

Alina Rocha Menocal

Originally from Mexico, Alina Rocha Menocal is a Research Fellow in Politics and Governance at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a leading development think tank in the UK, as well as a Senior Democracy Fellow at USAID. Alina just completed a two-year secondment at the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) at the University of Birmingham, where she led a stream of work on Political Settlements and the Politics of Inclusion.

Alina's areas of expertise include democratisation, linkages between state and society, and peace- and state-building in comparative perspective. Over the past ten years, she has been involved in a series of projects and assignments that seek to bridge the gap between research and policy in thinking about governance. Most recently, she led an innovative action research project for DFID testing the linkages between service delivery, social cohesion and state legitimacy in Lebanon and Jordan in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis. At ODI, she has spearheaded a stream of work on emerging democracies and the politics of institutional transformation. She has also done extensive work on political economy and has been a pioneer thinker on how donors can think and work in more politically aware ways, through both the Thinking and Working Community of Practice and other fora.

Alina writes frequently on these different themes, and she has authored or co-authored numerous reports for donors on many of these issues. Some of her recent publications include a DLP State of the Art Paper on "[Political Settlements and the Politics of Inclusion](#)", and an accompanying blog on "[The inclusiveness test: making change work](#)" for openDemocracy. She was also one of the lead authors of the [DFID Evidence Paper on Corruption](#). She has a BA from Yale University and an MPhil from Columbia University, both in political science.

