

JACOB S. BOWER-BIR

political science | int'l governance | collaborative design

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

Thirteen years' experience in social research, monitoring, and evaluation in international development. PhD jointly awarded by the public policy school and political science department of Indiana University under the mentorship of Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom. Methodological expertise in quantitative and econometric analysis, with special focus on experiment and survey design, and in institutional and behavioral theories of human conduct. Significant experience devising and implementing mixed-methods research protocols, and in training and management—remote and in-person—of field teams, including operations in hostile environments (e.g., viral outbreaks, kinetic engagements). Subject matter expertise in democratic governance, institution building and analysis, economic inequality, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability and resilience, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states. Special interest in the collaborative design of monitoring, evaluation, and research programs, aided by years of design education and experience.

EDUCATION

PhD, Joint program in Public Policy and Political Science, Indiana University 2007–2014
Dissertation: "The Moral Originals of Economic Inequality & Our Policy Responses to It"
Mentor: Elinor Ostrom (passed prior to defense) | Committee chair: Edward Carmines
Qualifying Exams: American Politics, Public Policy, Public Management

M.Arch, J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program, Indiana University 2018–2021
Capstone: "Cooperative, Indeterminate Design of a Democratic Plaza"

BA, Political Science, History, Economics, and Near Eastern Studies, Indiana University 2004-2007
Honors Thesis: "Charter Schools and Their Effect on Traditional Public Education"

LANGUAGES

English, mother tongue

Arabic, Egyptian Colloquial
CEFR level B1 – International House, Cairo International Language Institute 2018

RESEARCH AND M&E EXPERIENCE (selected)

Quantitative Specialist & Technical Advisor, home-based 12/2018–02/2019
ATR Consulting for UNICEF/**Afghanistan**, Polio Programme Field Monitoring
▷ Update field instruments for more reliable, efficient data collection in ongoing M&E efforts.
▷ Clean and analyze polio vaccination field monitoring data.
▷ Collaborate with qualitative analysts in synthesizing final report.

Quantitative Lead & Research Design Specialist, in-country 04/2018–11/2018
Checchi Consulting for USAID/**Afghanistan**, Electricity Access and Socio-Economic Baseline
▷ Liaise with Afghan state actors responsible for politically-sensitive census data.

- ▷ Design and field test large-n, representative household survey in volatile rural areas.
- ▷ Oversee the translation of quantitative instruments into local languages and dialects.
- ▷ Lead local enumerator training in quantitative and qualitative survey administration.
- ▷ Develop and implement real-time, GIS tracking for field enumerators operating in violent areas.
- ▷ Coordinate with Afghan state actors monitoring security in contested rural areas with ongoing conflict.
- ▷ Co-author final report for USAID/Afghanistan mission and their partners.

Quantitative Lead, in-country 04/2018–06/2018
 Checchi Consulting for USAID/**Afghanistan**, “Passage to Prosperity” trade program

- ▷ Conduct and analyze long-format, qualitative interviews with state and private actors from the US, Afghanistan, and India who organized or attended the trade show.
- ▷ Design and administer a scientific survey to determine the immediate and long-term, and the direct and indirect, effects of the trade show on participants and related businesses.
- ▷ Co-author and present final report to USAID/Afghanistan mission and their partners.
- ▷ Advise USAID and Afghanistan private sector partners on future commerce projects.

Quantitative Lead & Senior Field Researcher, in-country 03/2015–08/2015
 GK Consulting for UN Women/**Papua New Guinea**, Safe Cities Programme

- ▷ Create, pilot, refine, and implement survey instruments and sampling frameworks for large-n studies on (i) violence against women and girls, (ii) market safety, and (iii) public transportation.
- ▷ Oversee translation of quantitative and qualitative instruments into local languages and dialects.
- ▷ Conduct qualitative interviews with police, market and transportation staff, and government officials.
- ▷ Train and supervise field enumerators in administration of quantitative surveys using electronic tablets, and in the execution of long-format qualitative methods including elite interviews and focus groups.
- ▷ Analyze quantitative data (including running regressions), synthesize findings with qualitative data, and co-author written reports.

Governance Specialist, Quantitative Lead, & Field Coordinator, in-country 12/2014–03/2015
 GK Consulting for UN Women/**Liberia**, Peace Building Fund & Ebola Project

- ▷ Design instruments and sampling framework for large-n, representative surveys across five West African counties.
- ▷ Train and assist field teams administering quantitative survey using electronic tablets, and in the execution of long-format qualitative methods including elite interviews and focus groups.
- ▷ Monitor and advise field teams traveling through rural areas during period of Ebola outbreak and accompanying civil unrest.
- ▷ Analyze data and assist in writing the final report on gender issues, including and women’s safety, economic empowerment, and skills attainment prior to and during Ebola outbreak.

Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Technical Advisor, home-based 11/2014–01/2015
 The Khana Group for UK DFID/**Nigeria**, Girls’ Education Challenge

- ▷ Evaluate previous monitoring and evaluation of the ENGINE Nigeria project.
- ▷ Propose actionable improvements to future randomized controlled trial (RCT) sampling strategies.
- ▷ Revise instruments and field methodologies for more reliable, and more accurate, data collection.
- ▷ Identify barriers to statistical rigor, correct data errors, and analyze available data.
- ▷ Advise ongoing M&E processes for RCT on girls’ education.

Research Associate, in-country 05/2009–08/2009
 The **Liberia** Governance Commission, Constitution Reform and Local Governance project

- ▷ Advise senior members of the Governance Commission and high-level government officials on matters of democratic governance and citizen participation in a post-conflict society.
- ▷ Conduct on-site meetings with post-conflict reconciliation leaders in rural communities.
- ▷ Liaise with international donors (e.g., Soros and MCC) and beneficiaries on multi-million dollar development projects targeting local capacity building, anti-corruption initiatives, and post-conflict reconciliation.

Research Associate, home-based 01/2008–05/2008
 Center for Constitutional Democracy in Plural Societies (CCDPS) for the **Burmese** Federal Constitution Drafting and Consulting Committee

- ▷ Assess competing educational guarantees in the draft Burmese Constitution.
- ▷ Conduct a trans-geographic and trans-historical survey of constitutional guarantees for education.
- ▷ Brief committee members on economic, political, and philosophical tenets of competing education systems, and on the history of formal education in Burma.
- ▷ Propose recommendations regarding educational guarantees in the constitutional draft.

Research Assistant, home-based 05/2007–08/2008
 The **Liberia** Collection Project (LCP) for the Liberian Governance Commission's Land Tenure Reform initiative and the International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ▷ Collect, organize, and digitize Liberian land records following years of civil war.
- ▷ Assist lawyers from the ICC in archival analysis related to the trial of Charles Taylor.
- ▷ Conduct archival research on the Liberian president's executive prerogative to allocate and gift federal land.
- ▷ Advise Liberian Governance Commission on the potential legal and social disputes likely to arise from proposed land reform policies.

Research Assistant, in-country 06/2012–08/2012
Kenyan Election Conflict

- ▷ Interview community leaders in previous hotbeds of post-election violence (e.g., Eldoret).
- ▷ Gauge ongoing initiatives meant to prevent or lessen the outbreak of similar violence in coming elections.
- ▷ Ascertain primary sources of tension leading up to and immediately following civil unrest during Kenya's previous elections, and assess potential for resurgent conflicts.

Research Assistant, home-based 04/2013–09/2013
 Behavioral Underpinnings of **U.S.-Russia** Cooperation in Int'l. Space Station Operations

- ▷ Investigate of cross-national, inter-agency cooperation.
- ▷ Analyze case studies against expectations from decision-making theories.
- ▷ Code and implement discourse analysis of communications between officials from the Mission Control centers of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos).

Fellow & Co-author, home-based 01/2009–12/2011
 Political Economy of Democratic Sustainability project through the National Science Foundation (NSF)

- ▷ Study, using social choice theories and spatial methodologies, the emergence of majority voting systems and democratic institutions in transitional nations, especially in Eastern Europe.
- ▷ Collaboratively investigate individual behavior and decision-making within strategic majority rule scenarios.
- ▷ Analyze data from laboratory experiments, large-N surveys, and national legislatures.
- ▷ Co-author scientific paper for publication in peer-reviewed journal.

Research Associate & Co-author, home-based 05/2013–05/2015
 Scalable Energy-Economy Model for Regional and Sub-Regional Analysis for multiple private clients and public actors

- ▷ Develop and implement an innovative econometric approach for modeling (i) how national or state energy policies affect state and sub-state economic outcomes, and (ii) how economic performance affects the passage and implementation of energy policies (i.e., the interplay of economic sector performance and energy consumption and policy.)
- ▷ Forecast future economic performance and energy consumption across multiple-sectors and predict the effects of specific government policies (e.g., carbon tax) on those variables for sub-state, state, and regional areas.
- ▷ Liaise with and energy providers and state economic forecasters for access to sensitive data.
- ▷ Collect and prepare multi-year, multi-sector energy and economic data for econometric analysis.
- ▷ Execute and troubleshoot data analysis on high-performance super-computing systems.
- ▷ Co-author scientific paper for publication in peer-reviewed journal.
- ▷ Disseminate findings to state economic forecasters and private energy providers.

Researcher & Author, in-country 08/2006–05/2007
 Charter Schools and Their Effects on Traditional Public Education for Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) and private academic research

- ▷ Apply economic and social theories to school reform policies to explain the rise of the charter movement, and to make and test predictions regarding student performance and educational inequalities.
- ▷ Collect and analyze student performance data across a range of school types while controlling for student demographics.
- ▷ Conduct qualitative, semi-structured interviews with civil and government actors relevant to the legislative history and bureaucratic management of charter schools in two states.
- ▷ Broadly evaluate the effects of charter school reforms on the traditional public education system, and specifically assess the ability of Indianapolis charter schools to educate minority and socio-economically disadvantaged students.
- ▷ Report findings to state legislators, public school officials, and community stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS (selected)

Consulting

Senior Consultant – GK Consulting LLC	2014–Pres
Freelance Consultant – project-by-project basis detailed above	2014–Pres
Social Science Reviewer & Contributor – W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., by contract	2008–2017

Design

Founding Designer & Advisor – Terran Robotics	2020–Pres
Founding Member-Owner & Designer – Design Anarchy Co-operative	2021–Pres

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS (selected)

Assistant Professor

American University in Cairo, School of Global Affairs & Policy	2016–2018
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Lecturer

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Political Science Department	2015
Boston University, Metropolitan College, Prison Education Program	2016

Fellow

Ostrom Fellow, Indiana University, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis	2007–2008
Political Economy in Democratic Sustainability, Indiana Univ., Political Science Dept.	2009–2011

Adjunct Faculty

Indiana University, O’Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs	2015–2022
Indiana University, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies	2021–2022

Affiliated Faculty

Indiana University, Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory & Policy	2015–Pres
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PUBLICATIONS, PEER-REVIEWED (selected)

“Desert and Redistribution: Justice as a Remedy for, and Cause of, Inequality.” **Policy Studies Journal**. 2021. (DOI: 10.1111/psj.12439)

“Too Different to Solve Climate Change? Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Production and Benefit Heterogeneity on Collective Action.” **Ecological Economics**, 184:1–16. With Ursula Kreitmair. 2021. (DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2021.106998)

“Earning Our Place, More or Less: Responsibility’s Flexible Relationship with Desert.” **Economia Politica**, 38:131–170. 2020. (DOI: 10.1007/s40888-020-00201-9)

“Redistribution Preferences and Low Socio-Economic Status.” In Todd K. Shackelford and Viviana A. Weekes- Shackelford (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*, Springer. 2017. (DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-16999-6_1702-1)

"Externalities." In Todd K. Shackelford and Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*, Springer. With Ursula Kreitmair. 2017. (DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-16999-6_1597-1)

"Estimating State and Sub-State Economic Effects of a Carbon Dioxide Tax Policy: An Application of a New Multi-Region Energy-Economy Econometric Model." *Regional Science, Policy and Practice*, 7(3):119–139. With Sanya Carley, Kenneth Richards, Barry Rubin, David Warren, and Zach Wendling. 2015. (DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12060)

"Predicting Majority Rule Outcomes: A Critical Test between the Uncovered Set and the Strong Point." *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 27(4):650–672. With William Bianco, Nicholas D'Amico, Christopher Kam, Itai Sened, and Regina Smyth. 2014. (DOI: 10.1177/0951629814562289)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting

"Do Americans (Think They) Get What They Deserve?"	2020
"Proportionality and Socio-economic Desert"	2020
"Desert and Redistribution: Justice as a Remedy for and Cause of Inequality"	2018
"Earning Our Place? Responsibility's Uncertain Relationship with Desert"	2018
"Desert and Voluntary Redistribution"	2014
"Hail the Meritocrat: Faith and Fairness in the American Economy"	2013
"Heuristics and Sophistication in the Voting Booth"	2012
"Voting: See It Now in Two Dimensions"	2011

American Political Science Association annual meeting

"The Role of Morality in Economic Redistribution"	2014
"Heuristics and Sophistication in the Voting Booth"	2012

Association for Public Policy and Management annual meeting

"IN-SEEM: The Substate Effect of Carbon Dioxide Taxes"	2014
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INVITED TALKS (selected)

University of Southern Indiana et al., Social Alchemy Symposium	2022
Syracuse University, Institutional Grammar Research Initiative	2021
Arizona State University, International Association for the Study of the Commons	2020
Leiden University, Political Science Department	2017
John Cabot University, Political Science and International Affairs Department	2016
American University of Beirut, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration	2016
University of Connecticut, Political Economy Workshop	2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Political Science Dept. & Dept. of Urban Studies and Planning	
▷ Making Public Policy (11.002J / 17.30J)	FA15

American University in Cairo

School of Global Affairs and Public Policy	
▷ Role of Government in a Market-Oriented Economy (PPAD5232)	SP17, FA17
▷ Core Concepts in Social and Environ. Policy (PPAD5132)	FA17

▷ Master of Global Affairs Thesis Seminar (PPAD5293)	FA17
▷ Applied Quantitative Analysis (PPAD5212)	SP17
▷ Introduction to Political Economies of the Near East (PPAD5199)	SP17
▷ Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (PPAD5202)	FA16
▷ Master of Public Policy Thesis Seminar (PPAD5298)	FA16

Boston University

Metropolitan College & Prisoner Education Program	
▷ Politics and Philosophy: Theories of Justice (PH155)	SP16

Indiana University

O'Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs	
▷ Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision-making (V506)	SP13
▷ Management of Public Problems and Solutions (V185)	SP21
▷ Ethics and Morality in Public Affairs (V450/V550)	SP22

Hamilton Luger School of Global and International Studies

▷ Introduction to International Relations (I100)	FA20, SU21
▷ Practicum in International Policy Analysis (I500)	SP22

Department of Political Science

▷ Introduction to American Politics (Y103)	SP09, SP12
▷ The American Presidency (Y318)	SP11
▷ The Politics of Sustainability (Y200)	FA10, FA11
▷ Analyzing Politics (Y205)	SP10
▷ The Holocaust and Politics (Y352)	FA09
▷ Politics of Gender and Sexuality (Y353)	FA08

Department of Economics

▷ Introduction to Microeconomics (E201)	FA05–SP07
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CERTIFICATIONS

Johns Hopkins University on Coursera

▷ Reproducible Research; ▷ Exploratory Data Analysis	2017
▷ Getting and Cleaning Data; ▷ R Programming; ▷ Data Scientist's Toolbox	2016

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

▷ Maximum Likelihood Estimation for GLMs; ▷ Rational Choice Theories	2009
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AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Co-author and Senior Personnel, NSF SBIR PHASE I (No. 2016502)	2020–2022
Founding Scholar Fellow, J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program	2017–2021
Merit Award for Leadership, J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program	2018–2019
John H. Edwards Fellowship, Indiana University Graduate School	2013–2014
Social Science Research Commons Research Grant, Indiana University	2013–2014
Sustainability Development Research Grant, Indiana Univ. Office of Sustainability	2013–2014
Katharine C. Greenough Fellowship, Indiana University Dept. of Political Science	2011–2014
Graduate Student Leadership Award, Indiana University Dept. of Political Science	2009, 2012
Sustainability Course Development Fellowship, Indiana Univ. Office of Sustainability	2010–2011
International Enhancement Grant, Indiana Univ. Vice President for Int'l Affairs	2009

Ostrom Fellow, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis	2007–2008
James E. Moffat Scholarship Recognition Award, Indiana Univ. Dept. of Economics	2007
Stephen R. Patton Scholarship Award, Indiana University Dept. of Political Science	2007
Jacob and Lucy Listenfelt Scholarship Award, Indiana University Dept. of History	2006
Senior Thesis Research Grant, Indiana University Hutton Honors College	2006