

CV



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Summary

Experienced research assistant with Master's degree in Community and Public Health. I bring strong skills in data collection and analysis, project coordination, event planning, and scientific reporting. A motivated and collaborative team player and fast learner. I am deeply interested in global health, patient and public involvement in research, and healthcare equity. My goal is to continue building my skills and expertise, with the aim of pursuing further education and leadership roles in the field.

Work experience

Sep 2023- Present

Research Assistant, Uppsala University, CIRCLE – Complex Intervention Research in Health and Care, Department of Women's and Children's Health

Research projects:

- Addressing Healthcare Inequity Through Social Determinants of Health (AIM).
 - Conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis on childhood cancer survival among children with migrant backgrounds.
 - Responsibilities include writing the protocol, screening, data extraction, data analysis, and writing, reviewing, and editing manuscripts.
- GuardiansCan Project (Tanzania)
 - Research assistant and coordinator for a project aimed at developing and evaluating an SMS intervention to improve guardians' adherence to children's follow-up care for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).
 - Conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis, writing, reviewing, and editing manuscripts, protocols, and ethics applications.
 - Supporting grant writing by reviewing, editing, and organizing application and supporting materials.
 - Coordinating project meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and managing administrative tasks.
- E-Mental Health Intervention Preferences Among Informal Caregivers of Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Conducted qualitative data analysis; manuscript writing, reviewing, and editing.
- Experiences of Formal and Informal Support Among Adult-Daughter Caregivers of People with Dementia in Sweden (DeCiDE)
 - Contributing to manuscript writing, reviewing, and editing.
- Academic and research coordination
 - Coordinating the Writing Club, Grant Writing Club, Workshops in Complex Intervention in Research, and U-CARE Skills-Building Workshop Series.
- Grant Application experience (across multiple projects)
 - Managing administrative tasks for grant applications.
 - Editing and reviewing grant application and supporting materials to enhance clarity, coherence, and alignment with funding requirements.
- Member of U-Care Collaboration Group

- Member of U-CARE venue organizing committee

May 2023- Aug 2023	Research Assistant, Uppsala University, Department of Women's and Child's Health (Internship).
Sep 2022- Dec 2022	Data Utilization Assistant, World Health Organization (WHO), Palestine. Worked on supporting data analysis and policy briefs related to breast cancer in Palestine.
Nov 2018- Dec 2020	Research Assistant, World Health Organization (WHO), Palestine. - Worked on data analysis and utilization, contributed in conducting assessments and evaluations, e.g., Assessment of Private Health Sector and Private Sector Engagement for Universal Health Coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean region, Cancer Services Assessment in Palestine, and Assessment of the Quality of Cause of Death Registry (CoDR) Data in Palestine -2017 and 2018. - I was a member of the national team of the District Health Information Software (DHIS2). - My work was located at the Palestinian National Institute of Public Health.
May 2017- Oct 2018	Research Assistant, Institute of Community and Public Health ICPH, Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine. - Worked on data analysis and collection, desk review, fieldwork, compiling questionnaires, conducting and transcribing interviews and focus groups, and writing activity reports. - I was part of the Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) coordination team, preparing for the LPHA annual conference, training, workshops, and public lectures related to the project.

Education

2016-2018	Master's degree in Community and Public Health, Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine. The degree has been validated by UHR and it is equivalent to a Swedish master's degree in public health science (folkhälsovetenskap)
2010-2014	Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, Palestine. The degree has been validated by UHR and it is equivalent to a Swedish bachelor's degree in biomedical laboratory science (biomedicinsk laboratorievetenskap).

Additional training

2025	Skills-building workshops on mixed methods analysis: Using mixed methods analysis techniques to explore and understand complex healthcare interventions, CIRCLE, Uppsala University
2024	Workshops in complex interventions research: Recruitment and attrition in complex interventions research – How to design your trials to maximize recruitment and retention; and Developing complex interventions – Using mixed-methods to inform our understanding and personalization of treatments, CIRCLE, Uppsala University

2024	Patient and Public Involvement in Research, Uppsala University, 7,5 ECTS
2019	Training course in a systematic review, PNIPH in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.
2018	Training course on how to conduct systematic review and meta-analysis, Center for Systematic Review on Health Policy and Systems Research (SPARK), American University of Beirut.
2017	Analysis of epidemiological data using STATA and scientific writing, Birzeit University in collaboration with the University of Oslo
2017	Intensive Course: Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict, qualitative research methods , Birzeit University in collaboration with King's College London.
2017	Intensive Course: Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict, quantitative research methods , Birzeit University in collaboration with King's College London.

Publications

Rajabzadeh V, **Sami A**, H. Harila-Saari A, Richards A, Woodford J, von Essen L. Cancer survival and its social determinants among children with a migrant background: systematic review protocol. *BMJ Open*. 2026;16:e116611. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2026-116611

Coumoundouros C, **Sami A**, Farrand P, Sanderman R, von Essen L, Woodford J. e-Mental Health intervention preferences among informal caregivers of adults living with chronic kidney disease: semistructured interview study. *JMIR human factors*. 2026;13:e80962.
<https://doi.org/10.2196/80962>

Chiwanha F, Guardian Advisory Board, Philbert R, Richards DA, **Sami A**, Sugg HVR, Österman Menadnder I, Woodford J, von Essen L. 'Nothing for us without us': a mixed methods study examining the acceptability, feasibility, and impact of involving guardians of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Tanzania as public contributors. *Cancer Medicine*. 2026. doi:
<https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.71685>

Blomber O, **Sami A**, Farrand P, Sörensdotter R, Svedin F, von Essen L, Åberg AC, Woodford J. "We are daughters, we are not lovable slaves": challenges experienced by adult daughters caring for a parent with dementia – a qualitative study. *Aging & Mental Health*. 2026; 1–12.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2025.2612173>

Blomberg O, **Sami A**, Farrand P, et al. Experiences of formal and informal support among adult-daughter caregivers of people with dementia in sweden: a qualitative study. *Dementia*. 2025;0(0). doi:10.1177/14713012251376774

El Arab RA, **Sami A**, Coumoundouros C, Farrand P, Woodford J. "I'm the carer from hell": an exploration of coping among informal caregivers of stroke survivors. A qualitative study. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. **In preparation**

Poster:

Chiwanga F, **Sami A**, Guardian Advisory Board, Philbert R, Richards DA, Österman Menander I, Woodford J, & von Essen L. (2025). ‘Nothing for us without us’: a mixed methods study examining the acceptability, feasibility, and impact of involving guardians of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Tanzania as public contributors. Poster presentation at the U-CARE Venue, Uppsala.

Nasir AA, Salah R, **Ahmad AS**, Hijleh SA, Kattab SE, Al Kurd A, Al Sharif R, Amro R, Khatib A, Hana’Mousa WS, Shqerat K. Definition, causes, and consequences of Hamm (idiom of distress in Arabic) in the Palestinian context: a qualitative study. The Lancet. 2018 Feb 21;391:S1.

Others

Language (s)	Arabic: Mother tongue English: Full Professional proficiency Swedish: Limited working proficiency Hebrew: Limited working proficiency
Skills & proficiency	<u>Research & Analysis:</u> Data collection, qualitative & quantitative analysis, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, scientific writing. <u>Software:</u> SPSS, STATA, Comprehensive Meta-Analysis, Covidence, PRISMA, EndNote, and Microsoft Office (e.g., Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook) <u>Project & Coordination:</u> Event planning, workshop organization, and logistics management.
Conferences	Organized and coordinated the 9th Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) conference “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” Beirut, Lebanon. 2018 Participated in the 8th Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) conference “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” 2017. Poster presenter Participated in the 8th International Palestinian Conference of Medical Laboratory Science, In Ramallah, Palestine. 2014. Poster presenter