

## ERICA R. BOWER

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Nationalities: United States of America, Bolivia

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### EDUCATION

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- PhD, Stanford University** – California, UA September 2019 - Present
- Degree: Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER)
  - Research Interests: decision-making around climate-related human mobility (migration, displacement, relocation)
- Masters of Science, Oxford University** – Oxford, UK October 2016
- Degree: Refugee & Forced Migration Studies (Refugee Studies Centre, Department of International Development)
  - Thesis: *'The Pursuit of 'Durable Solutions' for the Disaster Displaced: Re-thinking the Assumptions of an Inherited Paradigm'*
- Bachelors of Arts, Columbia University** – New York, US May 2014
- GPA: 3.87/4.00; Graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with Departmental Honors granted for thesis
  - Majors: Sustainable Development (Earth Institute) & Human Rights (Institute for the Study of Human Rights)
  - Thesis: *'Linking Hazard Exposure, Climate Variability, and Human Mobility in Nepal: A Spatial Econometrics Analysis'*
  - Study abroad:
    - Nepali Language and Field Research (through Cornell and Tribhuvan Universities) – Nepal
    - Ecology and Environmental Biology Field Studies (through Columbia University) – Dominican Republic

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- Independent Consultant – Climate Displacement Specialist** August 2018 – Present
- **National Geographic Explorer in Udayapur and Taplejung, Nepal** - Principal Investigator for a research and multi-media storytelling project tracing migrant journey from Nepal to Persian Gulf, titled 'Tales of a Climate Diaspora: From Himalayan Farmer to Unprotected Migrant Worker'.
  - **Capacity Building for the Local Governance Unit of Bayawan City, Philippines** – Facilitate the process of co-development of local guidelines on rights-based participatory approaches to planning relocations in face of floods, landslides and sea level rise.
  - **Research Consultant for the Sierra Club and UN Women** – Led research for a joint paper on gender-dimensions of climate change related human mobility. Methods include desk review and key informant interviews (field work in the Philippines & Louisiana). Coordinate launch of paper at UNFCCC's COP24 in Katowice Poland; provide technical support to Parties on integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into the implementation the Task Force on Displacement recommendations to 'avert, minimize and address' displacement.
- UN Refugee Agency, Climate Change & Disaster Displacement Associate Specialist** October 2016 – June 2018
- Technical expert on climate adaptation & disaster risk reduction in the Protection Policy & Legal Advice Section.
  - Represent UNHCR in international policy fora to promote protection-sensitive legal and policy approaches to disaster displacement, including: COP22-23, Disaster Risk Reduction Global Platform, Human Rights Council etc.
  - Support development of tools to enhance national capacity to avert and address disaster displacement, including:
    - Toolbox on 'Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change';
    - 'Words into Action' guide to implement displacement aspects of Sendai Framework on DRR;
    - Legal Toolkit for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to implement Paris Agreement.
  - Work with governments and civil society to validate tools and build capacity for rollout and implementation.
  - Engage with media outlets and academic conferences, presenting UNHCR's positions on climate displacement.
  - Develop proposal and support the expert consultant leading study on international protection provided in countries of destination for persons fleeing in the context of both i) disaster and/or climate and ii) violence and/or conflict, including case studies on Haitians and Somalis.
  - In support of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), coordinate with members of the Advisory Committee to implement the 'Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda' on cross-border disaster displacement, including to address knowledge and data gaps (member of the PDD Data and Knowledge Working Group).
- Oxfam United Kingdom, Climate Displacement Consultant** July – September 2016
- Conducted a scoping study of existing literature on the scale and scope of different ways that climate change relates to human mobility (displacement, planned relocation, migration as adaptation, trapped populations). Findings from this internal report contributed to Oxfam's report '[Uprooted by Climate Change](#)' (2017).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONT.

- Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (MRFCJ), Mobility Consultant** August – October 2015
- Critically reviewed contentious conceptual issues in discourse on climate and mobility, mapped the landscape of key actors and relevant international policy processes, identified major gaps and opportunities, and made recommendations for the foundation's engagement from a 'climate justice' perspective. Methods included literature review and key informant interviews. Recommendations provided background for the Foundation to shape its positions and responses to the discourse from a human-rights based approach.
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Disasters Consultant** February-August 2015
- Conducted a scoping study on monitoring of protracted displacement following disasters, currently a global blind spot. Methods included surveying primary and secondary sources to identify 74 protracted cases, key informant interviews with 21 international experts, 18 practitioners in field, literature review of 300+ documents. Key findings are featured in 2015 [Global Estimates Report](#). Developed a database of cases and recommendations to lay a foundation for IDMC's future monitoring of protracted disaster displacement.
- Nansen Initiative, South Asia Regional Consultation Intern** July 2014 -January 2015
- Prepared a desk review on cross-border disaster displacement in South Asia, as [background paper](#) for Nansen Initiative consultative process. Aggregated historical examples of displacement after disasters, provided overview of relevant national regional policy frameworks, and identified key stakeholders and best practices for protection. Drafted preparation materials and [outcome report](#) for the South Asia Civil Society Consultation held in coordination with ICIMOD in Kathmandu, February 2015. Provided ongoing communications support for Secretariat at the Global Consultation held in Geneva in October 2015, and at COP20 in Lima in December 2014.
- SustainUS Delegate to COP 20 and COP 21, Loss & Damage lead** June 2014 – December 2015
- Advocated for explicit recognition of displacement and forced migration within the Paris decision text through collaboration with 'Human Mobility Advisory Group' colleagues (UNHCR, IOM, Nansen Initiative), civil society (CAN-I Loss and Damage working group) and as the coordinator of YOUNGO's L&D working group. Lobbied negotiators, spoke at press conferences, designed social media campaigns, and drafted articles to draw attention to the linkages between climate change and human mobility.
- Climate Modeling, Capstone Workshop** September-December 2013
- Managed a team of six Columbia Sustainable Development students to analyze predicted impact of Climate Change on temperature and precipitation variables in the Nile River region. Alongside Dr. Bruce Keith, Professor of Systems Sociology at West Point, these inputs model propensity for food insecurity in Nile River Basin to 2100.
- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Environment Unit Intern** June–August 2013
- Assisted in rollout of the Global Strategy for Access to Energy in Humanitarian Contexts and Light Years Ahead initiative. Tasks included partnership development with academic institutions and private sector, editing publications, support for organization of meetings and conferences.
- Center Research on Env. Decisions (CRED), Research Assistant** September– December 2012
- Project tracked Global Scientific Progress in Sustainable Development through evaluating temporal and geographic research trends and patterns across publication landscape since 1985 Brundtland Report. Tasks included database development and management, bibliometric analysis, and utilizing VOS Viewer network analysis to identify critical knowledge gaps of Scientific Sustainable Development discipline.
- Natural Resources Defense Council, Media Intern** May-July 2012
- Worked with Media and Communications teams on coordinating annual Testing the Waters report, and on campaigns including: Antibiotics in animal feed, Hydrofracking, Agricultural policy, Climate change impact on health in India, Green Infrastructure, and Growing Green Awards. Trained in Cision software.
- The Earth Institute, Proposal Development Assistant** January 2011- May 2012
- Assisted Professors John Mutter and Ruth DeFries to propose and develop content for new textbook on Science Fundamentals for Sustainable Development. Edited text and graphics, drafted new material for sample chapters, design and analyze student surveys about quality of documents.

## HONORS AND GRANTS

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- **E-IPER Fellowship** 2019
- **National Geographic Explorers Grant (\$9,720)** 2018
- **Selected as UNHCR Innovation Fellow** 2018
- **Brewer Street Scholarship at Linacre College (\$5,000 grant for study at Oxford)** 2015-2016
- **Columbia Sustainable Development Departmental Honors (best thesis in cohort)** 2014
- **Columbia College Deans List- All Semesters** 2010-2014
- **Myra Kraft Award for Exceptional Practical Experience in Human Rights Advocacy (\$6,000)** 2013
- **Columbia Earth Institute Student Advisory Council** 2012-2013
- **Columbia Global Fellows in Sustainable Development (\$4,000 grant for summer research)** 2011

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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- **'Gender dimensions of climate change-related human mobility'**, panelist COP24 Side Event (Katowice Poland, December 2018).
- **'Framing Debates on Climate Change and Human Mobility: Beyond Climate Refugees'**, speaker at Yale University Conference on Climate Induced Displacement (New Haven USA, October 2018).
- Presented on **UNHCR's policy perspectives on climate change and disaster displacement**, including at:
  - Landscapes Digital Forum on climate change and human mobility (Geneva Switzerland, May 2018);
  - Side events at COP23 (Bonn Germany, November 2017);
  - Forum for Reforms, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (Stockholm Sweden, October 2017);
  - World Meteorological Organization State of Global Climate (Geneva Switzerland, October 2017);
  - Camp Coordination and Management Cluster Coordination retreat (Geneva Switzerland, September 2017);
  - Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Cancun Mexico, May 2017);
  - World Bank KNOMAD Planned Relocation Workshop (Washington DC USA, May 2017);
  - Side events at COP22 (Marrakech Morocco, November 2016);
  - Hugo Conference: Environment, Migration and Politics (Liege Belgium, November 2016).
- **'The Pursuit of 'Durable Solutions' in Internal Disaster Displacement Situations: Re-thinking the Assumptions of an Inherited Paradigm'**, Presented at the Hugo Conference: Environment, Migration, Politics (Liege Belgium, November 2016).
- **'Linking Hazard Exposure, Climate Variability, and Human Mobility in Nepal: A Spatial Econometrics Analysis'**, presented at the Earth Institute student research symposium (New York USA, May 2014).
- **'Climate Change and Migration Patterns: Field Evidence from Communities in Nepal Himalaya, Manang and Mustang Districts'**, presented at Cornell Nepal Study Program (Kirtipur Nepal, May 2013).

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Coffel, E. D., Keith, B., Lesk, C., Horton, R. M., **Bower, E.**, Lee, J., & Mankin, J. S. (2019). Future hot and dry years worsen Nile Basin water scarcity despite projected precipitation increases. *Earth's Future*, 7, 2.
- M Garlick, M Franck, **E Bower**. 2018. 'UNHCR perspectives for enhancing legal protections for people displaced in the context of disaster and climate change', in Book 'Climate Refugees': Beyond the Legal Impasse, Routledge.
- **E Bower**, J Olson, V Collantes. 2018. 'Women on the move in a changing climate: a discussion paper on gender, climate change and human mobility'. UN Women and Sierra Club.
- E Hansen, M Garlick, M Franck, **E Bower**. 2017. 'An Overview: UNHCR, Climate Change and Disaster Displacement.' UNHCR.
- M Yonetani, C Lavell, **E Bower**, L Meneghetti, K O'Connor. 2015. 'Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters', Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.
- B Keith, R Horton, **E Bower**, J Lee, A Pinelli, D Dittrick. 2014. 'Estimating the Effect of Climate Change on the Hydrology of the Nile River in the 21st Century'. Systems Dynamics Conference Proceedings.

## LANGUAGE AND OTHER SKILLS

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- **Spanish** – intermediate speaker, reader, writer
- **Nepali** – elementary speaker, reader, writer
- **French** – elementary speaker, reader, writer
- **Mapping and Spatial Analysis Software** – ArcGIS, GeoDa
- **Statistical software** – SPSS, STATA
- **Photography** - Portrait, event and landscape (Former President of Photography Society at Columbia)
- **Yoga** – Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor
- **Endurance Athlete** - Hiker, Cyclist and Marathon Runner (PB: 3:25:01 in Geneva May 2017)