

# Dr. Brittany N. Dernberger

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[brittanydernberger.com](http://brittanydernberger.com)

## KEY SKILLS

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- **Economic mobility & social inequality expert** with cross-functional experience in multiple sectors.
- 10 years of experience in **program design, management, evaluation, and organizational learning**.
- Accomplished in **designing and conducting mixed-methods research projects from conception to publication**, including longitudinal and attitudinal secondary data analysis (STATA, R), experiments, survey design and collection, focus groups, and interviews.
- Recognized as an **energetic, collaborative leader and excellent communicator** who can generate buy-in by translating complicated content for multiple audiences.

## EXPERIENCE

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**Insight Policy Research** — *Researcher, Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office*  
JULY 2020 – PRESENT Arlington, VA

- Provide in-depth research consultation on the development, design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of Department sexual assault and related research about gender equity in the military workplace.
- Delivered rapid response research for President Biden's 90-Day Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, including developing a qualitative analysis plan and PII protection protocols within 2 business days, conducting analysis of 250 narratives, distilling key findings, and presenting succinct results to Commissioners. Author of two page analytic summary delivered to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Led the development of an evaluation plan about men who experience sexual assault, developing 700+ measurable indicators based on a detailed cross-walk of 11 existing Department data sources.
- Apply expertise in gender studies and quantitative and qualitative methodology to review research proposals, studies, and published research to identify strengths and methodological concerns; generate foreseeable risk of public criticism; and suggest revisions to improve research products.
- Engage and align stakeholders by facilitating conversations with senior leaders throughout DoD.
- Contribute to capture planning through prospect research and strategy development.

**Steelcase Foundation** — *Learning and Evaluation Officer* Grand Rapids, MI  
FEBRUARY 2016 – JULY 2020

- Lead and direct the Foundation's learning and evaluation efforts including grant evaluation, organizational learning, and designing evaluation protocols.
- Conduct all grant recommendations for \$6 million portfolio; complete rigorous assessment and distill complex proposals and progress reports to short write-ups for foundation trustees.
- Provide technical assistance to approximately 20 organizations annually on development of measurable outcomes and evaluation strategies.
- Designed and institutionalized quarterly feedback survey for proposals under consideration (30+ proposals annually), analyze data, write summary reports that are shared with staff and trustees, and identify adaptations to ensure continuous organizational learning.
- Support executive management by conducting research in alignment with strategic priorities.

**Higher Ed Insight** — *Independent Researcher & Consultant* Washington, DC  
AUGUST 2015 – APRIL 2016

- Conducted 12 qualitative interviews with industry leaders on behalf of the Lumina Foundation about the relationship between workforce/industry training and postsecondary CTE programs.
- Executed independent research projects for education clients incorporating landscape assessments and qualitative interviews with students and administrators, culminating in written reports that are accessible to multiple audiences.

**University of Maryland** — *PhD Candidate; Research & Teaching Assistant*  
AUGUST 2015 – DECEMBER 2020

College Park, MD

- Completed a robust mixed-methods dissertation project (40 years of restricted longitudinal survey data; 60 interviews) about the college-to-career transition and how graduates respond to underemployment.
- 3 peer-reviewed publications as the solo or first author with my research featured in outlets such as [\*The New York Times\*](#), [\*The Atlantic\*](#), and [\*Ms. Magazine\*](#).
- Awarded \$48,000 in competitive grant and fellowship research funding.
- Project manager for a multi-prong \$200,000 *National Science Foundation* grant, including an audit study in four labor markets (3,040 applications submitted to 1,520 jobs), multiple factorial vignette surveys administered to the public and hiring agents (3,000+ respondents), 30 interviews; and supervision of an undergraduate research assistant.
- Regular speaker at conferences and panels on social inequality, economic inequality, and gender justice.
- Lecturer and instructor for college courses on topics such as gender, inequality, veterans, and sociology of the family; nominated for Office of Undergraduate Studies Teaching Award.

**Grand Valley State University Center for Women and Gender Equity** — *Assistant Director*

JULY 2011 - JULY 2015

Allendale, MI

- Led community-based learning for 300+ students annually; including developing 20+ community partnerships, training student leaders, and incorporating an intersectional social justice curriculum.
- Supervised 7 undergraduate interns and graduate assistants annually; oversaw the budget, implementation, and evaluation of more than 30 annual events, and played a significant role in the Center's strategic direction, specifically for civic engagement.
- Directed the campus Student Food Pantry, serving 500+ students annually, supervising all staff and logistics. Successfully led campus-wide campaign advocating for new space and funding.
- Co-founder and Director of the Gender Justice House living learning community, creating and implementing high-impact learning practices for 30 residents each year.
- Collaborated with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty member to develop and implement a new six-week service-learning study abroad trip to South Africa; responsible for two successful trips including recruitment, curriculum development, student advising, and teaching while abroad.

**Community Rebuilders** — *Housing Resource Specialist*

APRIL 2010 - JULY 2011

Grand Rapids, MI

- Provided personalized strength-based case management services to a caseload of 40+ households at a time, including working with households on increasing their income, overcoming personal barriers, and obtaining/sustaining permanent housing.
- Developed organizational guidelines and programmatic procedures for a new federally-funded tenant-based rental assistance program.

## **EDUCATION**

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**PhD, Sociology**, 2020

*University of Maryland*

**Master of Science, Sociology**, 2017

*University of Maryland*

**Master of Public Administration, Nonprofit Management & Leadership**, *with Honors*, 2013

*Grand Valley State University*

**Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Women & Gender Studies**, *Magna Cum Laude and with Honors*, 2010

*Grand Valley State University Honors College; American University in Cairo (Study Abroad)*