

Dan Hammer

Environmental data scientist
National Geographic Fellow
Gentleman economist

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Education

PhD, MS, Environmental Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2017.
BA, Mathematics and Economics, Swarthmore College, 2007, *High Honors*.

Grants and Awards

[Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by a Young Alumnus](#), UC Berkeley (2019)
Non-resident Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, India (2018)
[National Geographic Fellow](#) (2018)
[Pritzker Environmental Genius Award](#) (2017)
[Keynote Address to the California Water Resources Control Board](#) (2017)
[Summer at Census Scholar](#) (2017)
[Berkeley Institute for Data Science Fellowship](#) (2015)
[Presidential Innovation Fellowship](#) (2014)
[50 Data Scientists Gurus You Must Follow on Twitter](#), Automated Insights (2014)
[Notable Mention](#), Amazon Web Services EC2 Spotathon (2012)
[Graduate Student Research appointment](#), UC Berkeley (2011)
[Honorable mention](#), National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2011)
Innovation Fund grant (P126175, \$94,500), The World Bank (2011)
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) student assistantship (2010)
[First place](#), University of Maryland, graduate research in the field of earth/ocean science (2010)
Amazon Web Services project grant (2010, renewed)
Technical Expert, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, Global Environment Facility (2010)
[Thomas J. Watson Fellowship](#) (2007 - 2008)
Centennial Conference Academic Honor Role (2007)
[Lang Opportunity Scholarship](#) (2003) and Fellowship (2006); support for graduate studies

Work Experience

Earthrise Media, Founder

Earthrise is a media brand and technology company, with the mission to tell stories about environmental and humanitarian events from satellite imagery. Partners include National Geographic, Reuters, and The Tech Museum of Innovation. Earthrise is a project of The Earth Genome, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, co-founded with [Steve McCormick](#) and Glen Low.

National Geographic Society, Senior Advisor

Advising the National Geographic Labs on strategic investment in conservation technology, reporting to the Vice President of Technology.

The White House, Senior Policy Advisor

Advising the Chief Technology Officer of the United States (Megan Smith) on the public finance of data infrastructure and supporting the civic tech community (e.g., US Digital Services, 18F, Presidential Innovation Fellows).

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Lead Data Scientist

The [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) is global network of governments, NGOs and businesses working together to strengthen the inclusivity, trust and innovation in the way that data is used to address the world's sustainable development efforts. Led a group including Facebook, Harvard, McKinsey, and Planet labs for effective use of development data.

Berkeley Institute for Data Scientist, Fellow

Berkeley Institute for Data Science (BIDS) is a central hub of research and education at UC Berkeley designed to facilitate and nurture data-intensive science.

SpaceNinja, Chief Scientist

Co-founded [SpaceNinja](#) to begin to answer the question, "Is there a mass market for satellite imagery?" Wrote deep learning algorithms to index change detected from satellite imagery. Created change-detection and validation metrics for relevant use of commercial satellite imagery.

SpaceKnow, Chief Scientist

Led data analytics as a co-founder of [SpaceKnow](#) through a successful seed round (\$1M). Designed algorithms to run on Google's computing and app framework for on-demand analytics on high-resolution satellite imagery.

NASA, Presidential Innovation Fellow

Selected as one of 23 fellows from over 2,100 applicants for a White House program to facilitate innovation, broadly defined, within federal agencies. Worked with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to prototype service-oriented architecture at NASA. Profile on [White House website](#). Proudest moment [here](#).

World Resources Institute, Chief Data Scientist and Research Fellow

Founded the [Data Lab](#) at the World Resources Institute. Released Global Forest Watch to monitor global deforestation. Developed algorithms to detect and classify structural change in the spectral time series for each 500m pixel in the tropics. GFW received 250,000 visitors from 171 countries in the first week, and featured in articles from the BBC, The Atlantic, Slate, and NBC, among many others.

Hylozoic, Data Scientist

Worked with the CTO of a [social network start-up](#) on currency simulations. Developed software in Clojure and Python for large-scale simulations and network analysis. Built a scalable recommendation engine using Cascalog to run on a Hadoop cluster.

The World Bank, Short Term Consultant

Developed a mobile application to *groundtruth* deforestation, supported by an Innovation Fund grant; also supported by an internal grant to assess the economic determinants of deforestation in Indonesia.

Resources for the Future, Affiliated Expert, Research Analyst

Affiliated Expert in the Center for Climate and Electricity Policy. Developed the second release of the Forest Carbon Index ([FCI](#)), a public tool to analyze the global distribution of forest carbon resources; constructed the FCI workflow on Amazon.com's cloud computation platform.

Center for Global Development, Consultant and Research Assistant

Supported the research of David Wheeler, Nancy Birdsall, and Arvind Subramanian on multiple projects, including the development of a system to track deforestation in real-time at 1km spatial resolution using NASA satellite imagery.

RescueCorps, Project Coordinator

Core staff member for RescueCorps, a nonprofit that provides training to local firefighters in Bolivia and Thailand; personal responsibilities ranged from grant writing and curriculum development to on-site training and emergency response in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as a nationally certified firefighter.

Academic Positions

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University

Data Science for Public Policy: The course is focused on evaluating and analyzing public policy, telling stories with data to make compelling and fact-based arguments. Course materials [online](#).

Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco

Introduction to Web Mapping: A working knowledge of web-based mapping and spatial SQL queries for a variety of applications, based on the open-source Carto platform. Course materials [online](#).

Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley

ARE212: Multiple Equation estimation. Graduate-level econometrics to upper-division students in Economics, Public Policy, Biostatistics, among other departments. Course materials [online](#).

IAS106: Undergraduate microeconomics.

Lead Instructor, San Quentin State Prison

Taught introductory statistics, intermediate algebra, and trigonometry to a group of upper-level inmates seeking an associate's degree as part of the [Prison University Project](#).

Research Assistant, Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, UC Berkeley

Basic data cleaning and analysis for Prof. Max Auffhammer

Teaching Assistant, Economics Department, Swarthmore College

Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Larry Westphal

Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Mark Kuperberg

Research Assistant, Economics Department, Swarthmore College

Supported the research and curriculum work of Prof. Stephen O'Connell, Prof. Stephen Golub, and Prof. Rob Hollister; data cleaning, copy editing, basic research.

Writing Associate, Swarthmore College

Course-specific writing tutor for introductory economics (Prof. Stephen Golub), political science first-year seminar (Prof. Kenneth Sharpe), and introduction to academic writing (Prof. Rona Buchalter)

Books

Chen, Jeff., **Dan. Hammer**, Edward Rubin. (forthcoming 2019). "Data Science for Public Policy." *Springer Publishing*.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Dasgupta, S., **D. Hammer**, R. Kraft, D. Wheeler. 2014. "A Resource Allocation Model for Tiger Habitat Protection." *Journal of Management and Sustainability*, Vol 4(3). [Available online](#).

Hammer, D., D. Wheeler, R. Kraft. 2013. "Near real-time forest cover change detection in the humid tropics using MODIS data." *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*, Vol. **33**, pp. 1-9. [Available online](#).

Wheeler, D., **D. Hammer**, R. Kraft, S. Dasgupta, B. Blankespoor. 2013. "Economic dynamics and forest clearing: A spatial econometric analysis for Indonesia." *Ecological Economics*, Vol. **85**, pp. 85-96. [Access online](#).

Dasgupta, S., **D. Hammer**, R. Kraft, D. Wheeler. 2012. "Vyaghranomics in Space and Time: Estimating Habitat Threat for Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan and Sumatran Tigers." *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Vol. **36**(3), pp. 433-453. [Access online](#).

Forrest, J., **D. Hammer**, R. Kraft, *et al.* 2011. "Single-species conservation in a multiple-use landscape: current protection of the tiger range." *Animal Conservation*, Vol. **14**. [Access online](#).

Hammer, D., G. Judge, A. Plastino. 2013. "Information Recovery in Nonlinear Dynamic Time Series Models." *Quantitative Economics*, Submitted.

Working Papers

Skytland, N., Mattmann, C., **D. Hammer**, et al. 2015. "NASA Data Strategy." NASA White Paper.

Birdsall, N., **D. Hammer**, A. Subramanian, K. Ummel. 2009. "Energy Needs and Efficiency, Not Emissions: Re-framing the Climate Change Narrative." CGD Working Paper 187. [Available online](#).

Birdsall, N., **D. Hammer**, A. Subramanian. 2009. "Identifying a fair deal on climate change." VOX EU Editor's Pick, 14 December 2009. [Available online](#).

Dasgupta, S., **D. Hammer**, R. Kraft, D. Wheeler. 2012. "Vyaghranomics in Space and Time: Estimating Habitat Threat for Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan and Sumatran Tigers." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, WP6212. [Available online](#).

Hammer, D., R. Kraft, D. Wheeler. 2009. "Rapid Identification of Deforestation From Moderate-Resolution Remotely Sensed Data." CGD Working Paper 192. [Available online](#).

Wheeler, D., **D. Hammer**. 2010. "The Economics of Population Policy for Carbon Emissions Reduction in Developing Countries." CGD Working Paper 229. [Available online](#).

Wheeler, D., **D. Hammer**. R. Kraft, S. Dasgupta, B. Blankespoor. 2011. "Economic Dynamics and Forest Clearing: A Spatial Econometric Analysis for Indonesia." CGD Working Paper 280. Accepted for presentation at the *19th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*. [Available online](#).

Wheeler, D., **D. Hammer**. R. Kraft. 2011. "From REDD to Green: A Global Incentive System to Stop Tropical Forest Clearing." CGD Working Paper 282. [Available online](#).

Wheeler, D., **D. Hammer**. R. Kraft. 2011. "Forest Clearing in the Pantropics: December 2005-August 2011." CGD Working Paper 283. [Available online](#).

Selected news coverage

Bay Area data scientist launching environmental storytelling app with access to global satellite images, [article](#) in **The Mercury News**, 2018-06-14

National Humanities Medal awarded to the Prison University Project, [featured](#) in the **Prison University Project**, 2016-09-22

Satellite Imagery: A catalyst for positive change, [featured](#) in **The Leader**, 2016-05-01

Putting women at the controls at NASA, [quoted](#) in **Science Magazine**, 2015-07-13

NASA to put the stars in your hands with API portal, [coverage](#) in **The Register**, 2015-04-15

NASA to release new API catalog, [coverage](#) on **ProgrammableWeb**, 2015-04-15

Restoration of Forests Offers Hope in Climate Change Fight, Global Forest Watch lead story on **New York Times** [online](#) and print, 2014-12-24

By the People, For the People, profile on **White House** [website](#), retrieved 2014-12-16

Ph.D. on hold, White House fellow's stars align at NASA, [story](#) told on **Berkeley Online**, 2014-12-04

Major news coverage in **BBC**, **The Atlantic**, **Slate**, **NBC** and many others about the launch of Global Forest Watch, 2014-02-*

Google Earth Engine Brings Big Data to Environmental Activism, WRI Data Lab [featured](#) in **IEEE Spectrum**, 2014-04-16

NASA Explores New World Of Open Data, Presidential Innovation Fellowship and role with NASA open data highlighted in **Information Week**, 2014-12-11

How to combat climate change, monitoring system featured in a World Bank **TEDx** [talk](#), 2010-05-10

Conference and Seminar Presentations

Data Science, Civic Tech

Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, School of Forestry Environmental Studies, February 11, 2019

National Geographic Explorers Festival, July 17, 2018

TEDxBerkeley, March 8, 2018

World Economic Forum High Net Worth Summit panelist, November 4, 2017

[World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit](#) panelist, September 18, 2017

[Open Government Partnership Summit](#) panelist and moderator, December 8, 2016

[Code for America Summit](#) panelist, November 2, 2016

[Autodesk](#) panelist, May 5, 2016

Google, October 15, 2015

[Stanford d.school](#) panelist, October 14, 2015

[Code for America](#) panelist, October 13, 2015

[AFCEA Data Symposium](#) panelist, June 30, 2015

[Astrobiology Science Conference](#) side event, June 15, 2015

[NASA Ames Research Center](#), April 21, 2015.

[President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#), November, 12, 2014

[NASA Langley Research Center](#), October 29, 2014

Large-scale spatial analysis in empirical economics

UC Berkeley Haas School of Business lecturer, October 13, 2015

[Resources for the Future](#), *Unleashing Innovation*, panelist, June 17, 2015

[USAID/Berkeley HESN TechCon](#), panel moderator, November 8, 2014.

[Yale University](#), November 1, 2013.

[Clojure/West](#), March 19, 2013.

UC Davis, November 2, 2012.

[Bay Area Tropical Forest Network](#), Goldman School of Public Policy, November 17, 2011.

[UC Berkeley](#), Geospatial Innovation Facility, October 20, 2011.

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School, STEP program, April 6, 2011.

[Swarthmore College](#), Economics Department, February 10, 2011.

Real-time identification of forest clearing using NASA satellite imagery

[World Resources Institute](#), 2013.

Google I/O, May 15, 2013.

Cosmogia Satellites (now Planet Labs), March 23, 2013.

Climate Corporation, March 17, 2013.

[Stanford University](#), US Rio+2.0, invited Tech Group, February 4, 2012.

[Association of American Geographers](#) Annual Meeting, April 12, 2011.

The Nature Conservancy, January 6, 2011.

ESRI User Conference, July 14, 2010.

Google, April 12, 2010.

[University of Maryland](#), GRID competition, April 6, 2010.

Global Environment Facility, 2009.

Inter-American Development Bank, 2009.

The World Bank, 2009.

World Wildlife Fund, 2009.

World Resources Institute, 2009.

Center for Global Development, 2009.

Spatial modeling and monitoring of forest carbon credit supply

Resources for the Future, February 2, 2011.

[UN Climate Conference](#), Cancún, IETA side event, December 7, 2010.

[World Bank Annual Meetings](#), Istanbul, October 5, 2009.

Skills

Programming: Python, HTML/CSS, Clojure, JavaScript (basic)

Statistics: Stata, Mata, R, GRASS (basic), Matlab (basic)

Other: ArcGIS, L^AT_EX, ENVI, Emacs, Amazon.com EC2/S3/SQS, CartoDB, Earth Engine, D3.js, Elasticsearch, API design, Google App Engine.

Service

Speaker, Swarthmore [Living the Liberal Arts Lecture](#)

Advisory board member, Azavea [Raster Foundry](#)

Speaker, Swarthmore [Lax Conference on Entrepreneurship](#) 2015

Lead instructor, *mathematics and statistics*, [Prison University Project](#), San Quentin State Prison

Book reviewer, [Learning R for Geospatial Analysis](#), PACKT Publishing

Book reviewer, *Clojure for Data Science*, PACKT Publishing

Co-organizer of the [EcoHack](#) conference (sponsored by Google and the San Francisco Mayor's office)

Swarthmore Borough volunteer firefighter (2002 - 2005); First Responder

Miscellaneous

Team USA, Dragonboat World Championships; world-record holder, 500m Open

Tour du Teche 2010 winner; Key to the City of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana

Texas Water Safari, 262-mile "World's Toughest Canoe Race" overall win 2011

Speedcuber (fast-solving Rubik's cubes, PR: 27 seconds)

NOLS graduate, semester in Patagonia; Wilderness First Responder

Last updated: February 11, 2019