

DOUGLAS R. HESS

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SUMMARY

Accomplished and innovative policy analyst, researcher, and strategist deploying advocacy, political analysis, and social science research skills for leading social change and philanthropic organizations.

Effective leader, trainer, and mentor with a record resulting in millions of voter registrations, expanded access to child nutrition programs, new coalitions, stronger relationships between advocates and state and federal officials, and positive attention from Congress and national media.

EDUCATION

PhD in Public Policy, George Washington University. 2012.

♦ *Social and urban policy; additional coursework in political science, economics, sociology, ethics, and research methods.*

MA in Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University. 1999.

♦ *Policy analysis, nonprofit management, and program evaluation; additional coursework in political science.*

BA in Psychology, Grinnell College, 1991.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND CONSULTING PROJECTS

Democracy Fund

Freelance research consultant

Remote

November 2021 – March 2002

♦ Collected and analyzed data from multiple sources for a mixed-methods impact evaluation of automatic voter registration policies and advocacy efforts to improve “motor voter” programs.

Grinnell College

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies

Grinnell, IA

August 2013 – July 2021

- ♦ Designed and taught range courses to hundreds of students of diverse backgrounds.
- ♦ Mentored students’ advanced research for capstone course or presentations at conferences.
- ♦ Elected or appointed to college-wide committees on assessment and faculty organization.
- ♦ Co-led summer workshops on team teaching and student engagement.
- ♦ For additional details on teaching, scholarship, and adjunct teaching appointments at other colleges and universities, see my full academic CV, available at www.douglashess.com.

National Voter Registration Act Project

Principal Investigator

Grinnell, IA

August 2013 – August 2019

- ♦ Raised \$110,000 for multiple, complex data-collection and mixed-methods research projects assessing states’ compliance with the NVRA and efforts to enforce the Act.
- ♦ Presented results at conferences, to funders, advocates, and the Department of Justice.
- ♦ Co-authored and published an academic paper using field experiments in government agencies two states and a national policy report assessing online voter registration.

ACT for Alexandria Foundation

Freelance research consultant

Alexandria, DC

August 2012 – August 2013

- ♦ Conducted a mixed-methods assessment of vulnerable populations’ food access and security in Alexandria, Virginia for a coalition of health organizations and a local foundation.
- ♦ Report recommendations led to founding of a new organization to address hunger in the city.
- ♦ Hired and supervised sub-contractor as research assistant.

Food Research and Action Center

Freelance research consultant

Washington, DC

May 2012 – August 2013

- ◆ Wrote or 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

Freelance policy consultant

Washington, DC

August 2012 – December 2012

- ◆ Assisted Fund president with exploratory project coordinating state-based civic groups and lobbyists around innovative uses of billion-dollar settlements from the mortgage crisis.

Wellspring Advisors

Freelance research consultant

Washington, DC

June 2011 – August 2011

- ◆ Authored a memo on strategic opportunities for funders on enhancing civic engagement.
- ◆ Designed and executed a projection of demographic changes in state populations.

Project Vote

Senior research and strategy consultant

Washington, DC

May 2007 – August 2010

- ◆ Reconvened (in 2004) and directed or advised a coalition of national civil rights groups to enforce fair implementation of the National Voter Registration Act nationwide, resulting in millions of voter registrations from disenfranchised communities.
- ◆ Initiated meetings with federal and state officials and provided analytical support for coalition partners' work over several years resulting in renewed federal action on NVRA enforcement and improved implementation in states.
- ◆ Advised funders and contributed to grant writing and grant reports.
- ◆ Designed monitoring systems to evaluate the impact of our work.
- ◆ Represented Project Vote on task forces or coalitions in the civil rights community.
- ◆ Co-authored congressional testimony. Hired and trained research consultant.

Grinnell College, Grinnell-in-Washington Program

Adjunct Professor of Political Science

Washington, DC

Fall semesters of 2008 – 2011

George Washington University

Ph.D. Student and Adjunct Instructor

Washington, DC

September 2003 – May 2012

Food Research and Action Center

Senior Policy Analyst

Washington, DC

January 2000 – August 2003

- ◆ Surveyed state officials, collected data from various federal and state sources, and authored or co-authored reports that received positive coverage in state and national media, leading to changes in federal food and nutrition policy.

Citizens 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.

Johns Hopkins University
M.A. Student and Research Assistant

Baltimore, MD
September 1997 – May 1999

Human Rights Campaign
Southern Regional Organizer

Washington, DC
August 1996 – September 1997

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

Project Vote

Washington, DC

Manager of National Voter Registration Act Project

January 1994 – August 1996

- ◆ Liaised with attorneys, community organizations, and the Department of Justice on first-ever litigation to ensure full and fair implementation of the NVRA.
- ◆ Designed data monitoring systems used in legal settlements to confirm compliance and measure performance. Authored national report on NVRA implementation.
- ◆ Hired and supervised three employees and additional interns.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Washington, DC

Research Assistant for Corporate Strategies

April 1993 – December 1993

- ◆ Researched corporate finance and structure at Security and Exchange Commission for co-authored report on executive compensation and labor practices in trucking industry.
- ◆ Seconded to an organizing drive of Haitian textile workers in Miami.

Washington Office on Haiti

Washington, DC

Assistant to Executive Director

November 1992 – April 1993

- ◆ Following a coup in Haiti, founded a coalition of human rights observers that released a combined report with Rev. Jesse Jackson that received national news coverage.
- ◆ Conceived and ran the first-ever congressional lobbying day by Haitian Americans.
- ◆ Co-authored testimony for Congress and reports. Supervised three employees.

Association of Community Org. for Reform Now

St. Louis, MO and Little Rock, AR

Field Organizer/Political Organizer

August 1991 – November 1992

- ◆ Conducted community organizing in diverse communities leading to new chapters of ACORN or the New Party (now the Working Families Party).

PUBLICATIONS

My applied and scholarly publications, as well as testimonies, op-eds, and guest blog posts, are available under Research and Media at www.douglasrhess.com. Publications include: *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*, *The Hill*, *The Conversation*, *Des Moines Register*, *London School of Economics' United States Centre blog*, *PS: Political Science*, and *Public Administration Review*.