SAM POWERS

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I am a quantitative methodologist & data visualization designer working to increase equity in US social systems through researcher-community partnerships. Focused on translating theory into practice, I can trace the tangible impacts of each project I conduct.

EDUCATION

2020 – 2021 **GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA** Charlottesville, VA
MA Psychology, Quantitative Methods for Social Research
- Coursework include field experiments, item response analysis, & structural equation modelling

2016 – 2019 **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA** Charlottesville, VA
BA Statistics & Religious Studies: 4.0 GPA
- Jefferson Scholar: Full merit scholarship for 4 years of study at UVA (Funded both BA & MA) Awarded to 35 students in each class for "uncommon scholarship, leadership, & citizenship"
- Raven Society: Oldest honors society & highest achievement for scholarship at UVA

WORK EXPERIENCE

2020-present **CENTER FOR THE REDRESS OF INEQUITY THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA** Charlottesville, VA
Community Data Fellow
- Manage portfolio of quantitative research & work with a variety of community partners to document inequities in Charlottesville, VA, & USA social systems & change policy
- Projects range from investigating racial inequity in cville stop and frisk practices with local journalists to creating resources to assist food service orgs in equitable COVID-19 response
- Create partnerships & drive tangible outcomes from research like city adoption of COVID-19 workers' bill of rights & UVA Racial Equity Taskforce analysis of historical activism trends

2019-present **UVA HOSPITAL DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE & INTERNATIONAL HEALTH** Charlottesville, VA
Research Associate
- Design data-driven studies, write methodologies, & analyze large healthcare data to support partnership with National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDs Directors (NASTAD) creating evidence-based policy recommendations for a more equitable US HIV care delivery system
- Published 1 journal article & 4 posters with 3 articles in draft & 2 more projects in progress

2019-2020 **US FULBRIGHT PROGRAM & AFRICAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN DATA SCIENCE** Kigali, Rwanda
Fulbright Researcher
- Used public records & personal interviews to test hypothesis that UN's aggregate-level evaluation metrics for the SDGs overlook social & demographic factors, perpetuating inequities
- Designed dashboards & trainings to pilot use of data visualization in centering equity in policy
- Lectured at National Institute of Statistics, African Center of Excellence in Data Science, & Institute of Conservation Agriculture on data communication & community engagement
- Awarded 2019 Kriesberg Fellowship, prize for excellence in research & community service given to one Fulbright researcher globally each year

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

COLORADO COURTWATCH | WITH ACLU OF CO | JAN 2020
Researched bond practices in Aurora & Denver courts using data from 1,638 cases from Fall 2019. Analyses suggest racial disparities in cash-bond setting practices may be primarily introduced by prosecution bond request and not judge decision.

JAIL DATA CAPACITY BILL | WITH ACLU OF CO | JAN – MAY 2019
Investigated quality of CO public jail data records & wrote senate testimony supporting CO Bill HB19-1297 to improve jail data collection practices. Law now in effect since May 2020

ACUTE CARE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH COURSE | WITH UVA & KIGLAI HOSPITALS | 2018 – PRESENT
Serve as statistical advisor for 20+ residents at Teaching Hospital Kigali helping them design, conduct, & publish their own operations research evaluations

SKILLS & INTERESTS

PROGRAMMING & DATA TOOLS
R (primary), SAS, STATA, SQL, Python, JavaScript, JQuery, D3, Tableau, ArcGIS, QGIS, Git & Github

PROFESSIONAL
Research Methods, Data Visualization, Machine Learning, Spanish Language

Hobbies
Hiking volcanoes, Baking with new ingredients, Playing violin