JESSICA R. GOLD

Mixed-methods higher education research scientist with 9+ years of experience leveraging social science to bridge rigorous research and policy-relevant solutions. Enthusiastic learner with proven ability to design and execute complex research projects and communicate findings to diverse audiences.

Skills

Research Design and Analysis: Statistical modeling; Supervised and unsupervised algorithmic machine learning for text analysis; Social network analysis; Qualitative content analysis; In-depth interviews; Focus groups; Survey design; Data-linking large scale education data and administrative data; Data visualization; Research communication and writing

Research Tools and Software: R, Stata, Atlas.ti, Qualtrics, some SQL and Python

Other: Compassionate leadership, public speaking, interpersonal communication, and relationship-building; Spanish proficiency

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Education

Ph.D. The University of California, Davis, Sociology
M.A. The University of California, Davis, Sociology
B.A. The College of William and Mary, Sociology

Professional Experience

WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER   *Sept 2024 – Present*
Research Scientist (Contract Position for project: "Diversity and Excellence in Higher Education")   Berlin, Germany - *Remote*
- Designed interview protocol and conducted 50 in-depth interviews with university equity staff and administrators in the US and UK.
- Analyzed US, UK, and German interview transcripts (n=75) comparing approaches to equity and excellence in universities in the three countries.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY   *Aug 2021 – Present*
Associate Research Scientist; Postdoctoral Research Scientist   Boston, MA - *Remote*
- Led interdisciplinary research and survey/bibliometric data collection using statistical, social network, and computational text analyses.
- Designed and executed qualitative studies, including 50 in-depth interviews with university administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Oversaw and mentored diverse research teams, guiding undergraduate and graduate students in producing peer-reviewed projects
- Published findings in peer-reviewed journals (e.g., Social Science Quarterly); presented at 17 national/international conferences.
- Prepared funding reports, and applications; presented research results to NSF directors and stakeholders.

ADVANCE RESOURCE COORDINATION (ARC) NETWORK   *Aug 2023 – Aug 2024*
Virtual Visiting Scholar   Tucson, AZ - *Remote*
- Secured $20,000 grant to conduct meta-analysis of over 500 documents using computational text analysis methods.
- Published 10-page report on ARC website and presented findings at annual ARC conference, board meetings, and webinars.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS   *Sept 2015 – July 2021*
Doctoral Researcher, Dept. of Sociology   Davis, CA
- Designed measurement tool combining qualitative content analysis and supervised machine learning to identify engaged scholarship in university faculty applications (cover letters, teaching/research statements) across 137,512 applicants. Identified demographic differences in applicant's use of engaged scholarship language across 9 universities, 6 disciplines, and 6 years of data using statistical modeling.
- Secured $48,050 research grant and multiple travel grants (total $2,600) to support research and conference presentations.
- Led workshops in quantitative research group teaching R to graduate students; member of Data Feminism (ethical AI) research group.
Research Assistant, Dept. of Sociology   *June 2016 – June 2020*
- Developed reproducible data management and linking systems for multi-organizational and longitudinal administrative hiring dataset.
- Contributed to writing funding extension for $1,184,546 NSF-funded ECR-EDU core research award.
Research Assistant, Data Science Initiative   *Sept 2017 – Aug 2018*
- Designed user interface for university faculty to utilize unsupervised machine learning models for exploratory text analysis of survey data.
Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Sociology   *Sept 2015 – Dec 2018*
- Intermediate Statistics (undergraduate/graduate students); Classic Social Theory, Sociology of Deviance, Social Psychology (undergraduate students)

ANIMAS RIVER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION PROJECT   *June 2018 – Aug 2018*
Survey Research Analyst (Contract Position)   Durango, CO
- Produced statistical reports and data visualizations using survey data for EPA funded project investigating community water use in SW Colorado.

ADVENTURE TREKS   *May 2013 – Aug 2015*
Trip Leader   United States
- Led teams of six instructors and 24 clients on month-long, multi-sport outdoor adventure trips in Alaska, the Pacific NW, and Appalachia.
- Coordinated travel logistics, budget, team management and safety; Certified Wilderness First Responder (SOLO and NOLS).