

ALLISON YOUATT SCHNABLE

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EMPLOYMENT

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA)

Director, Undergraduate Honors Program, 2023-

Associate Professor, 2022-

Assistant Professor, 2015-2022

Department of Sociology, Adjunct Faculty, 2015-

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Affiliate Faculty, 2015-

African Studies Program, Affiliate Faculty, 2020-

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

School of Public and International Affairs, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2021

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

School of Public Policy and Practice, Lecturer, 2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, Princeton University, 2015

Dissertation: "Do-it-Yourself Aid: The Emergence of American Grassroots Development Organizations"

A.M. Social Sciences Division (MAPSS), University of Chicago, 2007

Thesis: "A New Faith-Based Agenda? American Evangelicals and Humanitarian Assistance"

B.A. in Political Theory and Social Relations, Michigan State University, Phi Beta Kappa, 2003

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

NGOs, Civil Society, Research Design, International Development, Philanthropy, Social Policy, Nonprofit Theory and Management

BOOK

Allison Schnable. 2021. *Amateurs without Borders: The Aspirations and Limits of Global Compassion*. University of California Press.

Awarded Virginia A. Hodgkinson Research Book Prize, ARNOVA, 2022

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Allison Schnable, Anthony DeMattee, Rachel Sullivan Robinson, Jennifer N. Brass, and Wesley Longhofer. 2021. "The Multi-Method Comprehensive Review: A Method for Synthesis and Analysis when Scholarship is International, Interdisciplinary, and Immense." *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-021-00388-w>

Allison Schnable, Anthony DeMattee, Rachel S. Robinson, and Jennifer N. Brass. 2021. "International Development Buzzwords: Understanding Their Use Among NGOs, Academics, and the World Bank." *Journal of Development Studies*. doi: [10.1080/00220388.2020.1790532](https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2020.1790532)

Susan Appe and Allison Schnable. 2019. "Don't Re-Invent the Wheel: Possibilities and Limits to Building Capacity of Grassroots International NGOs." *Third World Quarterly*. doi: [10.1080/01436597.2019.1636226](https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2019.1636226). (Reprinted in *Citizen Aid and Everyday Humanitarianism: Development Futures?*, edited by Anne-Meike Fechter and Anke Schwittay, Routledge, 2020.)

Jennifer N. Brass, Wesley Longhofer, Rachel S. Robinson, and Allison Schnable. 2018. "NGOs and International Development: A Review of Thirty-Five Years of Scholarship." *World Development* 112: 136-149. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.07.016>

Allison Schnable. 2016. "What Religion Affords Grassroots NGOs: Frames, Networks, Modes of Action." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55: 2, 216–232.

Allison Schnable. 2016. "The Era of Do-it-Yourself Aid: Possibilities and Perils." *Bridge/Work* 2(1). (invited, non-peer reviewed)

Allison Schnable. 2015. "New American Relief and Development Organizations: Predictors at the U.S. County Level." *Social Problems* 62:2, 309-329. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spv005>

Allison Schnable. 2014. "Religion and Giving for International Aid: Evidence from a Survey of U.S. Church Members" *Sociology of Religion*. 76:1, 72-94. doi: [10.1093/socrel/sru037](https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/sru037)

Allison Schnable. 2012. "Singing the Gospel: Using Musical Practices to Build Religious and Racial Communities." *Poetics* 40:3, 278-298.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Allison Schnable, Susan Appe, and Janet Jock. 2023. "Perpetual Effervescence? The Life Cycles of Citizen Aid Organizations in the U.S." In *The Rise of Small-Scale Development Organisations: Citizen Aid Actors and their Role in Civil Society*, edited by Hanne Haaland, Sara Kinsbergen, Lau Schulpen, and Hege Wallevik. Routledge Explorations in Development Studies, Taylor and Francis.

PUBLIC REPORTS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Allison Schnable, Susan Appe, and Derek Richardson. 2022. "Grassroots Aid Survey: Key Findings on Small International Development Nonprofits." <https://doi.org/10.7912/96vr-w358>

NGO Knowledge Collective Data Portal. 2019. <https://ngoknowledgecollective.org/>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Allison Schnable. Under review. "Cutting Out the Middlemen: Citizen Aid for Development." In the *Elgar Handbook on Foreign Aid and Development*, edited by Raj M. Desai, Shantayanan Devarajan, and Jennifer Tobin. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Allison Schnable, Susan Appe, and Battulga Buyannemekh. Under review. "Opportunities for Downward Accountability? Survey Evidence from Grassroots International NGOs."

Allison Schnable, Jennifer Silva, and Victoria Perez. In preparation. "Going it Alone: Nonprofit Provision, Time Costs, and the Well-Being of American Families."

WORKING PAPERS

Allison Schnable. 2014. "Exporting Bootstraps: Aid Narratives and Grassroots NGOs." Center for the Study of Social Organization Working Paper #8, Princeton University. (Highlighted in *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Fall 2014 issue: ["The Stories NGOs Tell"](#))

Allison Schnable. 2011. "Even at My Age: Ethnographic Study of a Youth Gospel Choir." Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies Working Paper #43.

Allison Youatt Schnable, Molly Farneth, and Rachel Gross. 2009. "New Directions in the Study of Prayer: Scientific, Social Scientific, Ethnographic, and Theoretical Perspectives." Working Paper, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Machine Learning for Research in Governance and Management." Management Lab, O'Neill School, Indiana University, March 2022

"Amateurs without Borders." Marx School of Public and International Affairs, Baruch College, November 2021

"Amateurs without Borders." School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania, April 2021

"Amateurs without Borders." African Studies Colloquium, Indiana University, March 2021

"Amateurs without Borders." Workshop in Sociology, Sociology Department, Indiana University, February 2021

"Amateurs without Borders." ISTR Book Club, February 2021

"Amateurs Without Borders: American Volunteers and the New NGOs." Stanford Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society Junior Scholars Forum, June 2019

"International Development Buzzwords: Understanding Their Adoption and Use among NGOs, Academics, and the World Bank." Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, March 2019

"Don't Re-invent the Wheel: Possibilities and Limits to Building Capacity of Grassroots International NGOs." Philanthropy Research Workshop, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, IUPUI, January 2019

Discussant, Panel on Social Inequality and Discrimination. Younger Scholars in the Study Sociology of Religion Conference. University of Notre Dame, April 2018

"Building Capacity Without Red Tape? The Role of Support Organizations for GINGOs In The U.S." Citizen Aid and Grassroots Humanitarianism: Development Futures? Workshop at Sussex University, April 2018

Master class, "Perspectives on Researching Citizen Aid." Sussex University, April 2018

Panelist, Disciplinary Perspectives on Philanthropic Studies. Doctoral Seminar, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, March 2018.

“A Topic Model of NGO Literature, 1980-2014.” SPEA Summer Faculty Research Workshop, June 2017

“Amateurs Without Borders: The Projects of Anti-Professional NGOs.” Sociology Department Colloquium, University of Notre Dame, October 2016

“The Era of Do-it-Yourself Aid: Possibilities and Perils.” Keynote Speech, Bridge/Work Conference, Institute for Leadership and Service, Valparaiso University, April 2016

“Exporting Bootstraps: Aid Narratives and Grassroots NGOs.” Dean’s Research Seminar, SPEA, September 2015

“Exporting Bootstraps: Aid Narratives and Grassroots NGOs.” Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Junior Scholars Forum, Stanford University, June 2014

“Using Topic Modeling to Identify Religious NGOs.” Religion and Digital Technologies Workshop, Princeton University, February 2014

“Narratives of Development in Hard Times: Grassroots NGOs’ Models of Aid.” James Madison University, February 2014

“American Grassroots Aid: Possibilities and Limits.” Sol Price School of Public Affairs, University of Southern California, October 2013

“American Grassroots Aid: Possibilities and Limits.” Religion and Public Life Workshop, Princeton University, October 2013

“Ice Cream Parlors, Immigrants, and Church Ladies: The New Faces of International Relief and Development.” Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars Meeting, Princeton University, February 2013

“Startup NGOs and the Decentralization of Aid.” Lake Institute on Faith and Giving Advisory Board meeting, Indianapolis, December 2012

Panelist, “Exploring Tomorrow’s Donors: Evolution, Transformation, or The New Normal?” Indiana Univ. Center on Philanthropy 25th Anniversary Symposium, Indianapolis, November 2012

“Singing the Gospel: Using Musical Practices to Build Religious and Racial Communities.” Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, Princeton University, February 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Opportunities for Downward Accountability? Survey Evidence from Small Transnational NGOs.” European Association for Development Training Institutes, Lisbon, July 2023.

“Opportunities for Downward Accountability? Survey Evidence from Small Transnational NGOs.” International Studies Association, Montreal, March 2023.

“Opportunities for Downward Accountability? Survey Evidence on Grassroots International NGOs.” ISTR, Montreal, July 2022.

“Perpetual Effervescence? The Life Cycles of Citizen Aid Organizations in the U.S.” ARNOVA, Virtual Conference, November 2020.

“Challenges in M&E for Small NGOs: How to Start (or How to Help).” Accord Research Association Conference, October 2020

“Machine Learning for Quantitative Text Analysis of National Regulations.” ARNOVA, San Diego, November 2019.

“Teach a Man to Fish (For Men): The Religious Projects of New Aid Actors.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, St. Louis, October 2019

“International Development Buzzwords: Understanding Their Adoption and Use among NGOs, Academics, and the World Bank.” Sociology of Development Conference, South Bend, October 2019

“International Development Buzzwords: Understanding Their Adoption and Use among NGOs, Academics, and the World Bank.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 2019

“Donor-Driven Research? The World Bank’s Role in Agenda Setting in Scholarly Publications.” ISTR, Amsterdam, July 2018

“Citizen Initiatives for International Development.” Panel organizer, ARNOVA, Grand Rapids, November 2017

“So Close, Yet So Far: Obstacles and Opportunities in Research on Nonprofits and NGOs.” Mini-plenary co-chair, ARNOVA, Grand Rapids, November 2017

“The Projects, People, and Purposes of American Grassroots International NGOs: Evidence from a National Sample.” European Association of Development Institutes (EADI) Conference, Bergen, Norway, August 2017

“What Have We Studied and Found? A Systematic Review of the NGO Literature, 1980-2014.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, August 2017

“Amateurs Without Borders: The Projects of Anti-Professional INGOs.” World Society Mini-Conference, University of Washington, and American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, August 2016

“What Have We Studied and Learned About NGOs? A Systematic Review of the Literature, 1980-2014.” International Society for Third Sector Research International Conference, Stockholm, June 2016

“It Doesn’t Take a Professional: Comparing the Projects of Grassroots and Traditional NGOs.” ARNOVA Annual Conference, Chicago, October 2015

“Frames, Modes of Action, Networks: What Religion Affords Grassroots NGOs.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, October 2014

“The Origin Myth of Angus Deaton.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2014

“New American Relief and Development Organizations: Predictors at the U.S. County Level.” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2014

“New American Relief and Development Organizations: Predictors at the U.S. County Level.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2013

“Cutting Out the Middle Man: Americans Engaging in Direct Aid to the Global South.” International Society for Third Sector Research Ph.D. Seminar, Siena, Italy, July 2012

“Even at My Age: Ethnographic Study of a Youth Gospel Choir.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, August 2011

“New Problems, Familiar Solutions? American Churchgoers’ Preferences in Foreign Assistance.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, October 2010

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Residential Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Indiana University, 2022

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy Faculty Research Award, Indiana University (\$8,700), 2019

Faculty Research Support Grant, Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development. (\$2,000), 2018

RGK-ARNOVA President’s Award. “Balancing the Professional with the Expressive: Organizational Learning and Grassroots International NGOs.” (\$10,000), 2017

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy Faculty Research Award, Indiana University (\$10,140), 2016

Social Science Research Commons Seed Grant, Indiana University (\$2,925), 2015

Princeton Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel (\$600), 2014

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000), 2013-14

Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University (\$6,000/year), 2009-14

University Fellowship, Graduate School, Princeton University, 2008-13

Princeton Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel (\$600), 2013

Lake Institute Dissertation Fellowship (\$22,000), 2012-13

Woodrow Wilson Society Fellowship, Princeton University, 2012-13

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Summer Research Grant (\$3000), 2012

Princeton Sociology Department Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$1000), 2012

International Society for Third Sector Research Conference Grant (\$150), 2012

Princeton Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel (\$600), 2012

Princeton Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel (\$600), 2011

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Affiliate in Cultural Policy, Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, Princeton University, 2010-11

Princeton Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel (\$600), 2010

Presidential Management Fellowship, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007-08

University Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2006-07

Gates Cambridge Fellowship, Finalist, 2006

AWARDS

Virginia A. Hodgkinson Research Book Prize for *Amateurs without Borders*, ARNOVA, 2022

Undergraduate Teaching Award, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, 2021

Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award (given biennially to best dissertation on civil society, nonprofit organizations, or philanthropy), International Society for Third Sector Research, 2016

Honorable Mention, Gabriel G. Rudney Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation, ARNOVA, 2016

Marvin Bressler Teaching Award, Sociology Department, Princeton University (given annually to best graduate student preceptor), 2011

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate

Evidence-Based Decision Making, O'Neill School, Indiana University, 2023-

Nonprofit Sector in Comparative Perspective, O'Neill Abroad Program in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2018-

Policy Issues & Analysis of Nonprofits, NGOs & Philanthropy, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2021

NGO Management for International Development, O'Neill School, Indiana University, 2016-2018

NGOs and Development, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania, 2015

Undergraduate

Civil Society and the Digital World, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2021

Honors Research in Public and Environmental Affairs, O'Neill School, Indiana University, 2018-

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector, O'Neill School, Indiana University, 2015-

Comparative Perspectives on Immigration and Religion (Preceptor), Princeton University, 2010-2012

Introduction to Sociology (Preceptor), Princeton University, 2010

Preparatory

Introduction to Sociology and Research Writing, Princeton University Preparatory Program, 2011

ADVISING AND PEDAGOGY

Doctoral

Ph.D. dissertation co-chair, Derek Richardson. "Articulations of Health Expertise among Grassroots International NGOs." Sociology, defense expected 2026

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Barbara Duffy. "What Do Clients Learn about Government in Nonprofit Human Service Organizations?" Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, defense expected 2024

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Cathie Carrigan. "Internationalization and Influence in U.S. Higher Education," Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, defense expected 2024

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Orla Stapleton. "Barter When it's Booming: An Examination of Barter as a Contemporary Form of Exchange and its Effect on Local Business and Social Cohesion," Sociology, defended April 2022

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Anthony DeMattee. "Regulating Freedom: Policies that Help and Hinder Civil Society Organizations," O'Neill, defended July 2020

Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Nikolas Summers. "Tiny Homes in America," Sociology, defended June 2018

Ph.D. visiting student mentor, Gift Kanthamane. "Faith-based Organisations and Community-based Care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Thailand: Policy Recommendations," Mahidol University, Thailand; visitor to O'Neill, Spring 2017

Ph.D. pre-dissertation mentor, Derek Richardson, Sociology, Fall 2019-Spring 2023

Ph.D. pre-dissertation mentor, Janet Jock, O'Neill, Fall 2019- Spring 2021

Ph.D. pre-dissertation mentor, Lina Ochoa, O'Neill, Fall 2017-Spring 2019

Ph.D. third semester review committee, Chair, Lina Ochoa, January 2019

Master's

M.A. thesis committee member, Trevor Phipps. "How the Covid-19 Pandemic Shaped the Focus of NGOs in Rwanda's Education Sector: Participatory Methods to Service Delivery." African Studies, defended 2021

M.P.A. Research Assistant supervisor/mentor: April Byrne, O'Neill, Spring 2019

M.P.A. Research Assistant supervisor/mentor: Jamie Bue, O'Neill, Spring 2018

M.P.A. Research Assistant supervisor/mentor: Yi Cui, O'Neill, Fall 2015

Undergraduate

Undergraduate Honors Thesis advisor, Laura Stancato. "Legislative and Nonprofit Action on Human Trafficking," O'Neill, Spring 2023

Undergraduate Honors Thesis advisor, Ian Nowlin. "Attitudes Towards Refugee Resettlement," O'Neill, Spring 2022

Undergraduate Honors Thesis advisor, Casey Fizer. "Political Ideals of Rural Indiana Republicans," O'Neill, Spring 2021

Undergraduate Honors Thesis advisor, Emily Wild. "The Roles of Student Organizations in International Non-Governmental Organizations," O'Neill, Spring 2017

Undergraduate Honors "S" option mentor, Josie Wenig. "Colocation as a Model of Nonprofit Service Provision: A Podcast," O'Neill, Fall 2016

Pedagogy Activities

Panelist, "Troubleshooting the Precept." McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, February 2014.

McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning Graduate Fellow, Princeton University, 2010-2014

Fellow, Teagle Foundation Seminar on Teaching and Learning, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

SERVICE

School

Director, O'Neill Undergraduate Honors Program, 2023-

Faculty Annual Review Committee, Governance and Management Group, 2023-

Master of International Affairs Admissions Committee, 2023

Search and Screen Committee for Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2022-2023

Co-Director, O'Neill in Denmark Study Abroad Program, 2018-

Masters of Arts Administration Advisory Committee, 2017-

Search and Screen Committee for Organizational Behavior faculty, 2018

Honors Subcommittee to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2017

Overseas Education Committee, SPEA, 2016-2020

Beautification Committee, SPEA, 2015-2017

Campus/University

Internal Review Committee for PACE Center, 2023

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Phi Omega (Student service fraternity), 2023-

Board, Social Science Research Center, 2019-

Child Care Coalition, 2018-2019

Advisory Committee on Global Philanthropy Indices, SPEA and Lilly School of Philanthropy, 2016-2017

Faculty advisor, OASIS (Indiana University undergraduate student group to support orphans in Kenya), 2015-2020

Selection committee, Princeton University Graduate Mentoring Award, 2011

Profession

Track Chair, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2023

Ad hoc Reviewer, National Science Foundation, Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences, 2022

Board of Directors, ISTR, 2021-

Faculty Advisor, ISTR PhD Seminar, May 2021

Lake Institute for Faith and Giving Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee, 2021-

Track Chair, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2020

Conference committee, ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, 2019-20

Selection committee for Andrew Greeley Lifetime Achievement Award in Sociology of Religion, 2018

Conference abstract reviewer, ISTR, 2018

Mini-plenary organizer, ARNOVA, 2017

Organizer, Princeton Sociology Graduate Alumni Networking Event, 2013-2019

Ad hoc manuscript reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Forum*, *Poetics*, *Ethnography*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, *Development and Change*, *Voluntas*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*

Book reviewer, Cornell University Press, Stanford University Press, Manchester University Press

Member, American Sociological Association (Sections: Global and Transnational Sociology, Culture, Religion, Development Sociology, Altruism and Social Solidarity)

Member, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

Member, International Society for Third Sector Research

Public

Secretary, Eastside Neighborhood Association, 2016-19

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

[“Thinking Small,”](#) *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, June 8, 2021

[“Introducing Amateurs without Borders,”](#) *HistPhil*, June 4, 2021

“A few NGOs are getting a lot of bad press. What’s the overall track record?” (with Jennifer N. Brass and Rachel S. Robinson) *The Washington Post Monkey Cage*. December 4, 2018.

“NGOs and International Development: What Have We Learned, How Did We Learn it, And Where Should NGO Research Go Next?” (with Jennifer N. Brass and Rachel S. Robinson) *HistPhil*. October 17, 2018.

“New tax law, higher demands pinch not-for-profits,” *Indianapolis Business Journal*, September 21, 2018.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

“Will Trump’s Cuts Inspire More DIY Foreign Aid?” *The Conversation*, April 17, 2017.

“Religious Connections Boost Growth of Nonprofits,” *Indiana Daily Student*, January 10, 2017.

“In The News: Holiday Thoughts about ‘Good Intentions,’ ” *Critical Investigations into Humanitarianism in Africa* blog, December 23, 2016.

“Sometimes Fairy Tales Lead to Nightmares,” *Improve International* blog, March 30, 2015

“The Stories That NGOs Tell,” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Fall 2014

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Administration for Children and Families (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Chicago, IL
Presidential Management Fellow/Program Analyst, 2007-2008

Peace Corps, Senegal
Health Education Volunteer, 2004-2005

EnterpriseWorks, Washington, DC
Intern, Office of the President, 2003-2004