

BREE KESSLER MSW, MPH, PhD Candidate
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Professional Experience

PARTICIPATE: Remote

Co-Founder, September 2020-Present

- Co-facilitated and designed workshops to train individuals in participatory processes.
- Collaborators include Alaska State Council on the Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Caring Across the Generations, Jim Joseph Foundation, and Soulardarity.
- Expertise in research & evaluation, strategic planning, storytelling, and sensemaking.

4.0 Schools: Remote

Measurement, Evaluation, and Curriculum Consultant, June 2021-Dec 2022

- Designed equity-centered research curriculum for fellowships.
- Facilitated trainings and community calls for research consultants.
- Acted as coach providing program design and research assistance to consultants and entrepreneurs testing educational programs in an incubator.

Center for Cultural Innovation: Remote

Assistant Director: Research to Impact Lab, October 2021-January 2022

- Spearheaded the organization's new effort to commission and activate research to support art and cultural workers through initiatives like universal basic income.
- Participated in grantmaker conferences, labor sector convenings, and arts networks.

Amani Project: Remote

Director of Development and Communications, February 2019-August 2020

- Managed million-dollar fundraising campaign.
- Led branding effort and strategic planning process.
- Created social media campaigns on multiple platforms.
- Participated in Creative Youth Development network.
- Consulted on participatory evaluation protocol for low-resource settings.

The Greenhouse: Remote

Chief Education Officer, November 2017-July 2018

- Designed Social Impact Labs for young people across the U.S.
- Assisted with organization start-up, partnership development, scaling-up, and youth-led program design.
- Crafted logic models, pitch decks, fundraising assets, & wrote Op-Eds.

University of Alaska: Anchorage, AK

Assistant Professor, September 2012-August 2015

Adjunct Instructor, September 2016-May 2019

- Created curriculum and taught seminars in Public Health and Civic Engagement.
- Supervised Civic Engagement interns and managed internship program.
- Initiated "Urban in Alaska" movement, led community workshops, and built partnerships between the university, community members, and the municipal government.
- Awarded university-wide "Community Builder" designation.

PARTICIPATE

Education

**Graduate Center of the City
University of New York**
New York, NY

Department of Environmental
Psychology: **Doctor of
Philosophy**, in progress
*Dissertation: Do-It-Yourself
[Creative] Placemaking and
Participatory Design*

Department of Psychology:
Master of Philosophy
*Thesis: Making Over Home,
Remaking Citizens: The Cultural
Work of the Reality TV Makeover*

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

School of Natural Resources and
the Environment: **Master of
Science** (Concentration in
Resource Policy and Behavior)
*Thesis: Photovoice/Fotovoz
Honduras: Creating a Gendered
Environmental Health Agenda
through Participatory Action
Research*

School of Public Health: **Master
of Public Health** (Concentration
in Health Behavior Health
Education)

School of Social Work: **Master
of Social Work** (Concentration
in Community Organization and
Communities and Social
Systems)

College of Literature, Science,
and Arts – Honors Program:
Bachelor of Arts (Concentration
in Religious Studies)

**School for International
Training**
Bangalore, India

*Research Paper: HIV/AIDS
Education in India: Wives, Sex
Workers, and Everyday*

School for International Training: China, India, South Africa*Traveling Faculty, August 2011-February 2012*

- Created curriculum and taught undergraduate seminars in Medical Anthropology; Community Health Research Methods; and Cross-Cultural Understanding.
- Coordinated students field research experience with in-country partners and advised students on community-based research projects.

Project for Public Spaces: NY, NY*Research Consultant, June 2008-September 2008*

- Conducted participant observation and expert interviews in the field.
- Constructed behavioral maps of public markets.
- Co-authored report and presented results to designers and community leaders.

Nike Corporation: Thailand*Evaluation Consultant, May 2005-September 2005*

- Designed qualitative tool to evaluate effectiveness of health education programs in Nike contract factories in Asia.
- Led in-country research and supervised Thai staff in field conducting research with workers.
- Analyzed data, wrote report, and presenting findings to corporate leaders.

University of Michigan Family Development Project: Ann Arbor, MI*Project Manager, September 2003-May 2005*

- Co-Facilitated participatory action research project with Head Start agency in Detroit, MI.
- Prepared and edited manuscripts for publishing.
- Wrote and circulated concept paper to potential funders and conferences.

Community Collaborative: NYC*Community Organizer, September 2002-August 2003*

- Developed and taught series of workshops to youth and adults.
- Co-facilitated Participatory Action Research project.
- Managed educational justice campaign for community-based organization and larger coalition.

Sample Consulting Experiences**International Beit Din:** December 2022-Present

I co-designed research processes, designed surveys, conducted interviews with stakeholders, and drafted reports to inform a strategic planning process for this organization dedicated to freeing “chained” women.

Alaska Humanities Forum: October 2022-Present

As editor, I redesigned the Forum magazine to increase participation from BIPOC communities living in Alaska. I also developed a partnership to translate articles into lesson plans for young people throughout Alaska.

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council: July 2022-Present

I led a strategic planning effort that began with conducting research with organizational and community stakeholders. Subsequently, I worked closely with staff members to evaluate the organization’s outcomes and capacity to scale-up, as well as to generate collateral such as logic models and narratives to uplift the impact of the organization.

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University Teaching Experience**Civic Engagement**

- Introduction to Civic Engagement
- Social Media for Civic Engagement
- Participatory Action Research
- Civic Engagement Internship

Psychology/Social Work

- Human Sexuality
- Introduction to Psychology
- Psychology of Gender
- Research and Evaluation Methods (graduate)
- Mixed Methods Research (graduate)

Public Health

- Global Health (undergrad/graduate)
- Health, Culture, and Community
- Introduction to Public Health
- Qualitative Research Methods (graduate)
- Equity-Centered Community Needs Assessment
- Health Education: Theory and Practice

Urban Studies/Environmental Studies

- Introduction to Environmental Justice
- Introduction to Urban Life
- Reality TV and the Urban
- Secret Life of Small Urban Spaces

Courses taught at: Hunter College, Manhattan Marymount College, New York University, School for International Training (abroad), St. Joseph University, University of Alaska, and University of Hawaii.

Grant Review Panels

- ArtPlace America Panelist and Reviewer, 2014-2015
- NACO Creative Placemaking Grant Reviewer, 2017-2018
- National Endowment for the Arts Grant Reviewer, 2016-2017; 2019

Jim Joseph Foundation: April 2022-December 2022

I was a researcher embedded in a new R&D program that is funding individuals creating new programs and products. In this role, I supported grantees throughout their experiments to test their new products and programs, evaluated each program and product as well as I was responsible for debriefing grantees, drafting reports to the foundation, and making recommendations for how to improve the grant program for future iterations and cohorts.

Soulardarity: May 2022-Present

I created a participatory action research training series aimed at supporting the organization to evaluate why BIPOC community members are not adapting solar technologies and how are they engaging with messaging around energy democracy.

Bloomberg Philanthropies: April 2019-April 2022

I co-designed the evaluation for Public Arts grant awarded to the Anchorage Museum. Through this initiative, I interviewed artists, developed surveys, engaged in participant observation at public art sites, and co-wrote a final report.

Writing and Editing Experience

I am currently the editor of **Forum**, the magazine of the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Sample Magazine/Newspaper Writing Clips

Please check www.breekessler.com for links to articles on topics such as urban life, reality TV, culinary justice, and subcultures of Hawaii.

- *Alaska*, *Anchorage Press*, *Anchorage Daily News*, *Atlas Obscura*, *Bitch: A Feminist Response to Pop Culture*, *Eater*, *Honolulu Magazine*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Edible Alaska*, *Edible Hawaiian Islands*, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.
- Author of *Moon Handbook: Big Island of Hawaii* published by Hachette Book Group.

Sample Academic Publication:

- Kessler, Bree. "Recruiting Wombs: Surrogates as the New Security Moms." *Women's Studies Quarterly*. Spring/Summer 2009 (37: 1 and 2): pg. 167-182.

Certifications

- Online Learning Consortium certification in online course design and online learners
- Quality Matters Peer Evaluator
- Birthing Doula
- Reiki Level 2

Languages

- Advanced Spanish
- Basic Portuguese
- Advanced Hebrew

Computer Skills

- Adobe XD
- Adobe Illustrator
- Airtable
- ArcGIS
- BaseCamp
- Endnote
- Google Suite
- Mailchimp
- Monday.com
- NVivo
- Photoshop
- Qualtrics
- Salesforce
- Slack
- SPSS
- SquareSpace
- Submittable
- Trello
- WordPress