

DOUGLAS R. HESS, PHD

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SUMMARY

Social scientist, policy advocacy strategist, instructor, evaluator, manager, and writer for diverse organizations and audiences. Experienced in planning & executing advocacy campaigns, donor advising, program evaluation, and analysis of complex data. Directed or advised initiatives resulting in millions of voter registrations, expanded child nutrition programs, groundbreaking civil rights litigation, new policy coalitions, cutting-edge published research, and stronger ties between advocates & government officials.

PhD in Public Policy. Author or editor of over a dozen policy reports, many covered by the *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, and others. Former community & labor organizer and college instructor.

EMPLOYMENT & CONSULTING

American Physical Therapy Association

Alexandria, VA

Director, Research

September 2023 – current

- ♦ Supervised external research consultants on a state-of-the-art workforce supply and demand forecast, co-authored a peer-reviewed publication, and a companion report for general audiences.
- ♦ Design, implement, and analyze workforce and membership surveys. Authored reports on hiring challenges and an original econometric model of provider income.
- ♦ Supervise three staff for *PTJ: Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Journal* and archivist/librarian.
- ♦ Negotiated significant financial improvements in a new contract with our journal publisher.
- ♦ Oversee three operational budgets.
- ♦ Work with member leadership committees on research agenda and workforce studies.

Institute for Responsive Government

Remote

Freelance research and policy consultant

February 2023 – June 2023

- ♦ Authored report on innovations in voter registration that will reach citizens with low incomes.

Confidential Client

Remote

Freelance research and policy consultant

February 2023 – July 2023

- ♦ Providing a donor-advisor firm with advice on electoral policy opportunities.

Democracy Fund

Remote

Freelance research and policy consultant

November 2021 – March 2022

- ♦ Evaluated the effects of automatic voter registration and efforts to improve state “motor voter” programs using a time-series cross-sectional analysis of survey, administrative, and original data.

Grinnell College

Grinnell, IA

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies

August 2013 – July 2021

- ♦ Taught courses in statistics, policy studies, and political science. Appointed or elected to college-wide committees on assessment, faculty organization, and student entrepreneurship and leadership.
- ♦ Designed and co-led two summer workshops for faculty on student engagement and team teaching.
- ♦ Request *CV* for teaching achievements, scholarly presentations & publications, and adjunct teaching at Smith College, Georgetown University, and George Washington University.

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Research Project

Grinnell, IA

Principal Investigator

August 2013 – August 2019

- ♦ Raised \$110,000 in grants for a research project to collect and analyze time-series data used to assess states’ compliance with the NVRA and evaluate the impact of enforcement efforts.
- ♦ With two national policy organizations, co-authored a report assessing state social services agencies’ compliance with the Act. The report led to additional financial support from a foundation.

- ◆ Co-led successful effort to bring IA social service agencies into better compliance with the NVRA.
- ◆ Presented findings to funders, advocates, the Justice Department, and at conferences.
- ◆ Designed and led a two-day workshop on data collection and analysis for three civil rights groups.
- ◆ Co-authored and published an article in a top academic journal on research from field experiments in two states testing interventions in government agencies to improve legal compliance.
- ◆ Hired and supervised research assistants.

ACT for Alexandria Foundation

Alexandria, VA

Freelance research and policy consultant

August 2012 – August 2013

- ◆ Principal investigator of a mixed-methods food security assessment for Alexandria, Virginia, for a local coalition of health advocates, funders, and officials.
- ◆ Co-authored a report that recommended and led to the founding of a new organization to address hunger in the city (Hunger Free Alexandria). Hired and supervised co-investigator.

Food Research and Action Center

Washington, DC

Freelance research and policy consultant

May 2012 – August 2013

- ◆ Wrote and edited sections of a white paper on food deserts in low-income communities based on extant research and interviews with community food advocates and academics.

Rockefeller Family Fund

Washington, DC

Freelance research and policy consultant

August 2012 – December 2012

- ◆ Assisted Fund president with exploratory advocacy campaign on innovative uses of billion-dollar settlements stemming from the mortgage crisis.

Wellspring Advisors

Washington, DC

Freelance research and policy consultant

June 2011 – August 2011

- ◆ Authored memo on strategic opportunities for funders to enhance civic engagement projects.
- ◆ Analyzed and forecasted demographic changes in state populations using Census data.

Dissertation Research

August 2010 – May 2012

- ◆ Took time off from employment to complete Ph.D. dissertation on variation in state policies on food and nutrition programs and their impact on household food security.

Project Vote

Washington, DC

Senior research and strategy consultant

Summer 2004; May 2007 – August 2010

- ◆ Reconvened and co-directed or advised a coalition of national civil rights groups to enforce fair implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), resulting in millions of additional voter registration applications from traditionally marginalized communities.
- ◆ Initiated meetings with federal and state officials and provided research and campaign advice to coalition members over several years resulting in renewed federal action on NVRA enforcement, improved state implementation, and raised profile of organization as a leader on election policy.
- ◆ Designed monitoring systems to evaluate the impact of our work and ensure state compliance.
- ◆ Represented Project Vote on task forces or coalitions in the civil rights community.
- ◆ Authored various public reports and internal documents on voting rights, voter registration rates, and voter turnout.
- ◆ Provided feedback on independent evaluations of voter registration drives.
- ◆ Co-authored testimony for Congress and the National Research Council.

Food Research and Action Center

Senior Policy Analyst

Washington, DC

January 2000 – August 2003

- ◆ Surveyed state officials and collected data from federal and state sources on state legislation, case studies of best practices, and participation in food and nutrition programs.
- ◆ Authored or co-authored reports on nutrition programs that received positive coverage in state and national media, served as reference sources for advocates and officials, and led to changes in policy.
- ◆ Provided interviews for state and national media on food security and food security policies.

Congress Watch

Research Director

Washington, DC

May 1999 – December 1999

- ◆ Conducted campaign finance and lobbying research for reports on asbestos corporations' dealings with Congress, leading to coverage by *New York Times*.
- ◆ Supervised research assistant.

Human Rights Campaign

Southern Regional Organizer

Washington, DC

August 1996 – September 1997

- ◆ Organized GOTV and lobbying efforts with LGBT advocates in Miami and Atlanta for the Human Rights Campaigns' 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 programs.
- ◆ Wrote grassroots lobbying guide distributed to members.

Project Vote

Manager of National Voter Registration Act Project

Washington, DC

January 1994 – August 1996

- ◆ Liaised with attorneys, community organizations, and the Department of Justice on first-ever litigation victories to ensure fair implementation of the NVRA in recalcitrant states.
- ◆ Designed data monitoring systems used in legal settlements to confirm compliance and measure the performance of government agencies' voter registration programs.
- ◆ Authored first-ever national report on NVRA implementation and performance.
- ◆ Represented Project Vote at national task force or coalition meetings.
- ◆ Hired and supervised three employees and interns.

APPOINTMENTS AND VOLUNTEERING

- ◆ Co-led effort to create the new Election Assistance and Policy Committee at the American Political Science Association (APSA); appointed to a three-year term on the committee (2022-2024).
- ◆ Participant at the inaugural Institute for Civically Engaged Research, APSA (2019).
- ◆ Appointed to Advisory Board of Wilson Center for Innovation and Leadership, Grinnell College.
- ◆ Elected or appointed to committees on assessment and faculty organization, Grinnell College.
- ◆ Fellow at the Faculty Institute on Engagement and the Academy, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, University of Iowa (2020).
- ◆ Co-edited a special symposium of papers on engaged research for the journal *PS: Political Science*.
- ◆ Discussant for research panels at political science and US Dept. of Agriculture conferences on food security and reviewer for US Dept. of Agriculture grants. Frequently review academic journal articles on election policy and civically engaged research.

PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Available at www.douglasrhess.com are recent policy reports, academic articles, and opinion pieces for *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*, *The Hill*, *The Conversation*, *Des Moines Register*, *the London School of Economics United States Centre blog*, *PS: Political Science*, and *Public Administration Review*.