

BENJAMIN WEINRYB GROHSGAL

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Education

- HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, John F. Kennedy School of Government 2014
- Master in Public Policy, Taubman Fellow for State and Local Government
 - Thesis: [San Francisco – Change on the Streets](#): Using Data to Understand Urban Design, Public Policy, and Neighborhood Transformation
- HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Graduate School of Design 2014
- Master in Urban Planning, with distinction
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**, Columbia College 2008
- BA in Architecture, magna cum laude

Experience

- BUZZFEED - Software Engineer** 2016-Now
- Learning Tools**
- Built infrastructure to gather, process, migrate and warehouse metadata and performance data for distributed assets and make available through APIs and dashboards.
 - Built a variety of services including a tagging API, NSQ-driven notifications, and an elasticsearch metadata store.
- BUZZFEED - Data Analyst** 2015-2016
- (Distributed) Data Science**
- Built scripts to collect data concerning media living on distributed platforms and built out performance reporting and visualization tools.
- BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON – Senior Consultant** 2014-2015
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security**
- Worked in the analytics and modeling group at ICE, optimizing processes and producing visualizations surrounding policy decisions.
- Fannie Mae**
- Automated reporting and analytical processes with VBA tools to increase ease and speed of project management functions for a 500+ person effort to consolidate and update data and software systems.
- Internal Projects**
- Built an automated account revenue projection tool.
 - Improved a competitor analysis contracting database.
- ASH CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION AT HARVARD** 2011-2014
- Data Smart City Solutions Initiative – Research Assistant**
- Studied changes in urban policy enabled by information democratization, open government, and big-data.
 - Contributed to articles and essays including Governing Magazine’s “Better, Faster, Cheaper” column, and Manhattan Institute projects.
- Inter-American Development Bank – Research Assistant**
- Developed papers and policy recommendations for the “Innovations in Public

Management for Better Service Delivery” Technical Cooperation Program.

Innovations in American Government Awards Program – Program Assistant

- Investigated policy through working papers and articles.
- Created and managed materials for the program's online policy portal.

SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CIVIC INNOVATION

2013

Summer Innovation Fellow

- Wrote policy documents to support the ‘Living Innovation Zones’ project to open up city assets to experimentation and democratized problem-solving. Initiated an internal monitoring and evaluation process.

LITTLETON, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2012

Summer Innovation Fellow

- Built an open wiki-database of low-cost and accessible big-data and predictive analytics tools for economic development, for use by Littleton and national-level Economic Gardening programs.
- Authored a report on alternative economic development strategies.

FULBRIGHT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, US STATE DEPARTMENT – BANGLADESH

2010-2011

- Studied international, national and local strategies to build and rebuild homes in Bangladesh in response to acute and chronic disasters such as flooding, cyclones, poverty and migration through site studies and interviews.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – LEEWARD O'AHU

2009-2010

Americorps VISTA, Construction Development Coordinator

- Improved construction to meet EnergyStar accreditation and sustainability..
- Procured grants, and developed new programs and website.
- Worked on site and trained volunteers in construction.

Awards

- Harvard Kennedy School:
 - Presidential Scholarship 2012-2014
 - Taubman Center for State and Local Government Fellowship 2012-2014
 - George Baker Fund for Public Policy Award 2012-2014
- Summer FLAS Award in Intermediate Arabic, Harvard University 2012
- US State Department Fulbright Research Fellowship, Bangladesh 2010-2011
- US Department of Education, Advanced Language Fellowship at American Institute of Indian Studies program in Bengali in Kolkata, India 2010
- US State Department Critical Language Scholarship:
 - Summer immersion program in Bengali in Kolkata, India 2008-2009
 - Summer immersion program in Panjabi in Chandigarh, India 2008
 - Summer immersion program in Panjabi in Chandigarh, India 2007

Languages

Proficiency in Bengali, elementary proficiency in Arabic and Hebrew, novice proficiency in Hindi

Publications + Guest Lectures

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

[Innovations in Public Service Delivery: Issue No. 4:](#)

7/1/16

[Predictive Analytics: Driving Improvements Using Data](#)

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

Lecture: "Using geospatial data for policy analysis" 4/11/16

BOSTON GLOBE

["Better Nightlife Through Experimentation"](#) (Written by Ed Glaeser, contributed) 6/15/14

DATA-SMART CITY SOLUTIONS

["Building Data Standards"](#) 4/14/14

["Government Innovation Teams and the Need for Business-Model Clarity"](#) 10/8/13

["GIS for Accountability"](#) 8/29/13

["The Rocky Road to GIS"](#) 7/29/13

["Making Inspections Mobile"](#) 6/5/13

["The Role of 311 and Social Media During Disasters"](#) 5/14/13

["Information Sharing During Disasters"](#) 5/7/13

["Modern Mass Transit Requires Data"](#) 4/25/13

["Big Data on a Budget: Pro-Social Motivation"](#) 11/20/12

["Securing Citizen Buy-In for Big Data: The Privacy Challenge"](#) 10/17/12

BETTER, FASTER, CHEAPER

Governing Magazine (Writing, Co-Writing and Ghost-Writing)

["Milwaukee's Push to Turn Vacant Land into Urban Farms"](#) 4/16/14

["A Quasi-Governmental Recipe for Efficiency"](#) 3/19/14

["Unleashing a Community of Innovators"](#) 2/19/14

["How Washington, D.C., Is Working to Nourish Its Hidden Assets"](#) 1/22/14

["Chicago's Better Way to Dig Up the Streets"](#) 11/20/13

["Data Analysis and the Promise of Speedy Government"](#) 9/18/13

["Asset Management: a Framework for Unlocking the Value of Infrastructure"](#) 7/24/13

["When Data Drives Innovation"](#) 5/1/13

["Infrastructure at the Speed of Light"](#) 4/17/13

["A Few Hundred Innovative Ideas for Urban Governance"](#) 3/27/13

["Building a Culture of Innovation in Government"](#) 3/20/13

["Maximizing the Value of Infrastructure"](#) 3/5/13

["Public Debt and the Quest for Efficiency"](#) 2/10/13

["Giving Citizens the Tool to Grade Their Governments"](#) 1/23/13

["A Reinvention Drama in the Air"](#) 12/20/12

["Water Infrastructure and the Gush of Creativity"](#) 11/21/12

["How a Smart Grid Can Get the Lights Back on Faster"](#) 11/16/12

["Financing Efficiency in the Delivery of Social Services"](#) 10/17/12

["Boston's Pioneering Way of Innovating"](#) 9/12/12

["An Old-School Mayor on the Forefront of Innovation"](#) 9/6/12

["The Bottom-Line Benefits of Greening a City"](#) 8/27/12

THE INDEPENDENT, BANGLADESH

Contributed to newspapers' weekend editions, distributed throughout Dhaka

["Beribadh : The Edge of Dhaka"](#) 4/8/11

["Rangmati : A Space Lost"](#) 4/29/11