

Jack Reid

jackbreid.com • jack@jackbreid.com • github.com/jackreid

Résumé current as of September 14, 2025

Skills

Earth Observation Data Analysis	Machine learning, land use/cover, optical, SAR, nightlights
Economy & Policy Analysis	Microeconomics, ecosystem services, policy frameworks
Decision Support Systems	Remote observation, GIS, econometric, public health
Aerospace Systems Engineering	Satellite design, systems architecture, requirements writing
Coding	Python, Javascript, GDAL, GeoPandas, Google Earth Engine, Git

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2018–2023
PhD in Media Arts & Sciences	
Expected Graduation: June 2023	GPA: 5.0/5.0
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2015–2018
Master of Science in Technology & Policy; Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering	
Graduation: May 2018	GPA: 4.9/5.0
Texas A&M University	2011–2015
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; Bachelor of Art in Philosophy	
Honors Minor in Mathematics	
Graduation: May 2015	GPA: 3.98/4.0

Research & Employment

US Government Accountability Office, <i>Senior Engineer</i>	05/2025 – Present
In addition to previous responsibilities as Engineer at GAO, lead small teams to develop reports for Congress; provide direct technical support to Congress; serve as a liaison to an external advisory committee; co-chair the a committee developing training programs for new employees.	
US Government Accountability Office, <i>Engineer</i>	07/2023 – 05/2025
As part of the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA) team, develop rigorous and reliable reports for Congress on the state of technologies and their policy relevance; support and expand GAO's geospatial data analytics capability, including introducing the use of satellite imagery into the audit process for the first time; and provide technical advice and review for audit teams on issues pertaining to environmental justice and aerospace engineering.	
MIT Space Enabled, <i>Graduate Researcher</i>	08/2018 – 06/2023
Developed integrated, multidomain, sociotechnical system models, analyses, and decision support systems advance sustainable development, environmental justice, and public health goals for various communities, in a highly stakeholder-involved manner. These analyses involved the user of space-based optical, hyperspectral, LIDAR, and SAR data. Specific projects included:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using space-based methane detection systems to identify point sources in the Rio de Janeiro area and compare these with activity-based emissions inventories.• For the municipality of Rio de Janeiro, monitoring of mangrove health and extent, valuation of local ecosystem services, derivation of carbon sequestration, and assessment of policy impacts on the mangroves.• COVID-19 pandemic response for six metropolitan areas across four continents, including implementing an epidemiological simulation system, monitoring changes in human activity (as measured both by telecoms data and urban nightlights), and monitoring air quality (as measured by in-situ and space-based sensors).• Identification of flooded roads and agricultural land due to cyclone impacts in Madagascar	

- RAND Corporation, *Summer Associate*** 05/2018 - 08/2018 & 05/2017 - 08/2017
Built a generalized early warning modeling framework as part of a project to identify potential countermeasures to attacks on the US homeland by hypersonic cruise missiles. Conducted technology forecasting, agent-based modeling, and analysis of alternatives to support military acquisition decisions, particularly with regard to aerial intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance.
- MIT Systems Engineering Research Initiative, *Graduate Researcher*** .. 08/2015 - 05/2018
Research on various systems engineering topics, primarily for the defense sector, on model integration, complexity, emergent behavior, and the non-technical and policy issues that surround them.
Resulted in masters thesis on potential changes and improvements to the US defense acquisition process.
- Sandia National Laboratories, *Environmental Testing Researcher*** 06/2015 - 08/2015
Worked on shock and vibration simulation, development of improved shock and vibration testing methods and analysis algorithms, as well as control system malfunction diagnosis and repair.
- TAMU AggieSat Lab, *Team Member*** 09/2011 - 12/2012
The AggieSat Lab student organization designs and launches satellites under the LONESTAR program towards developing and improving an automated dual-satellite rendezvous system.
Worked as part of the Structure, Mechanical, Thermal, Radiation Subsystem where I designed and modeled structural components; ran static, vibration, and thermal simulations on the overall structure; and attended a Critical Design Review at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Selected GAO Publications

- Smart Cities: Technologies and Policy Options to Enhance Services and Transparency.* GAO-25-107019. April, 2025
- In-Space Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing: Benefits, Challenges, and Policy Options.* GAO-25-107555. July, 2025

Selected Scientific Publications & Presentations

- J. Reid and D. Wood, "Supporting sustainable mangrove management in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: An application of the Environment-Vulnerability-Decision-Technology systems engineering framework." *Acta Astronomica*, January, 2026.
- J. Reid, *Using Earth Observation-Informed Modeling to Inform Sustainable Development Decision-Making.* MIT Doctoral Dissertation. May, 2023
- J. Reid and D. Wood, "Systems engineering applied to urban planning and development: A review and research agenda." *Systems Engineering*, September, 2022.
- J. Reid, et al., "The Environment-Vulnerability-Decision-Technology Framework: A Process for Developing Multi-Disciplinary Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Development Applications." 2022 International Astronautical Congress, Paris, France..
- J. Reid, et al., "International Collaboration Aimed at Identifying Relevant Social, Policy, and Environmental Factors in the Progression of SARS-CoV2/COVID-19 in Six Metropolitan Areas." 2021 AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA..
- J. Reid, et al., "Vida Decision Support System: An International, Collaborative Project for COVID-19 Management with Integrated Modeling." 2021 International Astronautical Congress, Dubai, UAE. [Available online: <https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/138106>].
- J. Reid, D. Wood, "Decision Support Model and Visualization for Assessing Environmental Phenomena, Ecosystem Services, Policy Consequences, and Satellite Design Using Earth Observation Data." 2020 AIAA ASCEND, Virtual [Available online: <https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/128378>].
- J. Reid, D. Wood, "Interactive Model for Assessing Mangrove Health, Ecosystem Services, Policy Consequences, and Satellite Design in Rio de Janeiro Using Earth Observation Data." *2020 International*

Astronautical Congress, Virtual [Available online: <https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/129598>].

J. Reid, C. Zeng, D. Wood, “Combining Social, Environmental, and Design Models to Support the Sustainable Development Goals.” 2019 IEEE Aerospace Conference, Big Sky, MT [Available online: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8741623>].

Extracurricular & Service Activities

- MIT Graduate Student Council, *Various Leadership Roles*** 2018 – 2022
As External Affairs Board Chair, lead MIT graduate students’ advocacy and public outreach activities, including legislative advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels.
As University Liaison, represented MIT to other universities, including at conferences and legislative action days organized by the National Association of Professional and Graduate Students.
Particular accomplishments include helping to organize the Graduate Research & Development Caucus in the US House of Representatives and founding the Boston Federation of Graduate Student Governments.
- MIT Science Policy Review, *Associate Editor*** 2019 – 2020
Provided feedback to authors and managed the peer review process for a researcher-run publication founded in 2019 whose primary purpose is to publish accessible and authoritative science policy reviews authored by members of the broader MIT community for dissemination to the wider public.
- Science Policy Initiative, *Various Leadership Roles*** 2015 – 2020
MIT graduate organization dedicated to educating students on the role science plays in policy-making, the effects of policy on the scientific community, and how to engage in policy advocacy.
As President, lead the organization through several changes, including commissioning a history documentation effort and expanding the science policy bootcamp.
As Special Events Coordinator, planned numerous activities including a full lecture series on innovation policy issues, faculty panels, student panels, and faculty lunch discussions.
As Congressional Visit Days Co-Chair, organized a multi-day trip to Washington DC where MIT students met with numerous Congressional offices as part of the broader STEM on the Hill event hosted by the Science-Engineering-Technology Working Group.
As Bootcamp Chair, organized two science policy bootcamps (one in person and one virtual) designed to introduce participants to the ‘nuts and bolts’ of science policy making.
- MIT Open Access Task Force, *Graduate Student Representative*** 2017 – 2020
Served as the representative of graduate student interests on a task force dedicated to reforming and advancing MIT’s open access policies

Other Publications & Appearances

J. Reid, “The moral equivalent of war: a new metaphor for space resource utilization.” *The Space Review*, 2022. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/4345/1>

“How To Keep Your Satellite Pointing At Earth.” *The Mapscaping Podcast*, 2022. <https://mapscaping.com/podcast/how-to-keep-your-satellite-pointing-at-earth/>

R. Bellisle et al., *Space Policy Considerations*, MIT Space Policy Research Group, 2021. <https://www.media.mit.edu/posts/mit-space-policy-compendium/1>

J. Reid, *Earth Observation Art*, 2021-2022. https://jackbreid.com/pages/eo_art.html

“Episode 87 - Existential Engineer.” *The Engineering Commons Podcast*, 2015. <https://theengineeringcommons.com/episode-87-existential-engineer/>