

DEREK SCHWABE

Berkeley, CA | +1 (973) 670-2538 | dschwabe@berkeley.edu

Digital storyteller with 8 years of experience working at the nexus of design, digital communications, and public policy seeks opportunities to advance the public interest in writing, reporting, and visual journalism.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Berkeley, CA ▪ May 2022

- Pursuing Master of Development Practice (MDP) at the Goldman School of Public Policy.
- Thematic focus on global democracy reform, inequality, and renewable energy policy.
- Skills-focus on writing and editing, data analysis and visualization and innovative digital storytelling.
- Elective courses taken at Berkeley's schools of Journalism and Information.

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Houghton, NY ▪ May 2012

- B.A., int'l relations & political science; minors in business & Spanish ▪ Magna cum laude.
- Completed semester studying international development policy in Washington, DC.
- Spent semester studying advanced Spanish grammar in Seville, Spain.

AWARDS

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Catalyst Off-Grid Advisors
Berkeley, CA ▪ June 2021-present.

- Developed and launched the Uganda hub of the [Access Insights Platform](#) (AIP)—an open source, interactive map that crowdsources public data to help last-mile off-grid energy distributors reach underserved areas.
- 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.
- Teamed-up with modelers to produce an [analysis and a set of case studies](#) on off-grid energy investments for a report by the Rockefeller and IKEA Foundations.

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Synergos
New York, NY ▪ September 2017-2020.

- Served as digital communications lead for Synergos Consulting Services, an internal team providing research and analysis for foundations and socially minded corporations.
- Oversaw communications and marketing strategy for [Inner Work for Social Change](#), a Fetzer Foundation-supported initiative to promote reflective practices as a tool for preventing burnout and enhancing collaboration among social changemakers.
- Managed the writing, production, and visual design of [Capacity Building Across Borders](#), a capacity building resource for funders, supported by the Citi Foundation.
- Conducted interviews, research, and writing to produce [Businesses as Bridging Leaders](#), a guide for private sector companies initiating social impact partnerships.
- Designed data visualizations for a [policy brief](#) on drowning prevention strategies in Bangladesh, funded by the Bloomberg Foundation.
- Wrote regular [articles](#) for Synergos.org as well as *Rocklinks*, a social impact publication for the Rockefeller Family, published by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR DIGITAL ANALYSIS

Bread for the World Institute
Washington, DC ▪ January 2014 to August 2017.

- Wrote and reported regularly on hunger policy issues and data for background papers, fact sheets, blog posts, infographics, and multimedia projects.
- Represented the Institute in collaborations with other research groups, including the Brookings Institution, USAID, and the International Food Policy Research Institute.
- 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.
- Created and organized Bread for the World's first ever [Vizathon](#)—an innovative one-day event that brings together pro-bono data scientists, statisticians, graphic designers, and advocates to tackle a data visualization challenge related to hunger and poverty policy issues. Covered by the Washington Post.
- Designed and built an interactive [website](#) featuring top messages and data from an Institute study on the health-related costs of food insecurity in the United States.
- Launched and managed the Institute's [Twitter handle](#), @breadinstitute, and wrote weekly for [Institute Insights](#), a blog on policies to end global and U.S. hunger.
- Partnered with data volunteers to build powerful visualizations on the links between [women's empowerment and nutrition](#), and explaining the problem of [hidden hunger](#).

SKILLS AND ASSETS

INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ability to critically reimagine communications strategies to reach audiences and inspire them through story and interactive components.

TECHNOLOGY

Experienced with front end web development languages (**HTML**, **CSS**, **JavaScript**). Competent with web management platforms (Squarespace, Drupal, Joomla), data cleaning/analysis programs (**Python**, **R**, **Google Analytics**), media outreach tools (Cision, Vocus), **Adobe Suite**, **QGIS** map-making software, MS Office Suite, and most major social media management platforms.

LANGUAGE

Proficient in Spanish speaking, reading, and writing.

WRITING

Published writer with six years of experience in writing and editing for print and online publications.

RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Experience in qualitative and quantitative policy analysis, as well as primary research methods (field surveys, focus groups, interviews) and econometrics.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Confident public speaker and personal communicator with experience in media relations, speechwriting, and teaching.

CLEARANCE

Active U.S. government security clearance at the 'secret' level.

SERVICE

- **Berkeley Public Policy Journal**, Editor. *Berkeley, CA* ▪ 2021
- **Broadway World**, Theatre Review Writer. *New York City* ▪ 2018
- **The Riverside Church**, Young Adult Leadership Committee. *New York City* ▪ 2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT)

HUNGER REPORT FELLOW

Bread for the World Institute

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

- Worked directly on each step of the Hunger Report print production process, including policy and quantitative data analysis, drafting chapter drafts, consultations with experts, copy editing, and data visualization.
- Led reinvention of the Hunger Report's digital presence by incorporating [interactive data stories](#), multimedia, [infographics](#), social media, and mobile accessibility.
- 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 Hunger Report is an annual book-length publication on the state of U.S. and global hunger, and policy strategies to end it.
- Wrote the [Conclusion](#) of the 2013 Hunger Report and a [featured article](#) in the 2014 Hunger Report.
- Planned and regularly gave interactive presentations on report findings to a diverse range of audience groups, including donors, partner organizations, student groups, congressional staff, and conference attendees.

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Washington, D.C. ▪ August 2011 to December 2011.

- Collaborated as member of a high-profile team for USAID's first [major campaign](#) to raise congressional and public awareness for the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.
- Developed a robust communications strategy including mapping tools, media outreach, nationally aired public service announcements, and White House appearances.
- Drafted activity guides and provided support for student leaders on university campuses.

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.
- Interviewed village leaders and community participants to collect transaction data and small-holder farmer reactions to project implementation.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY INTERN

The International Social Justice Commission

New York, NY ▪ May 2011 to August 2014.

- 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 across the world to mobilize faith-based action.

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 visual slide deck for introducing the organization to funders and partners.