



LittleSis* is a free database of who-knows-who at the heights of business and government.

* opposite of Big Brother

We're a grassroots watchdog network connecting the dots between the world's most powerful people and organizations.

We're a watchdog research group focused on corporate and government accountability.

- *LittleSis - looking back up at Big Brother

We specialize in researching the 1% and mapping out its power networks.

We work with activists, researchers, and journalists.

We maintain resources for activists and researchers:

- LittleSis Database
- Oligrapher mapping tool
- Trainings & webinars

We also publish reports and have a news site, *Eyes on the Ties*

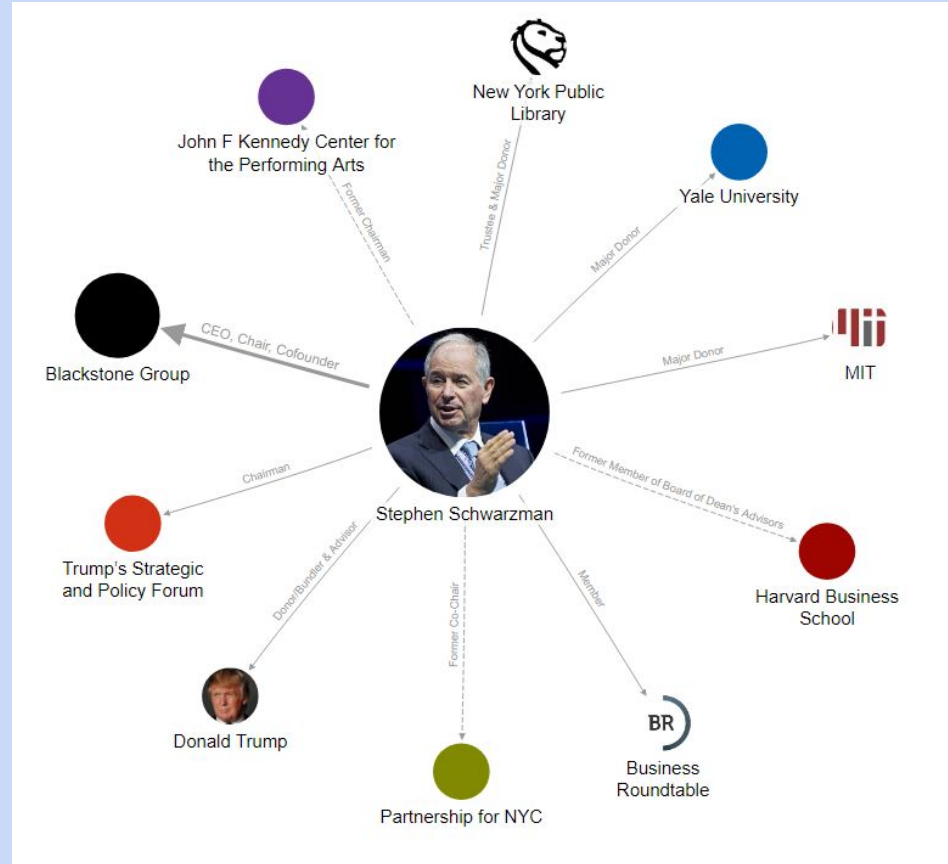
Power research ? Power structure? Power mapping?

Power structure = the networks and relationships of people and institutions through which power and influence work

Power research & power mapping =
Investigative research focused on revealing power structures (aka relationships!)

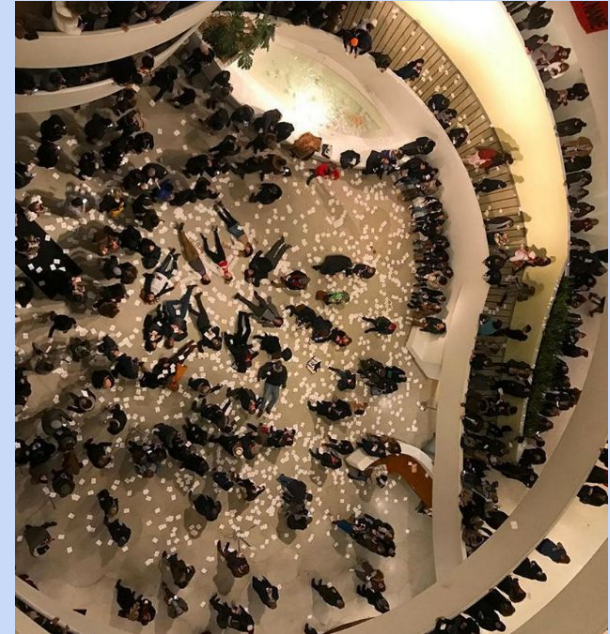
Often done by activists or journalists challenging powerful institutions (often corporations & government institutions)

AKA: investigative journalism, opposition research, muckraking, strategic research



Power mapping helps organizers find *LEVERAGE!*

- Power mapping helps you find strategic targets and points of leverage to create pressure on those targets
- Power mapping gives you a more accurate picture of what you're up against and helps you identify “campaignable” opportunities
- Power mapping helps you think of creative direct action targets
- Power mapping shows new ways that campaigns and movements are connected



Feb 2018 protest against the opioid profiteering Sackler family at NYC Guggenheim Museum. In response to protests, several institutions are now rejecting Sackler donations.

Power Research & Social Movements

Major social movements have relied on power research in their organizing.

RIGHT: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) formed a Research Department (above) to map out the power structure behind Jim Crow.

TOP 100 DEFENSE CONTRACTORS IN FISCAL 1977

The following is a list of the top 100 defense contractors in terms of prime contract awards in fiscal year 1977 (October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977) as reported by the Department of Defense.

Rank	Companies	Thousands of Dollars	Rank	Companies	Thousands of Dollars
1.	McDonnell Douglas Corp.	\$2,574,047	51.	Control Data Corp.	132,463
2.	Lockheed Corp.	1,673,422	51.	Chamberlain Mfg. Corp.	127,819
3.	United Technologies Corp.	1,584,680	53.	Standard Oil of Indiana	123,171
4.	Boeing Co.	1,579,880	54.	Guam Oil & Ref. Co. Inc.	119,545
5.	General Electric	1,519,630	55.	Royal Dutch Shell Group	118,946
6.	Rockwell Int'l Corp.	1,479,798	56.	Signal Companies, Inc.	118,312
7.	Crumman Corp.	1,428,057	57.	Johns Hopkins University	117,740
8.	General Dynamics Corp.	1,371,504	58.	Hercules, Inc.	117,403
9.	Hughes Aircraft Co.	1,093,439	59.	Kaiser Industries Corp.	115,767
10.	Northrop Corp.	1,046,669	60.	Avco Corp.	109,554

The Care and Feeding of Power Structures

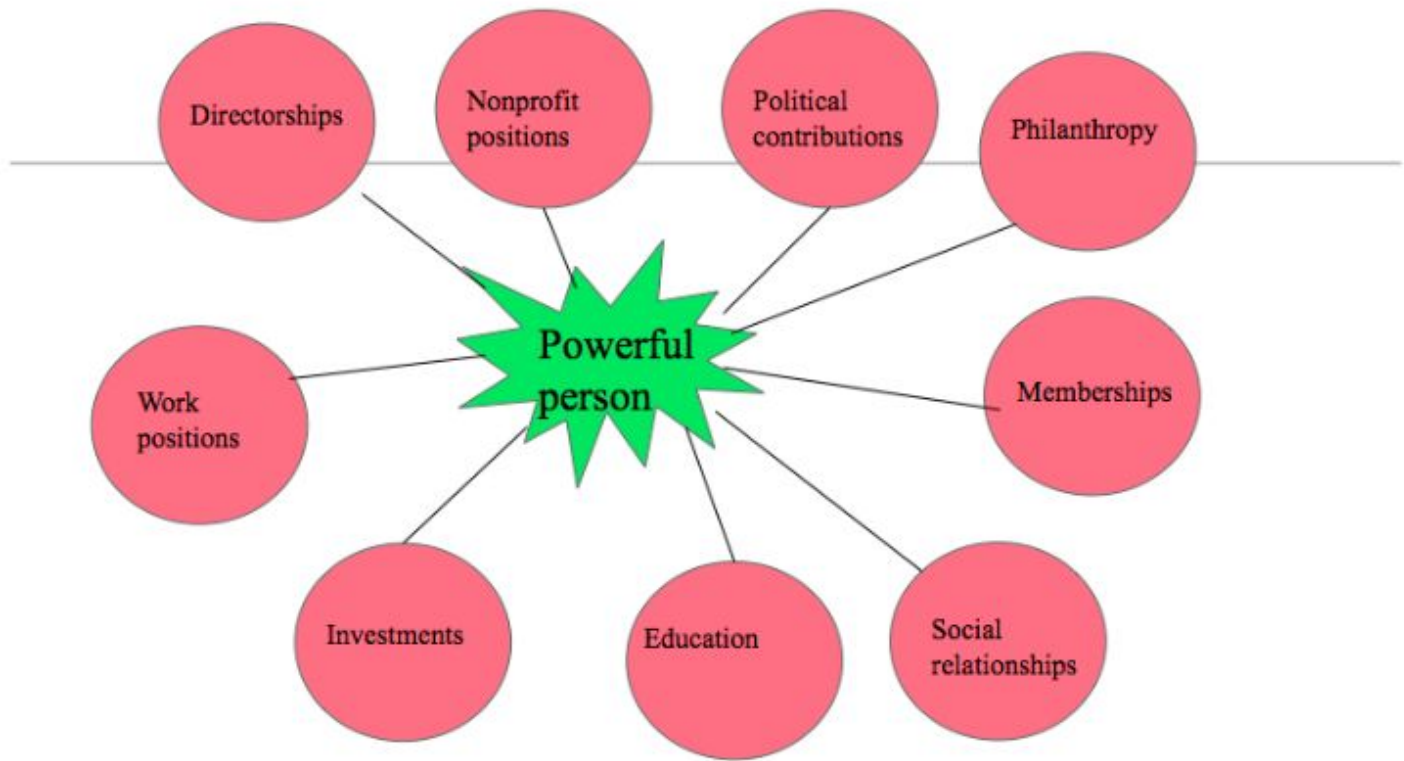
- “The Caring and Feeding of Power Structures”
- “The Mississippi Power Structure”

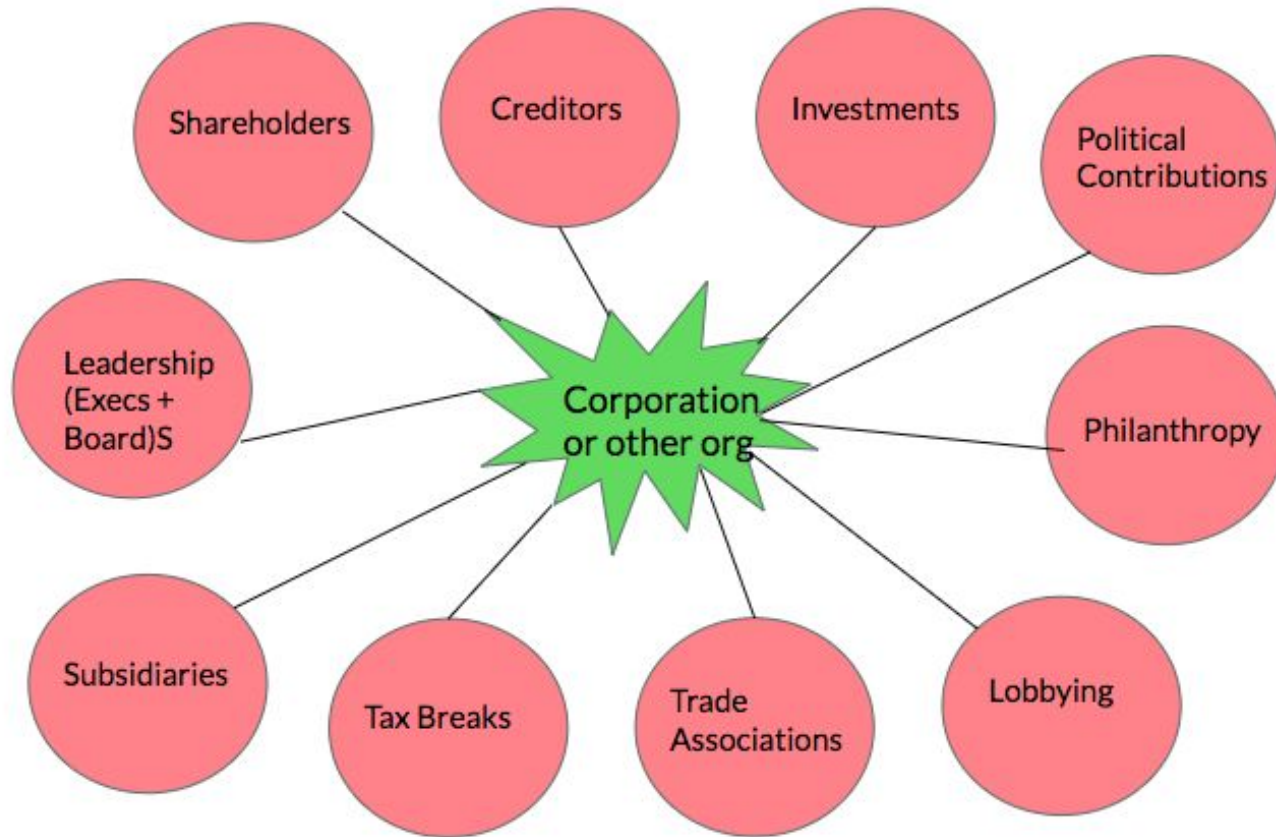
LEFT: National Action/Research on the Military-Industrial Complex (NARMIC) showed who was profiting from the Vietnam War and helped shape organizing strategy for the larger antiwar movement.



AT LAST . . . THE PAPER YOU ALL HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ! ! WHAT IS THE
SNCC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT 2/11/65

Vast quantities of information are stored up in the Research Dept. This report includes a description of the kind of material we have on file, our sources of information, and suggestions for improved use of research facilities by the field.





Board of Trustees:

- Governing body of institution → oversees mission and strategic direction; approves budget; establishes policies, etc
- Site of convergence for major financial, real estate, etc. corporate power
- Fundraising arm, too → lots of donations tied to board
- In short: **where university power lies + how the university is tied into larger networks of money and power**
- **Also worth looking at:
 - Presidents and other top “executive” university leaders
 - Advisory boards
 - Private or public-private foundations that fundraise and invest

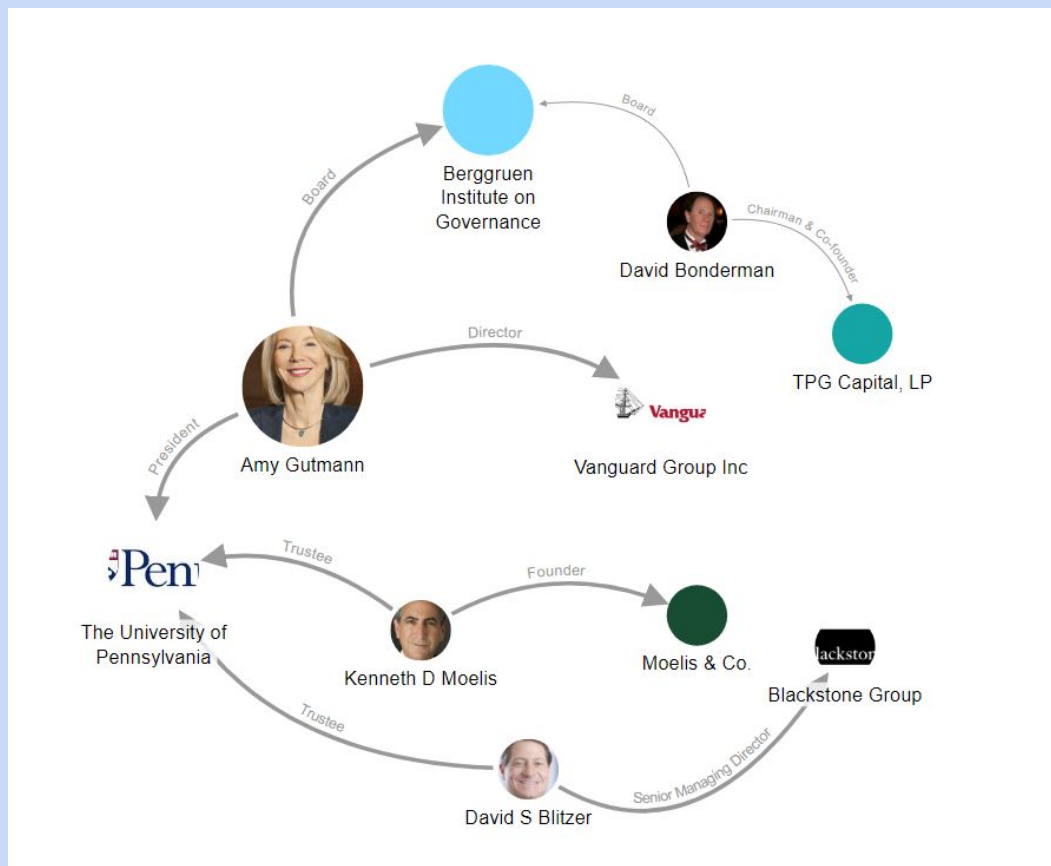
QUESTION: Who is one powerful person on your school’s Board of Trustees?

Make a spreadsheet!

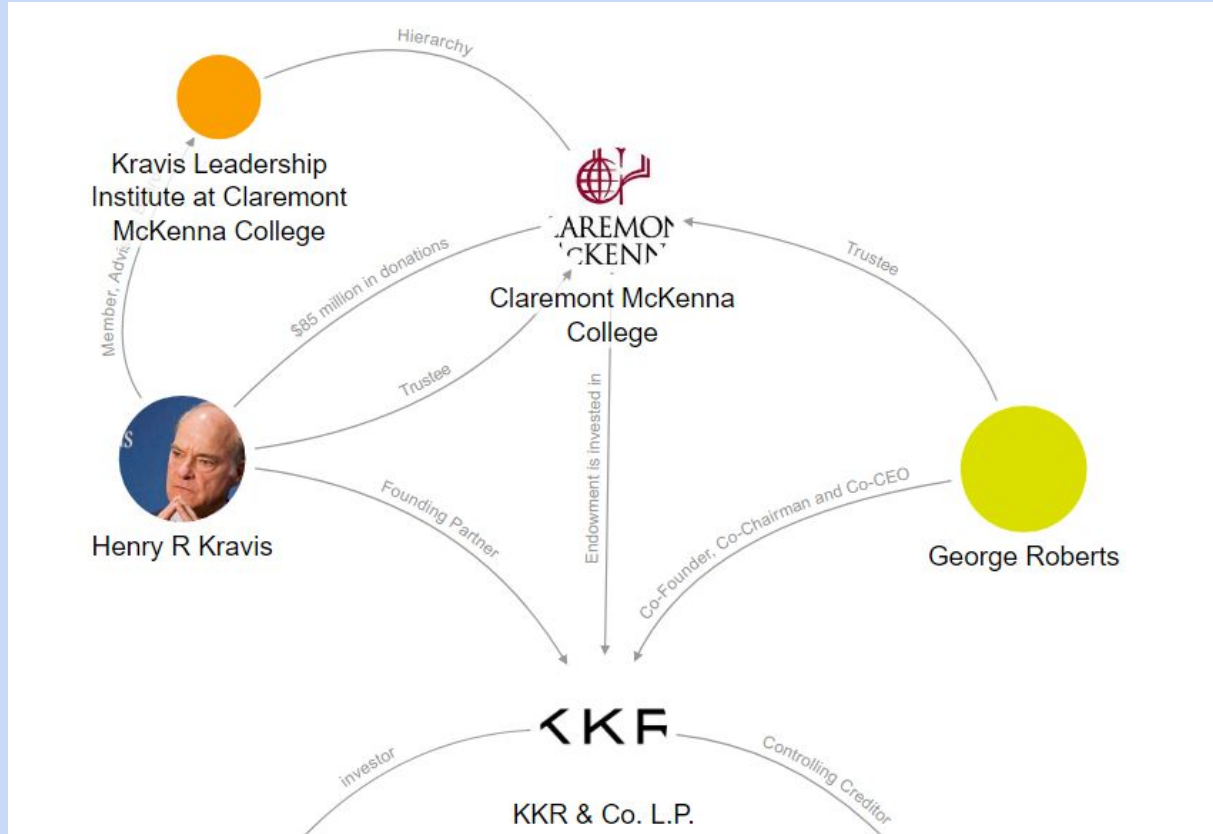
Trustee	Board position	Corporate ties	Sectors rep'd	Other corporate boards	Philanthropic & other ties	Other ties to university
Trustee A	Chair	KKR	Finance (hedge fund)	Bank of America	The Met (board)	\$20M donation for building
Trustee B	Vice-Chair	Facebook	Big tech	Oracle	Boys & Girls Club (board)	University has \$1M invested in Facebook
Trustee C	Trustee	Wells Fargo	Finance (bank)	ExxonMobil	Minority owner of Utah Jazz	Chancellor's husband in on Wells Fargo board

**You can store data in the [LittleSis database](#) and make visual maps - it's all free and crowdsourced!

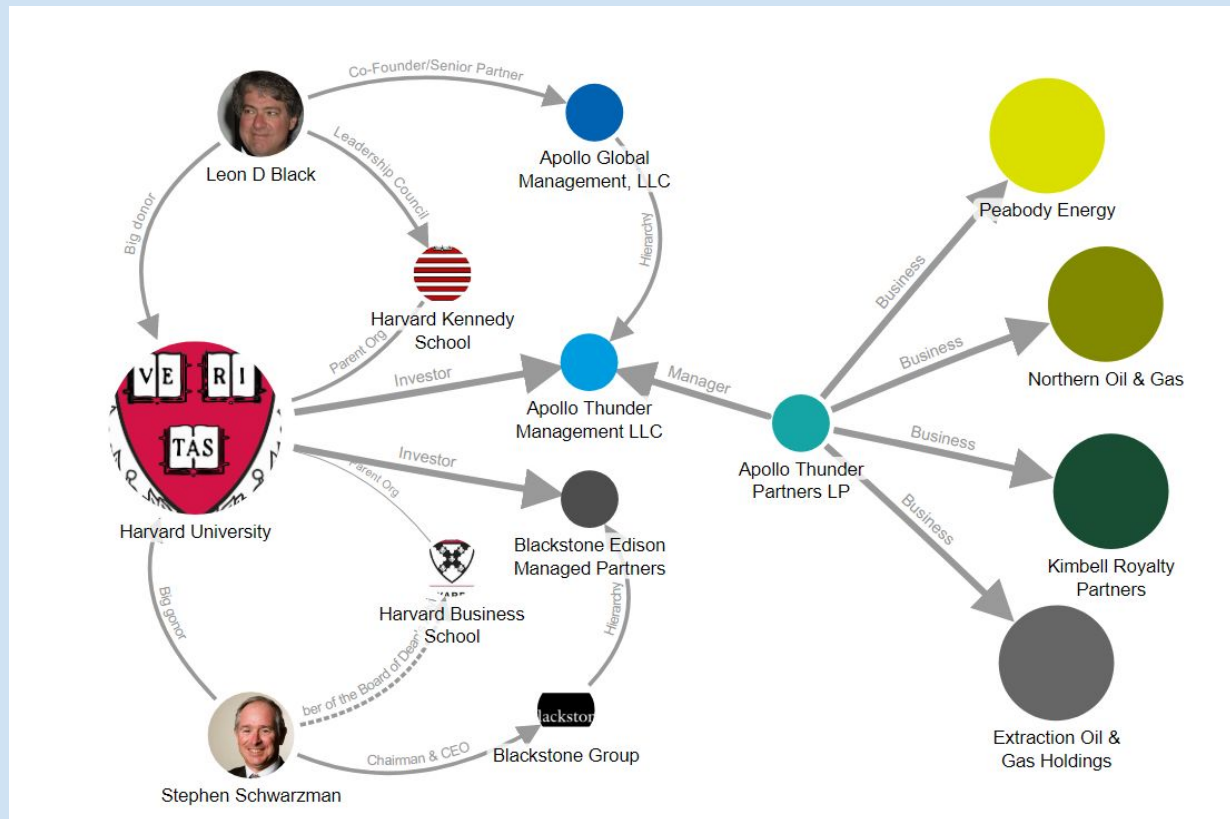
Amy Gutman, Penn & Fossil-Financiers



KKR, Claremont McKenna, Columbia U



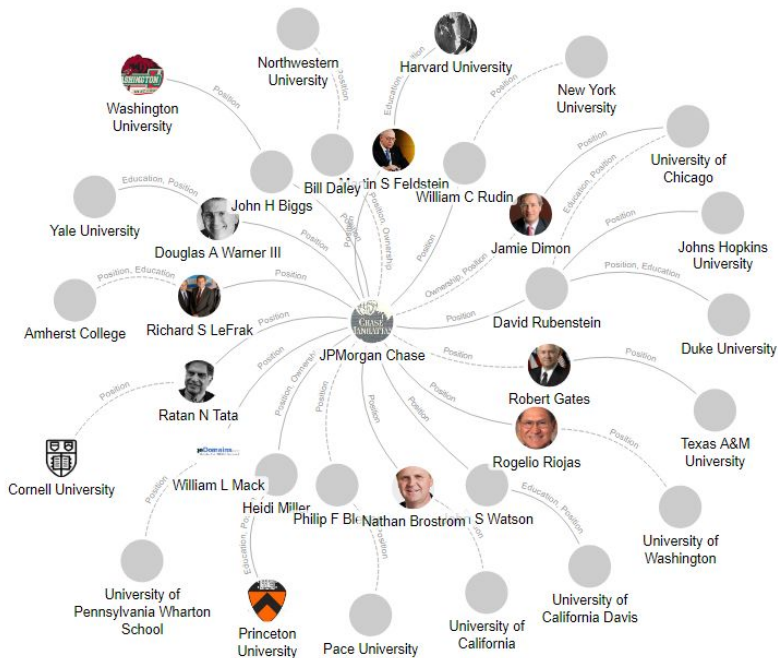
Donors, Buildings, Endowments, Galas, etc



Power mapping → Cross-campus campaigns?

JPMorgan Chase - Selection of University ties

by [Armstrong](#) July 2, 2014 [embed](#) [clone](#) [edit](#) [disclaimer](#)



EDITORS' PICK | 2,508 views | Mar 18, 2020, 03:39pm EDT

JPMorgan Chase Tops Dirty List Of 35 Fossil Fuel-Funding Banks



David Vetter Senior Contributor @
Energy
I cover green energy and sustainability



Protesters picketing outside a Chase Bank branch in New York. A new report

Sections

Los Angeles Times

LOG IN

Q

Oilman Lee Raymond is a force on JPMorgan's board. Climate activists want him out

By MAX ABELSON AND MICHELLE DAVIS | BLOOMBERG
FEB. 11, 2020 | 6 AM

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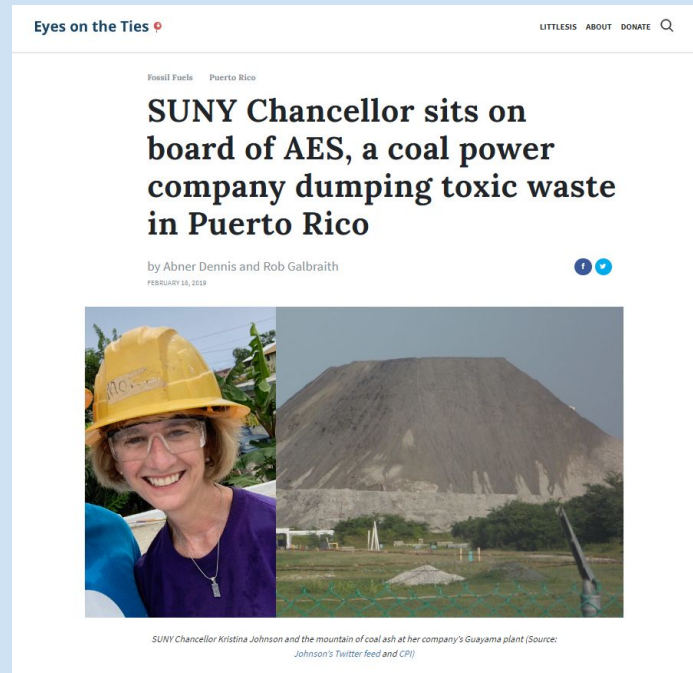
+

Few people are in a position to influence Jamie Dimon, the chief executive who turned JPMorgan Chase & Co. into the biggest U.S. bank. The longtime climate skeptic who turned Exxon Mobil Corp. into the biggest U.S. oil company is one of them.

Some things to look out for:

- *Conflict of interest?* (profit from or bound to pursue an interest in tension with university or general good)
- *Instance of hypocrisy?* (deeds contradict good words)
- *Ties to sketchy stuff?*

NOTE: This can be applied to anything - not just climate issues



Five research tools to investigate your university

1. Google
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) database
3. Federal Election Commission (FEC) database
4. Form 990s (ProPublica)
5. University annual reports & financial statements
6. Integrated Postsecondary Education Database System (IPEDS)

First things first... Google it!

- Use quotes to prioritize search terms & find entire phrases
- Search operators help narrow your results
 - *site:* Search results will only include hits from within the website you specify
 - *cache:* Search results will include old versions of the website
 - *link:* Search results will only include sites that link to the website
 - *filetype:* Search results will only include files of the type you specify (e.g. pdf, doc, xls)

- Some other tips on researching universities:

- filetype:PDF can be useful
- site: [university] or [business press] or [database] + key terms can be useful

- Look at the business/industry press!

- Alerts keep you up to date on important names and topics

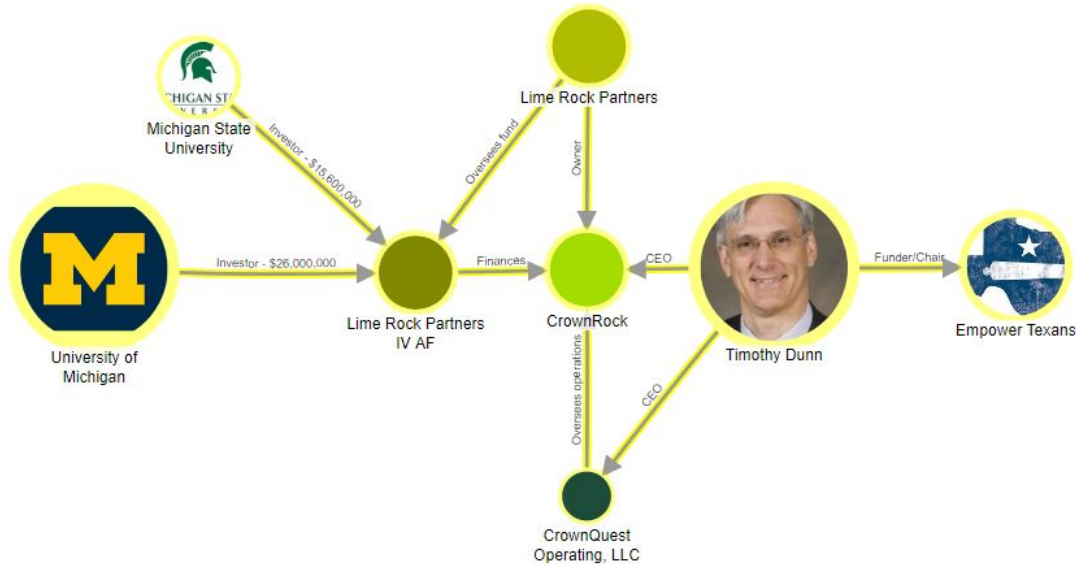
Bloomberg

**Institutional
Investor**

Pensions&Investments

[site:www.pionline.com](http://www.pionline.com) "university
of michigan" "investments"

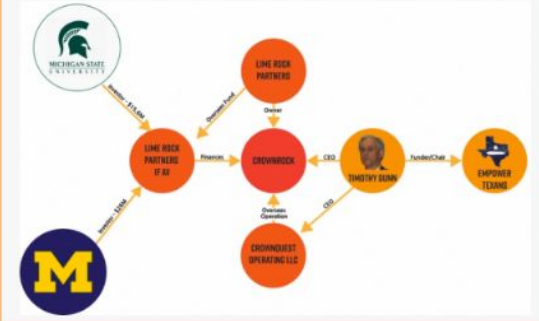
UMich & Tim Dunn



The Michigan Daily

Climate activists criticize U-M endowment investment in fossil fuels, conservative politics

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 - 7:35pm



Climate Action Movement U-M
@ClimateActionUM

Did you know our tuition is helping fund right-wing politicians in Texas? We're at Mason Hall from now until 1 PM passing out info about U-M's unethical investments and the systemic issues of our endowment--come visit us for more info and learn how to get involved!


SEC EDGAR Database

<https://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>

YALE UNIVERSITY CIK#: **0000938582** (see all company filings)
State location: CT | Fiscal Year End: 0630
Get **insider transactions** for this **reporting owner**.

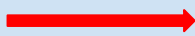
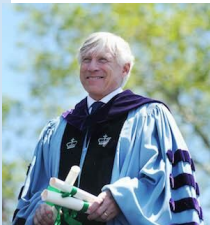
Filter Results

Filing Type: Prior to: (YYYYMMDD) Ownership? ☒ include ☐ exclude ☐ only Limit Results Per

Items 1 - 40  [RSS Feed](#)

Filings	Format	Description
13F-HR	Documents	Quarterly report filed by institutional managers, Holdings Acc-no: 0000938582-20-000003 (34 Act). Size: 8 KB

For funds, go to: <https://fossilfreefunds.org/>

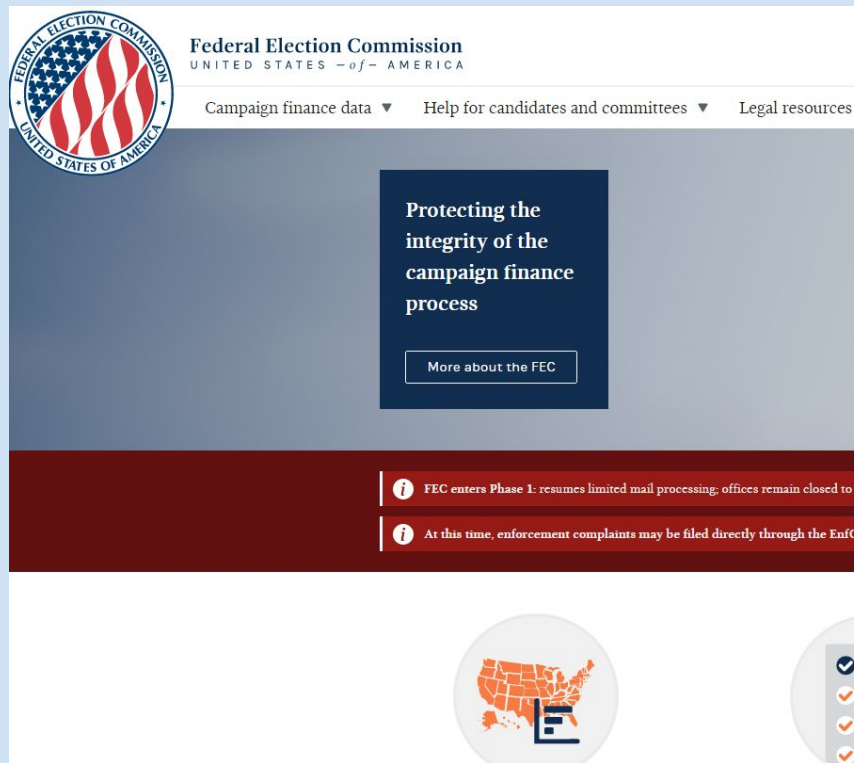


Graham Holdings

- **Form 10-K**
 - Detailed description of the company's operations
 - Summary of the firm's competitive and regulatory climate
 - Overview of the main legal proceedings in which the company is involved
- **Form DEF 14a**
 - Corporate leadership: Executives and Board Members
 - Their total compensation
- **Form 8K**
 - May include - acquisitions, changes to stock, rebranding, credit agreements.
- **Schedule 13D and 13G**
 - Investors who own more than 5% of the company

NOTE: Also Google companies "investor relations" pages

FEC Database



- Search federal campaign contributions
- You can map out who your trustees and top officers are giving money to
- You can also search state and city campaign databases for more local/state donations (or visit the website [FollowTheMoney.org](https://www.followthemoney.org))

Form 990s - Important!

- **Form 990**

- Organizational tax return
- Board of directors
- Revenue
- Grant recipients
- Internal loans
- Conflicts of interest
- Top-paid contractors

- **Form 990-T**

- Unrelated business income
- Income from other activities
- Income from private equity investments

TRUSTEES OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075-1423 | TAX-EXEMPT SINCE JULY 1942

Form 990-T for period ending June 2018 Download

042103578_201806_990T_2019061316411084.pdf 1 / 14

2939314501302 9

Form 990-T
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

EXTENDED TO MAY 15, 2019
Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return
(and proxy tax under section 6033(e))
For calendar year 2017 or other tax year beginning **JUL 1, 2017**, and ending **JUN 30, 2018**
Do not enter SSN numbers on this form as it may be made public if your organization is a 501(c)(3).
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990T for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0087
2017
Open to Public Inspection for 2018 Organizations Only

A ☐ Check box if address changed

B Exempt under section ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 408(e) ☐ 220(e) ☐ 408A ☐ 530(a) ☐ 529(a)

Print or Type
THE TRUSTEES OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
Number, street, and room or suite no. If a P.O. box, see instructions.
50 COLLEGE STREET
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075

D Employer identification number (Employer's trust, see instructions)
04-2103578

E Unrelated business activity codes (See instructions)
523000 721000

C Book value of all assets at end of year
1,069,072,820.

F Group exemption number (See instructions.)

G Check organization type ☒ 501(c) corporation ☐ 501(c) trust ☐ 401(a) trust ☐ Other trust

H Describe the organization's primary unrelated business activity. **SEE STATEMENT 1**

I During the tax year, was the corporation a subsidiary in an affiliated group or a parent-subsidiary controlled group? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," enter the name and identifying number of the parent corporation.

J The books are in care of **ELLEN RUTAN - COMPTROLLER** Telephone number **413-538-2713**

Part I Unrelated Trade or Business Income

	(A) Income	(B) Expenses	(C) Net
1a Gross receipts or sales	539,798.		
b Less returns and allowances			
c Balance	539,798.		
2 Cost of goods sold (Schedule A, line 7)		58,478.	
3 Gross profit. Subtract line 2 from line 1c	481,320.		481,320.
4a Capital gain net income (attach Schedule D)	1,674,879.		1,674,879.
b Net gain (loss) (Form 4797, Part II, line 17) (attach Form 4797)			
4c Capital loss deduction for trusts			
5 Income (loss) from partnerships and S corporations (attach statement)	-1,200,617.		-1,200,617.
6 Rent income (Schedule C)			

ED JUN 13 2019

[ProPublica](#) is great to use!

[Watch this primer](#) on how to research private equity funds (and here's [the powerpoint PDF](#))

Other places to go:

1. Financial office, annual financial reports, etc.

- Eg, [Michigan State](#)
- Eg, [“Smith College Office of Finance”](#)

2. Integrated Postsecondary Education Database System (IPEDS)

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

- Information on revenues, tuition & fees, government funding, student demographics, graduation rate, and more

Researching real estate holdings

Who Are Our Landlords and Where Do They Get Their Money?



public
accountability
initiative

0:40 / 1:36:43

Who Are Our Landlords and Where Do They Get Their Money?

316 views • May 21, 2019

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