917-597-4397 | jkoulish@gmail.com | http://kouli.sh | Github: jkoul | LinkedIn: jkoulish

# Data Enthusiast ♦ Full-Stack Web Developer ♦ Accomplished Problem Solver

Eager collaborator with a fiery passion for data-driven outcomes and a predilection towards the common good. Constantly seeking opportunities to synthesize raw information into valuable and actionable knowledge.

# Selected Experience

Web Developer, **Bixal Solutions**, Fairfax, VA, 10/2015 – 5/2019

- Served as lead front-end developer on select client projects, focusing primarily on Drupal 8 and JavaScript-based applications. Collaborated with other developers, UX designers, content strategists, project managers and other stakeholders on a wide variety of external and internal projects.
- Played a key role in Bixal's efforts for an AHRQ data modeling challenge in April-May 2019. Using R, cleaned and transformed the challenge's primary dataset to extract descriptive statistics and prepare for model development. Identified relevant external variables, conducted research on a number of government websites, and discovered a diverse set of highly valuable official data sources to fit those external variables. Compiled a full list of retrieved external data and refined that list into a data dictionary, mapping each available variable to an intended conceptual purpose within the model.
- Created custom interactive maps using Mapbox and Leaflet that were integrated into prominent locations of two USAID-affiliated sites, and assisted with the development of a React-based interactive data dashboard on one of those sites. Contributed to a React-based mapping tool for a third client site that leveraged the Google Maps API.
- Served as technical lead and primary developer for the successful modernization of a DOJ Office of Justice Policy website. Developed a decoupled AngularJS app as the site's UI layer. Scoped and delivered periodic site enhancements in consultation with client and produced technical documentation.
- Constructed custom, fully-responsive Drupal 8 themes for multiple high-traffic, federal government agency websites. Clients included USAID, DOD Transportation Command, and the Securities Exchange Commission. Leveraged technologies such as Twig, SCSS, jQuery and build tools such as Gulp. Also performed sitebuilding, custom module development, cross-browser testing, and content migration tasks.

## Research Associate, Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Urban Institute, DC, 11/2012 – 12/2014

- Analyzed nonprofit sector trends based on data from the National Center for Charitable Statistics. Specific tasks included SQL data queries, statistical analysis using Excel and Stata, producing detailed tables and graphs, literature reviews, and writing and editing briefs summarizing conclusions. Lead author of briefs on 501(c)(4) organizations, charter schools, and symphony orchestras.
- For a high-profile evaluation of the Head Start Designation Renewal System, helped develop a statistical model that uses principal components analysis to predict whether each Head Start grantee will be designated for competition, created an extensive primer on the relevant regulations for use by the project team, and led development of the project's OMB package. Also engaged in budget management and other administrative tasks for the project.
- > Serve as CNP's point person for communications, coordinating e-newsletter production, social media and blogging activities, and responses to periodic press inquiries. Commentary on 501(c)(4) organizations and the IRS controversy directly inspired an article by Time's Michael Grunwald.
- ➤ Developed content for PerformWell, a performance management resource for human services nonprofit practitioners. Activities included searching for relevant literature, defining performance outcomes and indicators, and obtaining or creating empirically-sound tools to measure those outcomes and indicators.

#### Research Assistant, State Fiscal Project, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, DC, 9/2007 – 7/2009

- ➤ Contributing writer and editor of a groundbreaking study on state tax expenditure reports; analyzed and graded state reports, created data tables and graphs. Study directly resulted in multiple states and the District of Columbia improving their reports. Work analyzing and evaluating the budgets of all fifty states, and documenting and highlighting harmful state budget cuts, played a role in securing \$140 billion of state fiscal relief as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- ➤ Developed and filled in the data for a comprehensive model to determine the lowest income level at which residents of each state would owe state income taxes. Analyzed, evaluated and drew conclusions from the resulting data using regression and other statistical analysis. Model was foundation for CBPP's 2009 "threshold" report.

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# **Other Relevant Experience**

Web Development Immersive Student, General Assembly, DC, 6/2015 – 9/2015

Full-stack web development program focused on common best practices in object-oriented programming, MVC frameworks, data modeling, and test-driven development. Developed a portfolio of individual and collaborative projects.

## Founder, **DCFuture.com**, DC, 12/2014 – 12/2016

Launched DCFuture, a multifaceted platform empowering DC residents to engage directly with each other and with their local government. Worked with two Wordpress developers to design, scope and build front-end structure for the beta version. Engaged in discussions with stakeholders to best determine the optimal development process for individual modules and back-end features. Instantiated a development environment and started building out the architecture of a full DCFuture platform in late 2016 before the project was placed indefinitely on hold due to an unexpected series of events.

# Co-Founder and President, Main Street Insider, DC, 3/2010 – 2/2012

Spearheaded the development, promotion and ongoing production of three core products – the 90 Second Summaries video series, the Committee Dashboard, and the Weekly Progressive newsletter – that made the Congressional legislative process not just accessible, but *interesting*, to everyday citizens. Forged a series of strategic partnerships in order to distribute and monetize those products. Interviewed six members of Congress.

### **Education**

Web Development Immersive, **General Assembly**, DC. Completed 9/2015.

Master of Public Policy, **George Washington University**, DC. GPA: 3.9/4.0. Graduated 1/2011.

B.A., Political Economy, **Williams College**, Williamstown, MA. GPA: 2x Dean's List. Class of 2004.

### Selected Skills

### **TECHNICAL**

## Data Analytics/Data Science:

- R (RStudio, Tidyverse, RShiny)
- > Stata
- > SPSS
- > Tableau
- Database Management (MySQL, PostgresQL, MongoDB)
- ➤ Microsoft Excel (VLOOKUP, pivot tables)
- ➤ Data Visualization (D3, Recharts, ChartJS)
- ➤ Data Mapping (Mapbox, Leaflet, ArcGIS)

#### **Javascript-based Technologies:**

- React, AngularJS, jQuery
- ➤ APIs (REST, GraphQL, JSON)
- Node, Express
- ➤ Build Tools (NPM, Webpack, Gulp)

## **Other Technologies:**

- ➤ Drupal 8 (Theming, Sitebuilding)
- ➤ CSS3 (Sass/SCSS, Flexbox)
- ➤ HTML5
- Ruby (Rails)
- > PHP

#### **Other Technical Tools/Skills:**

- ➤ Git/Github
- > Command Line (Bash, Terminal)
- > Heroku
- Docker
- Design Systems (USWDS, Material)
- Responsive Design
- > Agile (Scrum, Kanban)
- > Test-Driven Development

#### **OTHER**

- Writing (Analytical, Persuasive)
- Content Strategy
- > Public Policy Analysis and Communications
- ➤ Internet Research
- Project/Product Management
- Public Speaking
- ➤ Teaching/Mentoring
- Digital Communications (Blogs, Facebook, Twitter)