

DAN HONIG

dan.honig@georgetown.edu; dan.honig@ucl.ac.uk; www.danhonig.info

Updated October 2026

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Washington, DC **2023–Present**
Professor 2026–Present
Associate Professor 2023–2026
Professor (by courtesy), Department of Government, Georgetown University
Member, Georgetown Better Government Lab

Department of Political Science, University College London, London, UK **2021–Present**
Associate Professor of Public Policy
**European Research Council Starting Grant, *Relational State Capacity*. Awarded 2022; €1.5 million, 2023–2028.
Funded through the UKRI Horizon Europe Guarantee.

School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC **2015–2021**
Assistant Professor, International Development; Affiliate, International Political Economy Program

EDUCATION

Harvard University/Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA PhD, Public Policy, 2015
Primary Field: Political Economy; *Secondary Field*: Organizational, Institutional, & Bureaucratic Behavior
Committee: Peter Hall (chair), Beth Simmons, Matt Andrews, Ryan Sheely
School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton University Princeton, NJ
Graduate-level (MPA) Studies in Public Affairs with focus on Development Studies (no degree) 2006–2007
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; LS&A Honors College, Residential College Ann Arbor, MI
BA in Political Science and Philosophy (double major) 2003

BOOKS

Honig, D. & M. Williams. (under contract). *Organizational Autonomies*. Cambridge Elements; *Cambridge University Press*.

Honig, D. (2024). *Mission Driven Bureaucrats: Empowering People To Help Government Do Better*. *Oxford University Press*.

Honig, D. (2018). *Navigation by Judgment: Why and When Top-down Management of Foreign Aid Doesn't Work*. *Oxford University Press*.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Honig, D. and E. Woodhouse. (2026). When Bureaucrats Deviate: Mission Motivation, Autonomy, and Policy Implementation in Thai District Governance. *Governance* 39(3).

Forster, T., D. Honig, and A. Kentikelenis. (2025). Formal governance matters: When, how, and why states act on the IMF Executive Board. *Review of International Political Economy* 32(3), 818–846.

Honig, D., R. Lall, and B. Parks. (2023). When Does Transparency Improve Institutional Performance? Evidence from 20,000 Aid Projects in 183 Countries. *American Journal of Political Science* 67(4), 1096–1116.

Bisbee, J. & D. Honig. (2022). Flight to Safety: COVID-Induced Changes in the Intensity of Status Quo Preference and Voting Behavior. *American Political Science Review* 116(1), 70–86.

Honig, D. (2021). Supportive Management Practice and Intrinsic Motivation Go Together in the Public Service. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118(13).

- Boraggina-Ballard, L., J. Sobeck, & D. Honig. (2021). What Motivates Highly Trained Child Welfare Professionals to Stay or Leave? *Children and Youth Services Review* 124.
- Bertelli, A., M. Hassan, D. Honig, D. Rogger, & M. Williams. (2020). An Agenda for the Study of Public Administration in Developing Countries. *Governance* 33(4), 735–748. Reprinted in Arabic (2022) in *Hikama* 3:177–198.
- Honig, D. (2020). Information, Power, & Location: World Bank Staff Decentralization and Aid Project Success. *Governance* 33(4), 749–769.
- Bisbee, J. & D. Honig. (2020). Flight to Safety: 2020 Democratic Primary Election Results and COVID-19. *Journal of COVID Economics* 3, 54-84.
- Honig, D. & C. Weaver. (2019). A Race to the Top?: The Aid Transparency Index and the Social Power of Global Performance Indicators. *International Organization* 73(3), 579–610.
- Reprinted in Kelley, J. & B. Simmons (Eds.). (2020). *The Power of Global Performance Indicators*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 5, 157–191.
- Honig, D. (2019). Case Study Design and Analysis as a Complementary Empirical Strategy to Econometric Analysis in the Study of Public Agencies: Deploying Mutually Supportive Mixed Methods. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 29(2), 299–317.
- Honig, D. (2019). When Reporting Undermines Performance: The Costs of Politically Constrained Organizational Autonomy in Foreign Aid Implementation. *International Organization* 73(1), 171–201.
- Honig, D. and N. Gulrajani. (2018). Making Good On Donors' Desire to Do Development Differently. *Third World Quarterly* 39(1), 68–84.
- Grossman, S. & D. Honig. (2017). Evidence from Lagos on Discrimination across Ethnic and Class Identities in Informal Trade. *World Development* 96, 520–528.

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

- Honig, D., M. Krishnamurthy, & R.K. Sharma. (2025). Relational State Capacity: Conceiving of Relationships as a Core Component of Society's Ability to Achieve Collective Ends. SNF Agora Working Paper 01.
- Honig, D., A. Khan, & J. Naritomi. (2025). State Capacity. In T. Besley & A. Velasco (Eds.), *London Consensus*.
- Honig, D. & S. Thompson. (2025). Mission Driven Bureaucrats & Agency Performance in Difficult Times. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*.
- Greenstein, G. & D. Honig (2024). Managing Aid Personnel. Chapter 18 in Desai, R. M., Devarajan, S., & Tobin, J. L. (Eds.). *Handbook of aid and development*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Honig, D. (2022). Managing for Motivation as Public Performance Improvement Strategy in Education & Far Beyond. Center for International Development at Harvard University Working Paper #409. Also issued as a Research on Improving Systems in Education (RISE) Essay.
- Honig, D. (2020). Tyranny of Metrics by Jerry Z. Muller (Book Review). *Governance* 33(3), 714–717.
- Honig, D. & L. Pritchett. (2019). The Limits of Accounting-Based Accountability in Education (and Far Beyond): Why More Accounting Will Rarely Solve Accountability Problems. Center for Global Development Working Paper 510; also RISE Working Paper 19–030.
- Related blog: Honig, D. (2019). Putting “Account” at the Center of “Accountability”: Why ICT Won’t Improve Education Systems (and Beyond), and What Will. Center for Global Development, May 24; reprinted with edits in *Impact Magazine*, October 2019.
- Barma, N., S. Campbell, D. Honig, R. Ginty, & J. Rovner (2019). Roundtable on Campbell's Global Governance & Local Peace: Accountability & Performance in International Peacebuilding. Roundtable 10–24, H-Diplo/ISSF.
- Honig, D. (2018). The Development Dance: How Donors and Recipients Negotiate the Delivery of Foreign Aid by Haley Swedlund. (Book Review) *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4), 1233–1234.

SELECTED POLICY AND PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT

Reference (Steering) Group Member, UK Cabinet Office Test, Learn, and Grow Program 2025–Present

Chair, Advisory Committee on Reforming English State School Accountability (Slater Report) 2025–2026

Contributions to managerial practice reforms in the US, UK, Liberia, Australia, Ethiopia, and the World Bank 2018–2026

Research cited in [US congressional testimony](#), UK parliamentary debate, USAID [policy documents](#), [World Bank](#) operational reforms, and international NGO guidance and training materials

Frequent contributor and convenor to podcasts, blogs, public events

Multiple keynotes: e.g. 2019 Research for Development Impact conference (Australia’s largest annual development convening); 2022 European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference (Copenhagen); 2024 Berlin Creative Bureaucracy Festival; 2024 Georgetown Bencon; 2024 Canada FWD50 (largest convening of civil servants in the country); 2024 World Bank Young Professional Graduation

Curator, Project Performance Database: development project outcomes for more than 20,000 projects from 12 agencies.

SELECTED POLICY REPORTS AND PUBLIC WRITING

Honig, D. & G. Handley. (2026). An Innovative Approach to Strengthening Financial Governance: The Impact of Somalia’s Financial Governance Committee. Main report confidential; [public summary](#) published by World Bank and Government of Somalia.

Honig, Dan. (2026). “[What South Sudanese Data Can Teach Us All, and Why We Should Care](#).” *In Development*, August 6.

Honig, D., V. Dissanayake, & J. Plunkett (2025). [On Mission: A Maturity Framework for Assessing Organisational Readiness for Mission Driven Working](#). Georgetown Better Government Lab & Nesta.

Aiyar, Y. & D. Honig. (2025). [Efficiency Isn’t Everything](#). *Foreign Policy*, April 7.

Honig, D. (2024). How Labour Can Fix the Public Sector. In *Comment is Freed*; online [here](#).

Reprinted in [Ordinary Hope: A Mission to Rebuild](#) (Joseph Rowntree Foundation & UCL, 2024); reposted on [Apolitical](#) (2024).

Honig, D. (2022). [Effectiveness is in the Details: Realizing the Promise of Localization Requires Rethinking USAID’s Administrative Process](#). In Ingram, G. *Locally Driven Development: Overcoming the Obstacles*. Brookings Global Working Paper #173, Brookings Institution.

Honig, D. (2022). [Be the Solution: How Bureaucrats can Improve Public Sector Performance Through Mission Management](#). Pakistan Dialogues, Mahbub Ul Haq Research Centre, Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Honig, D. (2020). [Actually Navigating by Judgment: Towards a New Paradigm of Donor Accountability Where the Current System Doesn’t Work](#). Center for Global Development Policy Paper 169. Related policy brief: [Managing Better: What All of Us Can Do to Encourage Aid Success](#) (2020).

Bisbee, J. & D. Honig. (2020). [Sanders was losing to Biden anyway. But he lost more in areas with coronavirus cases](#). *Washington Post Monkey Cage*, April 2, 2020.

Campbell, S., D. Honig, and S. Rose. (2020). [Creating an Accountability Framework that Serves the Global Fragility Act’s Mission](#). Center for Global Development Note.

Honig, D. (2019). The Power of Letting Go. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Winter 2019.

Honig, D. (2019). [Let Local Leaders Lead: Why Donors Should Create More Space for Local Leadership](#). Development Leadership Program Blog, September 27. Center for Global Development version [here](#).

Honig, D. & S. L. Cramer. (2017). [Strengthening Somalia’s systems smartly: a country systems risk benefit analysis](#). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

Honig, D. (2017). [How Frequent Reporting of Quantitative Accountability Measures Can Undermine Bureaucratic Performance](#). Basic Facts Brief, Scholars Strategy Network.

Honig, D. & J. Johnson (2017). Body Cameras Work – Just Not in the Way You Think. National Police Foundation.

Gulrajani, N. & D. Honig (2016). Reforming Donors in Fragile States: Using public management theory more strategically. ODI Report, April 2016.

Honig, D. (2016). More Autonomy for Donor Organizations and Their Agents (Sometimes): Bringing Organizational Behavior and Management Theory to Foreign Aid Delivery. Winner of the GDN Next Horizons 2014 Essay Contest, Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Named one of the 50 Researchers Shaping 21st Century Politicians (Apolitical)	2022
Named among Apolitical's 100 Most Influential Academics in Government	2021
Excellence in Teaching Award, Johns Hopkins SAIS (four tenured/tenure-line faculty selected annually)	2019
Merit Award, Johns Hopkins SAIS, for contributions to SAIS and the profession	2019
<i>Next Horizons Essay Contest, GDN / Gates Foundation (13 winners from 1,470 entries)</i>	2014
<i>National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow</i>	2010–2015
<i>Doctoral Fellow, Harvard IGERT Program in Inequality and Social Policy</i>	2011–2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Editorial Board Member, Journal of Public Policy	2019–Present
Partner, JustSystems	2025–Present
Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development	2019–Present
Faculty Affiliate, SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University	2021–Present
Visiting Senior Fellow, Artha Global	2023–Present
Research Fellow, Mahbub ul Haq Centre, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	2021–Present
Member, Organizations and Their Effectiveness Working Group, Stanford CASBS	2018–Present
Member, Scholars Strategy Network	2017–Present
Faculty Associate, Building State Capability Program, Harvard Kennedy School	2021–2026
Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins SAIS	2021–2024
Co-lead, Sustainable Development, UCL Policy Lab	2022–2024
Deputy Director (Education) for New Programmes, UCL Department of Political Science	2022–2023
Sweden's Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA) Reference Group, "Trust-based Management in Aid"	2019–2021
Peer Reviewer / Reference Group, World Bank IEG study on staff decentralization	2019–2021
Visiting Fellow, Institute of Politics, Leiden University, The Netherlands	2020–2021
Visiting Researcher, West Africa Research Center, Dakar, Senegal	2020
Visiting Scholar, Thammasat University Department of Economics, Bangkok, Thailand	2019–2020
Visiting Academic, Oxford University, Department of Politics & International Relations	2012–2013
Member, 2015 Academy of Management All-Academy Theme Committee	2014–2015
Organizer, Harvard Kennedy School Workshop on Institutions and Public Policy	2013–2014
Graduate Affiliate, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS)	2014–2015

SELECTED INVITED TALKS AND KEYNOTES

Danish Institute for Wild Problems, September 2026 (Keynote-like)
 UK Treasury Policy Excellence Festival, September 2026
 Volcker Alliance, June 2026
 Rebuilding US Democracy Project, Cornell, June 2026
 Community Power in the UK Conference, May 2026
 Center for the Effective Governance of Indian States, December 2025
 Labour Party (UK) Party Conference, Liverpool, September 2025
 Creative Bureaucracy Festival, Berlin, June 2025

UK Cabinet Office, London, April 2025
 University of Michigan, March 2025
 Varkey Foundation convening for Latin American education ministers, Washington, DC, January 2025
 University of Virginia, January 2025
 University of Sydney, Australia, December 2024
 World Bank Governance Global Practice, November 2024
 World Bank Young Professionals Graduation, November 2024 (Keynote)
 Harvard Kennedy School, October 2024
 US Office of Evaluation Sciences, October 2024
 Canada FWD50, October 2024 (Keynote)
 Georgetown Bencon, September 2024 (Keynote)
 Kyiv School of Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine, November 2023
 Center for Policy Research (Delhi, India), October 2023
 King Prajadhipok's Institute for Democracy, Bangkok, October 2023
 Thammasat University Department of Economics, Bangkok, October 2023
 Slovenia Public Leadership Academy, May 2023
 London Consensus, London, May 2023
 Accelerating Public Service Leadership in Africa, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC, December 2022 (with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf)
 Meghalaya Leaders Forum, India, August 2022
 European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference, Copenhagen, May 2022 (Keynote: "Power and Peril of the Evaluator's Gaze")
 Norad (Norway)/Sida (Sweden) Senior Leadership Joint Workshop on "Tomorrow's Aid Today", November 2021
 MIT GovLab, November 2021
 Oxford Blavatnik PeopleGov International Meeting, November 2021
 World Bank IEG launch of report on outcome orientation and country results frameworks, March 2021
 APSA Annual Meeting Mini-Conference on "Frontiers of Research in Bureaucratic Politics & Management", September 2020 (Co-organizer)
 Sida (Swedish Aid) Senior Management Retreat on Organizational Reform, January 2020
 Research for Development Impact Conference, La Trobe University, Melbourne, June 2019 (Keynote: "Letting the Pilot Steer: How Donor Practice Can Better Support Local Leadership")
 Stanford CASBS Summer Institute on Organizations and Their Effectiveness, July 2018
 World Bank "Moving the Needle" Governance Global Practice Convening, June 2018
 USAID Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance group, September 2017

SELECTED PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aid Management Advisor to the Minister of Finance

Monrovia, Liberia

August 2008–August 2009

Advised the Ministry of Finance on aid management and public financial management reform through a government-executed, World Bank-funded Economic Governance and Institutional Reform Project. Led technical work for the Budget Support Working Group and served as a focal point for partner budget support operations.

- Established an aid management unit in the Ministry of Finance.
- Led development of Liberia's first comprehensive report on aid flows as an annex to the national budget.
- Served as the Ministry's focal point for negotiations with international partners and vetting aid agreements; helped establish the associated business processes.
- Helped secure more than US\$20 million in African Development Bank budget support and more than US\$45 million from the EU over two years.

Special Assistant to the Minister of Finance (Scott Fellow)**Monrovia, Liberia**

June 2007–July 2008

Worked with Minister of Finance Antoinette M. Sayeh on her post-conflict reform agenda through a Scott Family Foundation fellowship administered by the Center for Global Development.

- Coordinated technical work on Liberia's first full Poverty Reduction Strategy and drafted sections of the document.
- Helped coordinate arrears clearance with the IMF, World Bank, and African Development Bank and supported Paris Club and other creditor negotiations.
- Led technical work on Liberia's first public financial management action plan, coordinating actors across government.
- Supported Liberia's launch of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and its interim secretariat.
- Drafted speeches and presentations for the Minister of Finance and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Founder and Director, Timorese Young Entrepreneurship Initiative**Dili, East Timor**

November 2004–February 2006

Co-founded and directed an NGO that helped nearly 1,000 young Timorese develop and implement improved agricultural practices and appropriate technology. The organization continued under Timorese leadership following my departure.

Program Officer and Consultant, Ashoka: Innovators for the Public**Bangkok, Thailand**

July 2003–June 2004 (Program Officer); July–September 2004 (Consultant)

Evaluated social entrepreneur candidates, coordinated the selection process for new Ashoka Fellows, and supported existing Fellows in Thailand.