Research papers on youth (education/skills, labor market, health, democratic participation).

World Bank, Washington, DC, USA **1999-2003**
Middle East and North Africa Region
Senior Economist. Leading or team member for analytical and advisory work on poverty, labor markets, and growth. Worked mainly on Maghreb and Egypt.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France **1997-1999**
Science, Technology and Industry Directorate/Development Co-operation Directorate-DAC.
Economist/Young Professional. Contributed research towards policy development in SME financing, innovation systems, and private participation in infrastructure.

Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden **1996**
Department of Economics
Teacher. Undergraduate tutorials, International Economics.

The International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC, USA **1995**
Southeast Asia Department, Division I.
Summer intern. Prepared a study on determinants of private savings in Indonesia.

Secretariat for Analysis of Swedish Development Assistance, **1993-1994**
Stockholm, Sweden
Consultant. Co-authored a research report on The Macro-Economics of Aid in Nicaragua.

Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation/ILO, Stockholm, Sweden **1993-1995**
Consultant. Co-authored a research report on rural industrialization in East Asia for the Indian Government

Research Institute for Industrial Economics, Stockholm, Sweden **1993**
Consultant. Co-authored a report on the impact of tied on donor and recipient countries.

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden **1992**
Consultant. Team member. Government Commission on the Organization of Swedish Development Assistance (SOU 1993:1).

Education

Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden
Ph.D. in Economics **1998**
Dissertation: *Savings, Investment, and Economic Reforms in Developing Countries*.

Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden
Licentiate in Economics **1996**
Thesis: *Determinants of Private Savings in Indonesia*

Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden
Masters of Business and Economics **1992**
Thesis: *An Optimum Currency? The CFA franc and its Macroeconomic Impact on Côte d'Ivoire*.

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, US **1994-1995**
Visiting Student

Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, Paris, France
Visiting Student **1990**

United World College of the Atlantic, Llantwit Major, UK
International Baccalaureate **1987**

Grants, Honors, Positions of Trust

Member of the Swedish Expert Group for Aid Studies, by Government Appointment	**2019-2022**
Nomination Committee, Bladins School Foundation (Convener)	**2014-2017**
Research Grant, Swedish International Development Authority	**1995-1997**
Grants from Fulbright Commission, Marcus Wallenberg Foundation, Helge Ax:son Johnson Foundation	**1994**
Heckscher Prize for Best Essay in International Economics and Geography, Stockholm School of Economics	**1993**
Minor Field Study Grant, Swedish International Development Authority	**1992**
Scholarship, United World Colleges, Swedish National Committee for the UWC	**1985-1987**

Languages

Swedish (native); English (fluent); French (Excellent); Spanish (Excellent).

Personal

Born October 2, 1968. Swedish Citizen. Married to José Carlos de Silva, three children.

List of Books, Articles and Other Written Work Available on Request (or Click HERE).