

Dr. Brittany N. Dernberger

SKILLS

- Policy and issue expertise in **social and economic inequality** across higher education, philanthropy, federal, and nonprofit advocacy 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

Insight Policy Research — *Researcher*

Arlington, VA

JULY 2020 – PRESENT

- Provide in-depth research consultation to the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office in partnership with Booz Allen Hamilton.
- Apply expertise in gender studies and quantitative and qualitative methodology to support products at the executive and congressional levels, including advising on survey instruments, focus group protocols, and how to contextualize findings.
- Facilitate conversations with stakeholders across the Department to develop congressionally-mandated surveys that are fielded to a population of almost 2 million service members.
- Advise on research and framing of two annual congressional reports about sexual assault in the military.

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.
- Designed and institutionalized quarterly feedback survey for proposals under consideration, analyze data, write summary reports that are shared with staff and trustees, and identify adaptations to ensure continuous organizational learning.
- 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.
- Support trustee and executive management by conducting research in alignment with strategic priorities.

University of Maryland — *PhD Candidate; Research & Teaching Assistant*

College Park, MD

AUGUST 2015 – DECEMBER 2020

- Completed a robust mixed-methods dissertation project (40 years of restricted longitudinal survey data; 60 interviews) about how college graduates interpret and 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 *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), 100+ interviews with employers; 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 the Center's community-based learning program for 300+ students annually; including developing community partnerships, training student leaders, and embedding experiential-learning in 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. Developed food justice curriculum.
- 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 over 40 households at 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

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

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Rutland Court Cooperative Board of Directors, *Occupancy Co-Chair*, 2019-
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of West Michigan Board of Directors, *Membership Outreach Committee Chair* and *Vice President*, 2012-2015
- Red Project Board of Directors, *Program Committee Chair*, 2011-2013
- Progressive Women's Alliance, *Outreach Committee*, 2010-2015