

Amanda H. Meng

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EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology (expected) May 2016
PhD, International Affairs and Technology
Field of Study: ICT, Development, Democracy

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University May 2011 - May 2012
Masters of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (only 1 year completed)
Field of Study: Development Economics, International Political Economy

Georgia Institute of Technology, graduated summa cum laude May 2008
Bachelor of Science in Global Economics and Spanish
Minor in International Affairs

PUBLICATIONS

Best, M. and A. Meng (2015) "Twitter Democracy: Policy versus identity politics in three emerging African democracies." Accepted as full paper to Information Communication Technologies for Development Conference. May 15-18, Singapore.

Meng, A. (2014) "Investigating the Roots of Open Data's Social Impact." *eJournal of eDemocracy and Open Government*. Volume 6(1) 1-13.

RESEARCH

Research Assistant, Technologies and International Development Lab Dec 2012 - now

- Social Media Monitoring of Elections
 - Served as Georgia Tech deployment lead, Ghana National Elections, December 2012
 - Led focus groups to evaluate user experience
 - Trained local staff and stakeholders in use of social media tracking software, Aggie, Ekiti State, Nigeria Gubernatorial Elections, June 2014
 - Performed post-hoc text analysis of social media data from four African Elections

Research Consultant, Open Data Research Network July 2014

- Conducted a review of Uruguay's 2014 open data survey that includes interviews with in-country experts, inventory of government data available online, right to information legislation, research journals, media coverage, etc.

Research Consultant, International Communications Union Feb 2014 - July 2014

- Provided analysis of global youth crowdsourced ideas on objectives and targets for the Beyond 2015 MDGs;
- Assessed how closely UN agency representatives reflected youth crowdsourced input in final objective and goal statements.
- Presented final report to stakeholders from UN agencies (ILO, WHO, etc.)

Independent Evaluator, NextDrop, Hubli, Karnataka, India May 2012 - July 2012

- Conducted preliminary impact evaluation on NextDrop, a mobile phone based social enterprise that sends text messages on water delivery schedule

- Managed two translators over a 2 month time period to evaluate socioeconomic impact of the SMS service through household interviews, community focus groups, and direct observation; interviewed over 100 individuals
- Delivered report indicating how and where NextDrop could produce social impact, including suggestions of target urban user population that would maximize socioeconomic impact

Research Assistant, Dr. Jenny Aker Fletcher School, Tufts University Jan 2012 - July 2012

- Built census of mobile development projects in 18 weak and failing states; census includes technology description, project objectives, service offered, and indicators of success
- Contributed to impact evaluation of mobile money and cash transfers by conducting GIS proximity analysis of participating villages to better understand spillover effects, distance to market, and land cover impact on success of cash transfers

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Project Assistant, Intel Public Design Workshop at Georgia Tech Jan 2013 - Dec 2014

- Partnered with Atlanta Local Food Initiative in the deployment of online document editing platform to facilitate passage of urban garden/urban market zoning ordinance through Neighborhood Planning Units and Atlanta City Council.
- Planned the Food Data Hack, a hackathon focused on using data and networked technologies to improve the local food system

Team Member, Frontline SMS Monitoring and Evaluation Project Dec 2011 - May 2012

- Developed a logic framework, theory of change, and survey instrument to monitor and evaluate impact of Frontline SMS, a bulk text messaging platform used for development projects

Volunteer, Peace Corps, Dominican Republic, ICT/Education Sector March 2009 - May 2011

- Co-organized inaugural, 3-day, Educator's Conference, "Acción por la Educación"
 - Participants included principals, teachers, counselors from 7 communities received training in classroom management, community involvement, use of ICT, etc.
- Enhanced ICT capacity in a local high school
 - Trained teachers, school administrators, and students in basic and advanced ICT
 - Worked with Ministry of Education to secure necessary energy equipment for lab
- Developed parameters and materials to conduct evaluation of success and sustainability of projects in the PCDR Education Sector from 2001 - 2009
- Provided web support and training for local artisan cooperative
 - Trained local youth to be a sustainable ICT resource for artisan cooperative to build up online presence to increase customer base and export possibilities
- National Youth and ICT Initiatives
 - Co-organized two, 3-day conferences for Dominican youth; participants attended workshops on ICT, leadership, and professional development
 - Co-authored ICT Service Learning Youth Manual with mission of taking ICT out of the lab and into the community
 - Co-developed new cross sector, ICT/Health initiative to create educational Telenovela, awarded PEPFAR funding and Kids to Kids Grant

SKILLS AND LANGUAGE

Advanced level of oral and written Spanish; Extensive experience in quantitative and qualitative research; Strong leadership and organizational skills; Experienced using STATA, DreamWeaver, GIS, Luminoso; Familiar with SQL, SPSS, Java based Python, HTML

