

EDUCATION

PhD, Politics and International Relations

July 2025

University of Edinburgh, UK

Supervisors: Professor Shaun Bevin and Professor Oliver Escobar

PhD Thesis Title: *Boiling Point: How the UK and US Governments Crafted Immigration Environments of Extreme Unwelcoming in the Brexit and Trump Eras and their Impact on Immigrant Inclusion Efforts*

- This thesis:
 - Used original quantitative and qualitative survey data collected from immigrant inclusion practitioners operating in the UK and the US during the Brexit and Trump eras
 - Constructed profiles, based on participant comments and substantiated by the literature and historical documents, of key components of the Brexit and Trump Governments' immigration approaches, identifying seven common features used by both governments to craft immigration environments of extreme unwelcoming.
 - Developed and employed a theoretical metaphor of bringing a pot to boil on a stove top to illustrate the two different paths taken by the UK and US Governments that allowed each to bring their country's immigration environment to a boiling point of extreme unwelcoming in the Brexit and Trump eras. The UK Government reached this severe unwelcoming through a 'slow boil' graduated intensification; the US Government achieved it through a 'fast boil' rapid transformation.
 - The thesis offered original contributions and insights about the significant ways that the national government can affect the immigration environment and the immigrant inclusion field, opening up possibilities for future lines of research.
 - Contributed to the mapping of the immigrant inclusion fields in the UK and US and provides a novel comprehensive typology for cataloguing immigrant inclusion activities.
- Used Qualtrics software to create, pre-test, administer, and analyse the UK and US online surveys for this research.

Master of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

2003

Master of Social Work, School of Social Work

University of Michigan, USA

Master Thesis Title: *Regulating the International Small Arms Trade: Lessons Learned from Regulating the International Diamond and Endangered Species Trades*

- Masters' Thesis: *Regulating the International Small Arms Trade: Lessons Learned from Regulating the International Diamond and Endangered Species Trades*
- Elected and served as student representative to the Ford School Student Affairs Committee, the primary liaison between the Ford School's students, faculty, and administrators
- Co-facilitated quantitative social science workshop at the University of Capetown as part of graduate program

Bachelor of Science in Education

2000

Creighton University, USA, graduated summa cum laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Scholar, School of Public Policy

2025

University of Connecticut, USA

Research Assistant, School of Social and Political Science

2022

University of Edinburgh, UK

- Conducted a review of specialist literature to select and profile cases in international digital democratic innovations. The review and cases were used in the development of the Edinburgh Future Institute's new postgraduate course on Digital Democratic Innovations.

Research Assistant, Devolved Democracy Forum funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh

2021

University of Edinburgh, UK

- Identified and recruited 44 practitioners and academics involved with democratic experiments in the three UK devolved territories to serve as contributors to the DDF; conducted 34 semi-structured online interviews with DDF contributors and performed thematic analysis of interviews to shape the discussions of the six DDF sessions; co-organised and co-facilitated with DDF Principle Investigator six online sessions for contributors to

share experiences, insights, resources and questions related to democratic experiments across the devolved UK territories and their impact on citizen engagement based on themes drawn from interviews with DDF contributors; co-authored with DDF Principle Investigator session summaries and project final report; created and circulated DDF contributor and resource rosters for research participants.

Research Assistant, Edinburgh Futures Institute 2021
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Conducted a systematic scoping review of evidence from recent literature on digital democratic innovations and data-driven governance. This review fed into the development of a democratic innovations training offered by the Edinburgh Futures Institute in July 2021.

Research Assistant, Scottish Government Migration and Population Expert Advisory Group 2021
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Identified, gathered and analysed data on national and community-based policies on family migration in different countries and drafted a chapter on family migration policy for a report prepared by the Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population commissioned by the Scottish Government.

Research Assistant, Smart Urban Intermediaries 2020
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Anonymized interview data from UK sites for submission to UK data archives.

Research Assistant, Exploratory Research: European Council Agenda-setting Effects on Individual Countries' Air Pollution Environmental Legislation 2019
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Developed initial codebook format for project; identified relevant EU, UK, US and Canada policy documents and background information regarding greenhouse gas emissions policies; conducted and coded preliminary document analysis to see what, if any, influence EU policy has had on UK, US and Canada domestic environmental policies.

Research Assistant, What Works Scotland 2018-2019
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Co-authored with Professor Oliver Escobar a policy brief on participatory budgeting in Scotland.

Research Assistant, U.S. Institute of Peace Constitution Writing and Conflict Resolution Project 2002-2004
University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, USA

- Investigated writing processes and substantive provisions of constitutions for select countries in Africa, Europe, and South America; researched countries' political, socio-economic conditions and levels of violence during constitution writing process; coded information, and wrote narrative case summaries for project's public database.

SELECT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Facilitator, Migration Policy Scotland (MPS) 2021-2022
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

- Facilitated breakout discussions at in-person MPS launch event and at online MPS discovery session on how to build in migrant lived experience.

Co-founder, Student Parents Meetup Group 2018-2020
University of Edinburgh, UK

- Co-founded group that provided face-to-face and online spaces for student parents to connect with and support one another; advocacy for making the university more welcoming and inclusive of student parents and their families; and a network for exchanging resources and providing experiences tailored to student parents.
- Started and managed email listserve for group; helped organize and facilitate meetups; and worked to link group's advocacy and network with university staff and networks who also are promoting more family-friendly, inclusive policies and practices.
- Co-planned, co-organised, and co-facilitated a first-of-its-kind half-day writing retreat for 17 student parents and their families featuring childcare, transportation assistance, meals, an optional morning meditation session and quiet open space for writing and school work. The University looked at this as a model for future events.

Appointed Working Group Member, Amnesty International USA Military, Security, and Police Transfers National Co-Group (AI USA MSPCG), Washington, DC, USA 2004-2008, 2017-2018

- Appointed in 2004 as one of six experts charged with advising and supporting AI USA staff on the transfer of arms, military and police equipment and technology; planned and managed development of activist e-database of 8,000+ members; edited and wrote for monthly e-newsletter; co-presented workshops at regional and annual AI USA conferences; educated and lobbied government officials on international and national MSP-related issues including the development of the UN Small Arms Treaty; served as an AI representative and advocate at the 2006 UN Small Arms Review Conference.
- Reappointed in January 2017 to advise and support AI staff in the development and implementation of strategy, advocacy, research and membership engagement on MSP issues and transfers.

Volunteer Chairperson, #LightTheWay for Refugees and Immigrants on Presidents Day Community Vigil, Omaha, Nebraska, USA 2017

- Over a three-week period, oversaw the planning and implementation of grassroots community event attended by 1,000 community members to respond to the executive order halting the U.S. refugee program and banning those from seven Muslim-majority countries;
- Developed vision and core messaging for event; facilitated planning and post-event debrief meetings; recruited and supported point people to manage logistics, volunteers, pre-event educational and advocacy activities, community outreach, communications, and sister cities engagement; created online toolkit for people in other cities to use to organize their own #LightTheWay events; performed media outreach and served as an event spokesperson; secured in-kind branding for event by award-winning design firm.

Founder and Executive Director 2005-2014
Project Interfaith, USA

- Started and led non-governmental organization recognized nationally and globally for its innovative multimedia and in-person programming to make open, respectful conversations and learning about religious and spiritual identity and diversity a social norm. Skill sets, knowledge, and experiences gained through this role include:
 - **Brokering collaborative partnerships with diverse public, private, religious, and civil society organizations:** Collaborations included government agencies, arts organizations, higher education institutions, IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, foundations and corporations. For example, in 2014 Project Interfaith became an official non-Federal partner of the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, a joint initiative of the White House and the Department of Education.
 - **Fundraising and earned income generation:** Increased annual budget from US\$56,000 to average of US\$250,000 and diversified revenue base through grants, private donations, and fee-for-service products, trainings, and consultative services.
 - **Serving as an expert and consultant to businesses, government and intergovernmental agencies, higher education institutions, religious and non-governmental organizations, and think tanks about cultural and religious diversity and inclusion.** Clients included the U.S. Department of Education Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Aspen Institute's Justice and Society Program, Creighton University, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
 - **Organizational development and strategic growth:** Grew Project Interfaith from local interfaith organization to one contributing at local, regional, national, and international levels. Received recognition from diverse array of esteemed institutions including Aspen Institute, Harvard University's Pluralism Project, and Georgetown University's Berkley Center. Set-up strategic partnerships with regional U.S. and European non-governmental organizations that extended reach of Project Interfaith programs, products, and services.
 - **Qualitative research skills:** Worked collaboratively with academics and practitioners to develop and administer in-person and online needs assessments and program evaluation for program development and advocacy.
 - **Innovative use of digital media in interfaith work:** Conceived and launched RavelUnravel.com, a multimedia exploration of the religious and spiritual identities that make-up our communities and world. Included database of 1,100+ video interviews; high school, college and adult education curriculum sets; and a video campaigns feature that allowed individuals and groups to create and run their own campaigns through the site.
 - **Program, curriculum, and training development:** Created varied programs such as a national traveling art exhibit, local interfaith architecture tours, speaker series on timely themes, speed dialogues, and interfaith study circles. Developed, organized, and facilitated digital and in-person curriculum, trainings, and resources for educators, care givers, health care and disaster response providers, and other professionals.

Appointed Board Member and Public Policy Representative 2008-2010
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Council, USA

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- “Boiling Point: How the UK and US Governments Crafted Immigration Environments of Extreme Unwelcoming in the Brexit and Trump Eras, Notable Similarities and Differences” (Presenter), hosted by the University of Exeter ROUTES: Migration, Mobility, Displacement Research Network, March 2025.
- “Boiling Point: How the First Trump Administration Transformed US Immigration and its Impact on Immigrant Inclusion Efforts. A Public Lecture with Beth Katz” (Presenter), hosted by the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) at the University of Ghent, February 2025.
- “Immigrant inclusion: Past learnings & strategies for the future administration. A webinar featuring Beth Katz” (Presenter), attended by 215 practitioners, academics, and funders of immigrant inclusion work hosted by the Weitz Family Foundation, January 2025.
- “Takeaways from research on how the first Trump Presidency impacted immigrant inclusion efforts in the US and a practical conversation about preparing for the second one: A lunch and learn event with PhD Researcher Beth Katz” (Presenter), hosted by the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, November 2024
- “Exploring the national government’s impact on UK and US-based immigrant inclusion efforts during the Brexit and Trump eras” (Panel Presenter), Political Science Association (PSA) Annual International Conference, March 2021
- “Compassionate Edinburgh” (Panel Presenter), Charter for Compassion webinar, part of international series to highlight people conducting activities that foster compassion in their communities and in the world, November 2020
- “Local opportunity windows in hostile political environments: Immigration politics in the Brexit and Trump eras” (Panel Presenter), Political Science Association Early Career Network (PSA ECN) Conference, July 2020
- “Centrifugal politics and the increasing influence of subnational and non-state actors on UK and US immigration policy in the Brexit and Trump eras” (Panel Presenter), Political Science Association (PSA) Annual International Conference, accepted for the April 2020 annual conference (conference cancelled due to Covid pandemic)
- “Regulating Air: Policy Diffusion and the Transatlantic Relationship” (Panel Co-presenter with Dr. Corina Lacatus and Dr. Shaun Bevan), Political Science Association (PSA) Annual International Conference, accepted for the April 2020 annual conference (conference cancelled due to Covid pandemic)
- *Policy briefing – Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting: What Works in Building Foundations for a More Participatory Democracy?* (Co-authored with Dr. Oliver Escobar), What Works Scotland website, December 2018
- “Spiritual Identity and Religious Diversity: Ethical Implications for Our Work” (Keynote Speaker), Grief’s Journey 4th Annual Grief Awareness Conference, November 2017
- “The Women’s Balcony: Film Screening and Panel” (Panelist), Institute for Holocaust Education and Film Streams Theatre, October 2017
- “Social Entrepreneurship: Reflections from Founding and Running an NGO” (Featured Speaker), Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Institute on Civic Engagement at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, September 2017
- “Interfaithing 101: Talking with Ourselves and One Another about Spiritual Identity and Experience” (Featured Presenter), Urban Abbey, August 2017
- “Welcoming the Stranger: Refugee Resettlement After the Ban” (Panel), Beth El Synagogue, February 2017
- “Religion and Culture in the Workplace” (Featured Speaker), Human Resource Association of the Midlands September Diversity Symposium, September 2015
- “Act Local, Think Global: The Art of Social Entrepreneurship” (Panel), American Jewish Committee ACCESS Global Summit, May 2014
- “Embracing the New Normal: Lessons Learned from Using a Multimedia Approach to Interfaith Work” (Keynote Speaker), Eleventh Annual Doha Interfaith Conference, March 2014
- “Mentoring Session” (Mentor), SXSW Interactive Festival, March 2014
- “Models of Interfaith Engagement: Lessons Relevant for Those Working in Pakistan and the U.S.” (Presenter and Network Member), Interfaith Leadership Network Inaugural Gathering, January 2014
- “New Technologies and Dialogue” (Panel), King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) Global Forum, November 2013
- “RavelUnravel: A Tool for Exploring and Understanding Religious and Spiritual Identity” (Workshop), Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, November 2013
- “Navigating the Final Frontier: Religious and Spiritual Identity in the Workplace” (Workshop), Society for Human Resources Management Annual Conference, September 2013
- “Let’s Go Fishing: Building Interfaith Capacity in Individuals and Communities” and “The New Normal: Interfaith Engagement in a Multimedia World” (Workshops), Hartford Seminary’s Second Annual Religious Diversity Leadership Workshop, June 2013
- “Reimagining Interfaith Conversation: Engaging Your Community Through Multimedia” (Webinar), Council for the Parliament of the World’s Religions, August 2012

- “720 New Ways to See U.S. Religious Identity” (Article), Common Ground News Service, June 2012
- “Religion, Ethics, and the Workplace” (Panel), Business Ethics Alliance, April 2012
- “Three Critical Factors: The Role of Context, Teacher Preparedness and Language in Shaping Teaching about Religion Pedagogy and Implementation” (Symposium Paper), International Symposium on Religion, Spirituality and Education for Human Flourishing, co-convened by Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace and UN Alliance of Civilizations ‘Education about Religions and Beliefs’ Project, February 2012
- “Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable” (TEDxTalk), TEDxOmaha, October 2011
- “It’s About Relationships, Not Agreement: Including Theologically-Conservative Community Members in Interfaith Efforts” (Presentation), Parliament of the World’s Religions, December 2009
- “Making the Grade: Ways the Academy Can Support the Needs of Educators in Teaching about Religion and Working with Religiously Diverse Students” (Paper and Seminar), American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2009
- “Why Evangelicals and the Interfaith Movement Need Each Other” (Article), co-authored with Chris Heuertz, *Relevant Magazine*, June 2009
- “Learning About and Across Differences” (Panel), UN Alliance of Civilizations Istanbul Forum, April 2009

Works in Progress (Publications)

- Katz, B.A. “‘Every Day Is a War’: Impacts from the First Trump Administration on the US Immigrant Inclusion Field and Insights on Fortifying the Field during the Second Trump Administration” (Peer-Reviewed Article)
- Katz, B.A. “A Fast Boil: How the First Trump Administration Rapidly and Comprehensively Transformed the US immigration Environment into One of Extreme Unwelcoming in Four Short Years (Peer-Reviewed Article)
- Katz, B.A. “Boiling Points: A Theoretical Metaphor for Understanding and Profiling How National Governments Craft Immigration Environments of Extreme Unwelcoming” (Peer-Reviewed Article)
- Katz, B.A. “More Alike Than They May Seem: Seven Common Features of the UK and US Governments’ Harsh Immigration Approaches in the Brexit and Trump Eras” (Peer-Reviewed Article)

SELECT CONSULTING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

- Consultant and Public Speaker, Self-employed, Omaha, Nebraska, USA 2017-2018, 2025
- Consulted with individuals, organizations, and community groups on issues related to immigration, diversity and inclusion, community-building, visioning, leadership development, social entrepreneurship, and strategic planning.
 - Presented to groups and organizations on topics related to immigration, inclusion, community-building, social entrepreneurship, and dialogue facilitation.
- Advisory Board Member, World Faith: Interfaith Youth In Action, New York City, New York, USA 2017-2019
- Trustee, Business Ethics Alliance, Omaha, Nebraska, USA 2011-2018
- Invited Participant, Annual Religion and Foreign Policy Summer Workshop, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), New York, New York, USA 2013- 2014
- Appointed Advisory Board Member, Mayor’s Clergy Advisory Board, Omaha, Nebraska, USA 2008-2013
- Counseled the Office of the Mayor on religious, spiritual and cultural diversity and inclusion and diversified the Advisory Board by recruiting Muslim, Jewish, Baha’i, Hindu, and Buddhist community leaders.
- Consultative Committee Member, Nebraska Medical Center’s Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Consultative Committee, Omaha, Nebraska, USA 2009-2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Professor, Marketing and Management Department, Heider College of Business** 2015-2016
Creighton University, USA
- Produced a market analysis white paper for the College in December 2018 on options for growing its co-curricular entrepreneurship education program.
 - Course developed and taught:
 - “Religion and Business” Cross-listed Graduate and Undergraduate Course (Spring Term 2016)
- Adjunct Professor, College of Education** 2009-2011
University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA

- Courses developed and taught:
 - “Religious Diversity in the Schools” Graduate Course (Summer Terms 2009, 2010, & 2011)

Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science

2006

University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA

- Courses developed and taught:
 - “International Conflict Resolution” Undergraduate Course (Autumn Term 2006, Political Science Department)

SELECT AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- **Edinburgh Award: Professionalism in Community Engagement**, University of Edinburgh School of Social and Political Science, July 2019. Awarded to students whom the University has recognized for actively working to maximize their impact and excel in their community engagement role.
- **Magis Medal Award**, Alpha Sigma Nu (The Honor Society of Jesuit Colleges and Universities), August 2015. Awarded during the honor society’s centennial year to 100 members who “truly live out the ASN values.”
- **Ten Outstanding Young Omahans Award**, Omaha Jaycees, February 2012. Presented annually to individuals under 40 who have exemplified the ideals of their communities and exhibited extraordinary leadership qualities.
- **President’s Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award**, Creighton University, January 2012. Award given to individuals who have demonstrated King’s legacy in areas of social justice and civil rights advocacy and have distinguished civic, cultural or volunteer service and a demonstrated commitment to the educational and community ideals supported by Creighton University’s mission.
- **Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurship** (adrfellowship.org), 2011. Selected as one of 23 social entrepreneurs in North America and Western Europe to participate in program to increase scale and impact of promising social enterprises, put on by the business schools of University of Cambridge, Cornell University and ESSEC in partnership with the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations. Received “Best Pitch” award for social entrepreneurship presentation to jury of investors and academics. Served on jury to select 2013 cohort of fellows.
- Selected as **1 of 50 U.S. community leaders invited to attend White House gathering and reception with President Obama** in recognition of community-building work, April 2011.
- **College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Merit Award**, Creighton University, September 2008. Recognizes outstanding alumni from each school and college who live life with high moral standards, guided by the Jesuit ideal of “women and men for and with others.”
- **Presidential Management Fellowship Finalist**, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 2004.
- **Alpha Sigma Nu Inducted Member**, Alpha Sigma Nu, December 2000.