

JAMES BOWLES

Research and consultancy with nonprofit and public sector organisations

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Education

University of Birmingham

PhD., Social Policy, 2017-2022, Pass with minor corrections

Thesis title: '[Spatial data use in the UK nonprofit sector: a sociotechnical exploration](#)'

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded scholarship. Supervised by Professor John Mohan (Third Sector Research Centre, Social Policy) and Dr Peter Lee (Geography). Examined by Professor Susan Halford and Professor Paul Montgomery.

M.A., Social Research (Local Government and Public Policy), 2016-2017, Distinction

Modular options included: Research philosophy and design; Social Research Methods I & II (range of qualitative / quantitative methods and analyses. SPSS and NVivo training); Public service procurement and contracting; Engaging citizens: participation and democracy; Independent Dissertation: '[Digital Governance and Dynamic Health Data - a Review of JSNA Display in England](#)' (Grade: 82)

Royal Holloway, University of London

B.A. Geography, 2013-2016, First Class Honours.

Dissertation: [Cartographic Representations of the Third Sector](#)

Research and consultancy experience

- Research Consultant, June 2022 – ongoing, Apteligen Ltd.
- Research Associate, August 2021 - ongoing, Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham. Working primarily on the [Border Crossings](#) project.
- Research and Strategy Consultant, April 2021 – May 2022, working with Apteligen Ltd to review data processes and strategy for a leading anti-poverty charity and conduct stakeholder research for a specialist healthcare charity.
- Project Advisor (voluntary), March – May 2021, Catalyst and Hetco Design development of '[Community Lens](#)' tool.
- Research Assistant, Autumn 2019 – February 2021, for Professor John Mohan, University of Birmingham.
- Graduate Teaching Associate, Spring 2020, 'Fundamentals of Quantitative Research Methods', M.A. module. University of Birmingham.
- Research Assistant, Spring 2019, Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham.
- Voluntary consultancy, Spring 2019, worked with a Community Foundation and a Funders' Network to improve data visualisation and grant allocation, impact and reporting.
- Research consultancy, Autumn 2018, Research briefing on charity distribution for New Philanthropy Capital [CEO keynote speech](#).
- Research consultancy, Spring 2018, Data analysis and report input for [Centre for London report](#).

Non-research experience

- Census Officer (15 hrs p/w) March – April 2021, Office for National Statistics.
- Office Administrator (15 hrs p/w), October 2016 – November 2017, Sustainability West Midlands, Birmingham.

- Executive Assistant (15 hrs p/w), July 2015 – August 2016, International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY), London.

Conferences and presentations

Academic

- September 2021, Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference, Birmingham. Three full papers.
- June 2021, University of Birmingham School of Social Policy PGR conference. Full paper: 'Uncovering the socially constructed nature of data-driven epistemic practices in the UK nonprofit sector'
- November 2019, ARNOVA Conference, San Diego. Full paper: 'Spatial data use as an expression of nonprofit values and aims'
- November 2019, ARNOVA Doctoral Fellows Seminar. Research overview.
- September 2019, Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference, Birmingham. Full paper: 'Spatial data as a boundary object'
- July 2019, University of Birmingham School of Social Policy PGR conference. Full paper: 'Knowing people and place through spatial data: the case of the UK's third sector'
- April 2019, GISRUUK Conference, Newcastle. Short paper: 'Future directions for: the role of geospatial data in third sector service provision'
- September 2018, Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference, London. Short paper: 'The role of geospatial data in third sector service provision: developing a framework for research and practice'

Practice-based

- May 2021, Data for Good UK festival, Online. 'How to use geospatial data'.
- November 2018, Data4Good UK conference, Birmingham. [Mapping tools for third sector organisations](#)'.
- September 2018, Voluntary Sector Trends, Birmingham. 'Third sector trends in the West Midlands'.
- April 2018, West Midlands Data Drive, Birmingham. 'The role of geospatial data in third sector service provision'.

Publications

- Bowles, J. (2022) 'Spatial approaches to the voluntary sector' *Invited book chapter for: (Eds) Dean, J. and Hogg, E., 'Researching Voluntary Action: Innovations and Challenges.'*
- Bowles, J. (2020). [Book review] 'Social Innovation: How Societies Find the Power to Change' by Geoff Mulgan (2019). *Voluntary Sector Review*, 11(2), 255-256.

Work in progress

- 'Stepping back from Data and AI for Good – Current trends and ways forward', *co-author with Ville Aula, LSE. Paper under review.*
- 'Enacting hybridity: exploring public sector establishment of charities in England and Wales, *working paper with Professor John Mohan, Birmingham.*
- 'Digitally mediated expertise: exploring nonprofit knowledge of people and place' *working paper.*

Voluntary service

- Peer reviewer for VOLUNTAS: The International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organisations. 2020.
- Grant assessment panel member, University of Birmingham ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Management Group. 2019-2021.
- Social Policy PhD student representative at School, Department and College level. 2017-2019.
- Conference committee member, School of Social Policy PGR conference 2019.
- Night Shelter Volunteer, St Stephens Church, Birmingham. 2017-2018.
- Policy Intern, Emmaus Colchester. Summer 2014.

Languages and skills

- NVivo – Advanced
- MS Office suite – Advanced
- QGIS – Intermediate / Advanced
- Google suite - Intermediate
- WordPress / CiviCRM – Intermediate
- ArcGIS suite – Intermediate
- SPSS – Intermediate
- SQL - Basic
- R and R studio IDE – Basic
- Python and PyCharm IDE – Basic (beginner)