

MATTHEW STERLING BENSON

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EDUCATION

Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex Sept. 2010 - Sept. 2011
MA in Governance & Development Brighton, UK
Dissertation: Tax and state-building in South Sudan; Field research conducted in South Sudan (March & April 2011)

Tufts University Aug. 2003 - May 2007
BA in International Relations - Global Conflict, Cooperation & Justice Concentration Medford, MA
Senior Capstone Project: Advocacy and Operational Work in Conflict Related Crises - Case Studies of Ethiopia, Sudan, & Zimbabwe (Disseminated as an internal briefing paper for Oxfam America)

Academic Research Grants & Awards

International Centre for Tax and Development Research Grant (2011); Henry Luce Student Research Scholarship for Science & Humanitarianism (2006); Institute for Global Leadership Research Scholar (2006); Tisch Active Citizenship Summer International Fellow (2006)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Tutor – Public Management & Organisational Development (PMOD) Jan. 2012 - Present
Leading MA seminars and preparing teaching materials for the Spring 2012 PMOD course, which covers the sociology of organisations, the administration of public services to the poor in developing countries, and approaches to public sector reform

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Institute of Development Studies March 2011 - Present
Researcher – International Centre on Tax & Development (ICTD) Brighton, UK
Authoring a Working Paper on findings from field research on tax and state-building in South Sudan; lead researcher for ICTD project examining tax and governance in S. Sudan

Research Assistant – IDS & ICTD

Co-authoring a review of taxation in post-conflict states for publication; providing additional research assistance on the taxation of the informal sector in Africa and the political economy of tax reform; compiling a literature review on zones of peace in conflict, findings support field research in Côte d'Ivoire conducted by IDS Fellows; researching and drafting a policy brief on child malnutrition in Uganda to support Save the Children's advocacy efforts

The World Bank

Research Assistant Oct. 2009 - Feb. 2010
New York, NY
Researched and compiled a literature review and annotated bibliography on the financing of stabilization efforts in post-conflict and fragile state situations for James K. Boyce and Shepard Forman; research findings are an input to the 2011 *World Development Report* on 'Conflict, Security and Development'

Center on International Cooperation at New York University

Graduate Research Assistant Sept. 2009 - Jan. 2010
New York, NY
Investigated the militarization of natural resources in Eastern DRC and assisted efforts to innovate due diligence and transparency measures for the mining sector; researched, drafted and edited country analyses for publication in the Center's *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations*

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders

Programme Consultant Aug. 2008 - June 2009
New York, NY
Partnered with the NY operational desk to develop and implement a knowledge management system, which provides an historical memory of MSF's programmes in Haiti, Nigeria and Somalia; provided short-term research assistance to MSF's Communications Department

Head of Mission Assistant

Khartoum, Sudan
Supported the decision-making capacity of the Head of Mission with synthesized policy analyses examining the impact of national and international political, economic, agricultural and military developments on MSF's operations; represented MSF to Sudanese Government, UN and NGO officials at country coordination meetings; drafted and edited international press documents

Assistant Deputy Head of Mission

W. Darfur, Sudan
Collaborated with a diverse team to assess the needs of, and deliver timely humanitarian assistance to, remote communities in W. Darfur; briefed representatives from United Nations agencies, other NGOs, the Government of Sudan, and local authorities on MSF's positions and objectives

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

May 2007 - May 2008

Research Consultant – Emergency Preparedness & Response Section

Geneva, Switzerland

Authored regular country forecasts of potential conflicts under tight deadlines to support UNHCR's early warning and emergency response system; participated in UNHCR emergency contingency planning sessions for Algeria, the DRC and Kosovo; coordinated with a UK-based editor and team in Geneva to fulfil reporting needs and deadlines; cultivated a network of early warning units in other United Nations agencies, NGOs and specialized think-tanks

Research Intern – Policy Development & Evaluation Service

Evaluated UNHCR's Remote Management Operation, which provides assistance from Jordan and Syria into Iraq; examined humanitarian operations in insecure environments; conducted detailed interviews with UNHCR field and HQ staff; findings contributed to UNHCR policymaking in insecure environments

Oxfam America - Humanitarian Response Department

Sept. 2006 - May 2007

Research Intern

Boston, MA

Measured impact of advocacy campaigns on Oxfam's operations in weak states; Ethiopia, Sudan, & Zimbabwe were the case-studies for the project; presented findings and authored results paper, publication circulated internally

Henry Luce Student Research Scholar

June 2006 - Sept. 2006

Research Assistant

N. Uganda

Assessed the accountability of NGOs operating in Gulu & Lira districts in Northern Uganda under the guidance of a Makerere University faculty member; developed a research questionnaire, conducted focus groups, and interviewed key informants during weekly field visits; assisted in the development of minimum accountability standards for Humanitarian Accountability Partnership – International, an independent NGO regulatory body

United States House of Representatives

Jan. 2002 - July 2002

House Page

Washington DC

One of 70 US students selected to live in DC and work on House floor; attended school in the attic of the Library of Congress

PUBLICATIONS

Authored & Co-Authored Publications

Benson, M. (2012 - Forthcoming) 'Tax and State-Building in South Sudan'. International Centre for Tax and Development, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton. Working Paper.

Prichard, W., Benson, M., Milicic, N., van den Boogaard, V. (2012 - Forthcoming) 'Building Effective Tax Systems in Post-Conflict States: Questions, Challenges and Trends'. International Centre for Tax and Development, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton. Working Paper.

Benson, M. (2007) 'Insecure Environments: The Missing Piece?', *Forced Migration Review*, Issue 29 : p.20-21.
(<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR29/20-21.pdf>)

Benson, M. (2007) 'Advocacy and Operational Work in Conflict Related Crises: Case Studies of Ethiopia, Sudan, & Zimbabwe'. Oxfam America, Internal Briefing Paper.

Blogs

Benson, M. (2011) Making Tax Work in South Sudan. Royal African Society and the Social Science Research Council, 14 November. (http://africanarguments.org/2011/11/14/making-tax-work-in-south-sudan-by-matthew-benson/#_ftn1)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sudan Studies Society of the UK (SSS-UK) Annual Symposium. September 2011. Presentation on Tax and Governance in South Sudan, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

ICTD Annual Meeting. June 2011. Presentation of Initial Research Findings on Tax & State-Building in South Sudan, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton.

9th Annual Tufts Undergraduate Research Symposium. March 2007. Presentation of Research Findings from 2006 Field Research in N. Uganda, Tufts University.

OTHER SKILLS & PERSONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Advanced Spanish; Beginner French; Essential Arabic • Citizenship: UK & USA (*Dual*)