

# DEREK SCHWABE

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Digital storyteller, writer, and policy analyst with nine years of experience in communications strategy and global development seeks opportunities to help mission-driven organizations elevate their brands and tell their stories in a way that grows audiences, motivates deeper engagement, and ultimately delivers greater social impact.

## KEY SKILLS

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Communications strategy
- Creative digital storytelling
- Writing and copy editing
- Social media strategy
- Design (Adobe Suite, Figma)
- HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- Data visualization (D3, Observable, Tableau, ggplot)
- Spanish proficiency
- Slide decks and presentations
- Media engagement

### MANAGERIAL

- Project and team management
- Mentoring and supervising
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

### ANALYTICAL

- Data analysis (Python, R, Excel)
- Climate policy analysis
- Reporting and interviewing

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Berkeley, CA • May 2022

- Master of Development Practice (MDP), The Goldman School of Public Policy.
- Issue-focus on global democracy reform, wealth inequality, and renewable energy policy.
- Skills-focus on data analysis and visualization, innovative digital storytelling, and writing/editing.

### HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Houghton, NY • May 2012

- B.A., International Relations; minors in business and Spanish • Magna cum laude.
- Completed semesters studying international development policy in Washington, DC and Spanish grammar in Seville, Spain.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY CONSULTANT

*Nested Solutions*

Berkeley, CA • May 2022 - present

- **Research, write, and produce reports and case studies** related to climate risk management for clients like the **World Bank**, **Patagonia**, and **Biomimicry Institute**.
- **Guide clients through communications and branding assessment** then design comprehensive strategy to improve brand consistency and audience engagement.
- **Help clients implement fresh communications strategies**, which can include email and social media planning, content calendaring, e-newsletters, SEO, paid ad placement, content marketing, list building, multimedia production, online events, and more.
- **Manage content strategy and data visualization and design** for client deliverables including reports, web interactives, articles, and infographics.

### SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

*Catalyst Off-Grid Advisors*

Berkeley, CA • June 2021 - March 2022.

- **Designed comprehensive, cross-platform communications strategy** for Catalyst.
- **Teamed-up with modelers to research and write a set of case studies** on off-grid energy investments for a **Rockefeller Foundation** and **IKEA Foundation** report.
- **Developed and launched the Uganda hub of the Access Insights Platform (AIP)**, an interactive public data depository to help last-mile off-grid energy distributors reach underserved areas, in partnership with **UKAID**, **Power for All**, and others.
- **Organized and ran a virtual launch event** for AIP Uganda with a panel of Uganda-based companies that represented the audience for the AIP tool.

### SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

*Synergos Institute*

New York, NY • September 2017 to August 2020.

- **Served as digital communications lead** for Synergos Consulting Services, an internal team providing research and analysis for foundations and socially minded corporations.
- **Managed writing, production, and visual design** of *Capacity Building Across Borders*, a capacity building resource for funders, supported by the **Citi Foundation**.
- **Led communications strategy** for *Inner Work for Social Change*, a research initiative and campaign to improve cross-sector collaboration. Key functions included microsite design, publication production, social media strategy, media engagement, and events.
- **Implemented communications strategy** for the Pioneers Social Entrepreneurs Fellowship. Produced an *impact report*, video series, and social media strategy.
- **Conducted interviews, research, and writing** to produce *Businesses as Bridging Leaders*, a guide for private sector companies initiating social impact partnerships.
- **Ran editorial calendar for Synergos.org** and contributed to *Rocklinks*, a social impact publication for the Rockefeller family by **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**.

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR DIGITAL ANALYSIS

*Bread for the World Institute*

Washington, DC • January 2014 to August 2017.

- Assisted production of *Hunger Reports* *video series*, interviewing experts like **Bill McKibben** (350.org), **Anwar Khan** (Islamic Relief), and **Michelle Nunn** (CARE).

## AWARDS

**National Press Club,**  
*2020 Recipient of Feldman  
Fellowship for Graduate Studies in  
Journalism.* ▪ 2020.

**U.C. Berkeley,**  
*Awarded Graduate Opportunity  
Fellowship.* ▪ 2020-2021.

**Tapestry Conference,**  
*Selected to present at leading data  
storytelling conference sponsored by  
Tableau in Estes Park, CO.* ▪ 2016.

**Religion Communicators Council,**  
*DeRose-Hinkhouse Award, best of  
class for work on the 2014 and 2015  
Hunger Reports.* ▪ 2014-2015.

## SERVICE

**U.C. Berkeley Department of Political  
Economy,** Graduate Student Instructor  
in Classical Theories of Political  
Economy, and Global Poverty.  
*Berkeley, CA* ▪ 2020-2022

**Berkeley Public Policy Journal,**  
Editor. *Berkeley, CA* ▪ 2021

**Indivisible,** Voter registration  
volunteer. *Berkeley, CA* ▪ 2021

**Broadway World,** Theatre Review  
Writer. *New York City* ▪ 2018

**Riverside Church,** Young Adult  
Leadership Committee. *New York, NY*  
▪ 2019

- **Guided Institute's digital content strategy**, including producing background papers, fact sheets, blog posts, infographics, social media plans, and multimedia projects.
- **Managed editorial calendar** and wrote weekly for [Nourishing Effect](#) blog series.
- **Built Institute's first social media strategy** and tripled Twitter followers in two years.
- **Led development of a [data visualization](#)** that exposed the proportion of global missing data on women. Featured in the *New York Times*, *Quartz*, *Huffington Post*, and *Devex*.
- **Organized the Institute's first ever Vizathon**—a one-day event that brings together data and design volunteers to tackle a data visualization challenge related to hunger and gender equality. Covered by [The Washington Post](#).
- Led collaborations with other research groups, including the **Brookings Institution**, **USAID**, and the **International Food Policy Research Institute**.
- Designed and built an interactive [website](#) featuring top messages and data from a **Boston Children's Hospital** study on the health-related costs of U.S. food insecurity.

## HUNGER REPORT FELLOW

*Bread for the World Institute*

Washington, D.C. ▪ June 2012 to December 2013.

- **Assisted senior editor to research and write the [2013 Hunger Report](#)**, *Within Reach: Global Development Goals* and the [2014 Hunger Report](#), *Ending Hunger in America*. The report is an in-depth annual analysis on the state of hunger, and strategies to end it.
- **Worked directly on each stage of *Hunger Report* production**, including policy analysis, drafting chapters, expert consultations, copy editing, and data visualization.
- **Led reinvention of the *Hunger Report*'s digital presence** by incorporating [infographics](#), multimedia, social media, interactive data stories, and mobile accessibility.
- **Wrote the [Conclusion](#)** for the 2013 report and a [featured article](#) in the 2014 report.
- **Supported Media Relations team with media outreach and story placement** surrounding report launch events. Presented report findings to diverse audiences, including congressional staff, donors, partner organizations, and conference attendees.

## SUPPLY CHAIN RESEARCHER

*World Hope International*

Makeni, Sierra Leone ▪ May 2012 to June 2012.

- **Assessed the [Mango Outgrowers Project](#)** (MOP), a community-level development initiative that links small-holder farmers in 150 villages with global agriculture markets.
- **Designed and field tested a baseline study** to assess MOP effectiveness, transparency, and impact on food security and women's empowerment.
- **Conducted more than 20 interviews** with village leaders and community members to collect transaction data and small-holder farmer reactions to project implementation.

## PAST CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- **RTI International**, *Berkeley, CA* ▪ 2021 – Wrote, edited, and produced an [executive summary](#) for a report on the health effects of obesity in the U.S.
- **Impact Capital Managers**, *New York, NY* ▪ 2020 – Designed and produced a pitch deck and data visualizations for prospective members.
- **Population Council**, *New York, NY* ▪ 2019 – Designed and produced a introductory slide deck for funders and partners.

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**, *Legislative and Public Affairs Intern, Washington, D.C.* ▪ 2011
  - > Collaborated as member of a high-profile team for USAID's first major campaign to raise public awareness for the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.
- **The International Social Justice Commission**, *Research and Advocacy Intern, New York, NY* ▪ 2020 –
  - > Advocated for social justice causes at United Nations and collaborated with NGO partners on UN advisory committees covering climate change and human trafficking. Published resource on effects of climate change in constituent communities to mobilize faith-based advocacy.