

Personal Details

Name: **Jody Aked**
jody.aked@gmail.com
+63 9175442613

Date of Birth: 18.03.1981

Nationality: British

Current Positions: **VSO Volunteer Lead Researcher on the IDS *Valuing Volunteering* project Associate, [New Economics Foundation Consulting](#) Associate, [Happiness Works](#) DPhil student, [Institute of Development Studies](#), University of Sussex**

Current Location: Philippines

Overview

Over ten years of experience in research and project management, including: the facilitation of a participatory systemic action research project; management of a portfolio of well-being projects (ranging from \$40K-\$400K) for UK government departments and international NGOs; planning, programming and grant-writing; fostering and managing strategic partnerships, overseeing researchers and external consultants; translating highly technical & complex ideas and findings into accessible reports; managing contractual arrangements and budgets; commissioning research; policy advocacy work and public speaking.

Key achievements

- 2013 86% participants learned a great deal of new skills / knowledge from a 3.5 day training delivered to Timberland® Supply Chain Sustainability Managers in China. Techniques included issues mapping, theory of change story board, [Crowd Wise](#) and [Five Ways to Well-being](#).
- 2012 Successful launch of an online participatory tool to facilitate conversations about well-being in workplaces: [Happiness at Work](#).
- 2011 Special Issue Paper on well-being and development for the [UN Volunteer's State of the World Volunteering Report](#) contributed to the State of the World Report on Volunteerism.
- 2010 Led a [team of researchers & external consultants](#) collating evidence of local government interventions to improve population-level well-being, forming the basis of a series of practical workshops with senior management in Councils.
- 2009 Engagement of all three main UK political parties following coordination of a 18 month [research programme](#) using new economics to explore how governments invest in children's well-being.
- 2008 The [Five Ways to Well-being](#) formed the basis of public health work in the UK and abroad. It is a key component of a \$3.2 million investment into the 2020 Decade of Health and Well-being in one of the poorest regions of the UK.

Principle positions

2013-present **Associate, [Happiness Works](#)**. Providing accessible content on well-being research and human design thinking principles to support organisations improve the social value of their business.

- 2012-present **Volunteer Lead Researcher**, [VSO](#), Philippines. Leading the Filipino component of an international partnership project between Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) exploring the impact of volunteering as a development tool. Managing research teams across multiple sites and facilitating input from fishermen, farmers, policy makers, volunteers and NGOs. The aim is to build local capacity to critically assess the contribution of social actions to sustainable ecosystem management and poverty alleviation.
- 2012-present **DPhil Student**, [Power Participation and Social Change Team, IDS](#). This study combines complexity and systems concepts with participatory techniques, to support a social learning process about the well-being pathways that interrelate with environmental change outcomes. Working with fishing and farming communities and volunteers, using story telling and visual tools including systems and social network mapping.
- 2012-present **Associate**, [nef consulting](#). Providing thought leadership on tool development and training to clients on participatory action and learning, well-being in organisations and social sustainability in supply chains. Advising the Malaysian government and civil society on well-being.
- 2011-2012 **Senior Consultant, Well-being**, [nef consulting](#). Applying the science of well-being to organisations. Responsible for relationship management, establishing procedures internally and externally to enable multi-organisation collaboration.
- 2010-2011 **Freelance Project Manager and Researcher**. Located in Nicaragua for the year, I combined international consultancy projects with voluntary work for regionally-based NGOs. Key projects included:
- Commission from [nef](#) (the new economics foundation) to plan, budget and write the case study component of a \$1.6 million multi-agency and multi-country research bid to explore well-being, ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in a development context.
 - Thought leadership on a project exploring Payment for Ecosystem Services using carbon payments to support farmers to transition to agro-forestry techniques.
 - Feasibility study on the introduction of cooperatives for mountain communities and grant writing for alternative livelihood projects for sugar cane workers in Nicaragua.
- 2008-2010 **Project Manager / Researcher**, [nef](#) (the new economics foundation). Managed the development and delivery of research and consultancy projects for the well-being team. Including portfolio management; planning, budgeting and managing leading edge research and evaluations; advocacy work; public speaking; partnership management.
- 2007-2008 **Research Associate**, [Adamson & Partners](#). Managed consultancy and research projects for multinational clients including Vestas Wind Systems. Included training and mentoring junior staff in research skills, relationship building skills and management systems.
- 2006-2007 **Research Officer**, [Commission for Racial Equality](#). Managed the commissioning process for multiple social research projects from design stage to completion across a range of policy areas including migration, social interaction, political and civic participation and social capital.
- 2005 **Travel abroad**. Self-planned and self-financed 9 month trip overland from Argentina to Mexico.

2004-2005 **Research Assistant, [Department of Psychology](#)**, University of Sheffield. Designed, programmed and managed research projects; published academic papers and led tutorials for undergraduate students.

Education and Training

Current **DPhil Student, [Participation, Power & Social Change](#)** at the Institute of Development Studies, UK. Exploring the links between well-being and social change in the context of ecosystem management in the Philippines. Working with fishing and farming communities and volunteers, using story telling and visual tools including systems and social network mapping.

2012 **Participatory Systemic Action Research**. A five-day custom training delivered by the Power, Participation and Social Change Team at the Institute of Development Studies.

2010 **Coaching**. A five-day course delivered by the Connected Economies team at nef in tools and skills to support individuals and communities to develop economically.

2010 **Economic literacy tools and participatory research processes**, tailored for use in local economic development work in a development context.

2008 **Project Management and media training**. Provided by nef.

2008 **Economics with Justice**. A 10 week course provided by [The School of Economic Science](#).

2002-2004 **M.Phil** Department of Psychology, University of Sheffield, UK. Psychological research examining sensitisation, the phenomenon thought to underlie drug addiction.

1999-2002 **B.A. first class honours** Psychology and Philosophy. University of Sheffield.

Skills / Interests

Languages Advanced Spanish. Competent Tagalog. Basic Visayan.

IT Proficient in use of Microsoft packages and systems mapping software.

Interests Travel, nature, film, scuba diving.

Selected publications

Aked J (2012) Participation among marginalised young people in Brazil: Using action research to support subjective well-being in volunteering *Philippine Journal of Public Administration*, Vol. LVI No. 1

Minton A and Aked J (2012) Prevention Working Paper. *'Fortress Britain': high security, insecurity and the challenge of preventing harm* (London: nef).

Aked J (2011) *United Nations Volunteering Special Issue Paper: Volunteerism and Wellbeing* (United Nations Volunteering: unpublished).

Aked J (2011) 'O valor de se construir conexoes sociais em projetos de desenvolvimento: perspectivas da ciencia do bem-estar' *Redes de Cooperacao (Brasil: Rede de Humanização do Desenvolvimento* (ISSN 2236-8515).

Aked J, Michaelson J and Steuer N (2010) *Good Foundations: Towards a low carbon, high well-being built environment* (London: nef).

Aked J, Steuer N, Lawlor E and Spratt S (2009) *Backing the Future: Why investing in children is good for us all* (London: nef).

Aked J, Marks N, Cordon C, Thompson S (2008) *Five Ways to Well-being: The Evidence* (London: nef).