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Dr. Rhonda Samih Zaharna is an associate professor in the School of Communication, American University, Washington, DC. She specializes in intercultural and international strategic communication, with an emphasis on culture and communication in the Arab and Islamic regions. In addition to teaching strategic communication for nearly 20 years, she has advised on communication projects for multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, diplomatic missions, and international organizations, including the United Nations, World Bank, and USAID. Since 9/11, she has testified on several occasions before the US Congress, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Her recent book, *Battles to Bridges: U.S. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy after 9/11* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010) highlights how culture intervenes in the communication between nations and publics in today's international political arena.

Dr. Zaharna is former Senior Fulbright Scholar (West Bank and Gaza, 1996-97). She holds an undergraduate degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a doctorate in Communication from Columbia University.