

Aaron R. King

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL | in progress
Ph.D., Geography
Focus Areas: Community Conservation, Wildlife Economy

Villanova University, Villanova, PA | May 2012
M.A., Political Science
Oral Comprehensive Exam (with Distinction)

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY | May 2009
B.A., Journalism, *cum Laude*
Minor Fields: Philosophy, Politics

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Sub-Saharan Africa
Participatory Governance
Community Conservation

Wildlife Policy and Economy
Political Economy
Mixed-Methods Research

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA | October 2021 – Present
Director of Online Learning Strategy

Responsible for collaborating with faculty and key University stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy guiding the development of online programs across UVA's schools. Guide schools in new online program development with market research and data analytics support, alignment of start-up resources, strategic sourcing of services, and ongoing strategic support for long-term health and growth.

University of Florida, Office of Distance Learning, Gainesville, FL | July 2016 – October 2021
Assistant Director, Academic Support Services

Managed new program development and approval process for distance graduate programs. Supported faculty in program proposal and business plan development. Directed ODL's Skills Architecture project. Managed market alignment consultation and program review service for online programs. Provided business intelligence and data analytics support to ODL business units.

Key Accomplishments

- 42 new online graduate programs approved from 2016 to 2021.
- Developed an online program market consultation service to assess curriculum alignment with in-demand skills and facilitate employer engagement strategies.
- Planned inaugural Florida Workforce Collaboration Summit, hosted at the University of Florida in September 2019. Aimed to build working relationships among approximately 100 leaders in higher education, industry, and economic development agencies across the state.
- Collaborated to launch marketing and recruitment service for online graduate programs.
- Led development and re-design projects on four UF websites, including rebuild of analytics and user behavior tracking systems. Served as department webmaster.

NURU Agency, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | May 2018 – February 2019
Consultant

Contributed to development of communications plan and collateral for Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority's (TAWA) campaign to increase tourism and investment in several game reserves, including Selous and Kijireshi Game Reserves. Consulted on grant applications for local governance of wildlife and natural resources capacity building initiatives.

Children of Rural Africa, Evans City, PA \ Ogoja, Nigeria | June 2014 – June 2016

U.S. Country Director

Responsible for fundraising, communications, and project evaluation for an international development non-profit, as well as managing administrative staff. CorAfrica managed two schools and orphanages in rural Nigeria and focused on health, sanitation, and agricultural and job training programs.

Center for Peace and Justice Education, Villanova University, Villanova, PA | 2010 – 2012

Program Assistant

Assisted in program development, communications, and community outreach. Developed a community service program for Villanova students focusing on nutrition and urban gardening in Camden, NJ. Organized lecture series on public education challenges in Camden, NJ.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Teaching

GEO 3430: Population Geography (Fall 2021), University of Florida

Guest Lecturer

CPO 2001: Comparative Politics (Spring 2013), Santa Fe College

PSC 4875: Comparative Civil Liberties (Spring 2012), Villanova University

Teaching Assistant

Public Education in Camden, NJ Lecture Series (Fall 2010, Spring 2011), Villanova University

JOU 112: Journalism Research (Spring 2008, Spring 2009), Ithaca College

PUBLICATIONS

2013. Book Review. "Hagher, Iyorwuese. 2011. *Nigeria: After the Nightmare*. Lanham: University Press of America." *African Studies Quarterly* 13(4): 109-110.

PRESENTATIONS

"Online Graduate Education and the New Language of Skills: Data-Driven Strategies to Meet the Workforce Needs of Lifelong Learners." Florida Distance Learning Association Annual Conference. October 2020.

"Addressing Education Deserts." Emsi Webinar, March 25, 2020.

<https://www.economicmodeling.com/2020/03/25/webinar-ed-deserts-uf/>

"Engaging Industry Near and Far: Using Labor Market Data and Online Delivery to Meet Employer Needs." *Invited presentation*. Emsi 2019. Coeur d'Alene, ID, September 16-18, 2019.

"Data-Driven Program Development: Adding Value While Expanding Access to a University's Online Portfolio." Online Learning 2019. Toronto, ON, October 8-10, 2019.

"Consultative Program Reviews: Using Data to Identify Opportunities." U.S. Distance Learning Association Annual Conference. Nashville, TN, May 2019.

"Explaining International Law Compliance in the Developing World: The Case of Nigeria in the Bakassi Peninsula Dispute." Political Science Graduate Research Conference. Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 8, 2013.

"Three Components of State Fragility: Foundations of Conflict and Underdevelopment in Africa." International Studies Association-South Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, October 2012.

"The End of the Cold War and Interstate Cooperation in Africa." Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, November 2011.

"Partners in Development: Accountability and Feedback at the Local Level in International Aid Organizations." Human Development Conference. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, Feb. 2011.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant, David M. Barrett, Villanova University 2010 – 2012 Primary source document analysis; editorial and indexing assistance for the resulting publication: David M. Barrett and Max Holland, <i>Blind Over Cuba</i> (Texas A&M Press, 2012).</p> <p>Field Research, Nigeria Summer 2008 Monitored NGO projects; conducted 60 semi-structured interviews and two focus groups in rural Cross River State to assess local needs and gauge aid accountability to intended beneficiaries; funded by research grant from Park School of Communications at Ithaca College.</p>
FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS	<p>McKnight Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 2012 – 2014 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, 2012 Graduate Fellow, M. J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good, 2011 – 2012 University Presidential Fellowship for Underrepresented Students, 2010 – 2012 Peggy R. Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership, Ithaca College, 2009 Academic Achievement Award, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Ithaca College, 2007 – 2009</p>
GRANTS AND AWARDS	<p>Pre-Dissertation Travel Award, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 2013 Social, Behavioral, and Economic Science First-Year PhD Student Award, UF, 2012 Graduate Student Travel Grant, Villanova University, 2011 Research Travel Award, Park School of Communications, Ithaca College, 2008 First Prize, Perialas Prize in Persuasive Oratory, Ithaca College, 2007</p>
SERVICE	<p>Editorial Committee, <i>African Studies Quarterly</i>, 2012 – 2014 African Politics Search Committee, Dept. of Political Science, Villanova University, Fall 2011</p>
SKILLS	<p>Software: Latex, SPSS, Stata, Adobe CC (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premier Pro) Programming Languages: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, R, Python</p>