

Maya Rae Elsner

Curriculum Vitae

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PROFILE & RESEARCH INTERESTS

PhD pre-candidate in Sociology and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and nonprofit professional experienced in development, administration, finance, and systems management. Research interests include political economy, socioeconomic inequality, stratification, racial capitalism, gentrification, housing and labor justice, and the sociology of finance. Policy areas of interest include finance, labor, housing, and social welfare.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

Joint Doctorate, Sociology & Public Policy
Area of Focus: Economic Sociology

Ann Arbor, MI

August 2025 - Present

Mount Holyoke College

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*
Major: Critical Social Thought (concentration in Political Economy)
Minor: Economics
Cumulative GPA: 3.94 / 4.0

South Hadley, MA

May 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

No Going Back: Gentrification and Precarity in Santa Fe, New Mexico (2024)

Mount Holyoke College | Senior Capstone Project | Research Advisor: Professor Vanessa Rosa

IRB approved interdisciplinary research project examining the lived experiences of local residents navigating the local housing crisis in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Research was conducted using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, including an online survey of 24 participants, in-depth interviews with 10 participants, and in-person photography sessions with 7 participants. Research travel funded by Susan B. and Peter R. Betzet Fellowship Fund.

The Impact of Property Taxes on Rates of Sheltered Homelessness (2024)

Mount Holyoke College | Intro to Econometrics | Professor Mike Robinson

Quantitative study on the impact of state property tax rates on rates of sheltered homelessness across 50 states using OLS log-log regression model to control for region, state population, and public education spending.

The Ultimate Hedge: Slavery, Capital, and Risk Management in 19th Century Trans-Atlantic Finance (2024)

Mount Holyoke College | History of British Capitalism | Professor Desmond Fitz-Gibbon

Research project exploring the prominence of slave-backed mortgages in local and trans-atlantic credit networks, with emphasis on slave-backed bond schemes originating in antebellum planter banks. Research

sourced from 18th-century estate purchase records and insurance guidelines, and 19th-20th century finance scholarships.

Investor Homebuying, Small-Mortgage Lending, and the Homeownership Gap: A Case Study (2022)

Mount Holyoke College | Finance, Globalization, and Inequality | Professor Ayca Zayim

Research project utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the prevalence of investor home buying in historically redlined areas, and impacts of Dodd-Frank act mortgage lending reforms on the racial homeownership gap.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Finance | June 2024 - August 2025

Craig's Doors, A Home Association | Amherst, MA

Chair, Shelter Sunday Planning Committee; Chair, Finance Committee; Member, Policy Committee

- Management of ~\$3.3 million operating budget encompassing homelessness reduction activities across two year-round emergency overnight shelter sites and seven distinct resource programs located in Amherst, MA and Hadley, MA.
- Strategic financial planning for expansion initiatives, including new program development, existing program acquisition, and temporary and permanent capacity increases, to ensure financial stability while maximizing mission impact.
- Oversight of all financial processes, including budgeting, forecasting, reporting, and analysis, to ensure the delivery of accurate and timely financial data for informed decision-making.
- Overall responsibility for the Chart of Accounts and the integrity of accounting system (QuickBooks) to ensure regulatory compliance and proper spending of all active contracts, grants, and restricted donations.
- With 3rd Party Consultants, Director of Administration, and Executive Director, ensuring readiness for audits and tax filings, including preparation of all required workpapers.
- Reviewing and approving all program expenditures, invoices, reimbursements and other requests for payment.
- Overseeing HR and payroll operations to ensure the effective management of employee compensation, benefits, and performance.
- Providing direction and support to Data Coordinator in maintaining and revising data collection systems to ensure accurate tracking of client records and services, increase positive outcomes, and improve service delivery and programs.
- In FY25 YTD, successfully secured or renewed municipal, state, and federal funding contracts worth ~\$3 million, including ~\$730,000 in new state and municipal funding; additionally secured ~\$180,000 in private contributions and grants.

Director of Advancement | 2022 – 2024

Craig's Doors, A Home Association | Amherst, MA

Chair, Shelter Sunday Planning Committee; Member, Finance Committee

- Prepared, submitted, and managed all private, state, and federal grants and contracts, including timely reporting and compliance adherence.
- Generated digital and print material, including press releases, marketing copy, visual content, and graphic design for publication across online platforms and social media.
- Implemented data collection systems across organization to ensure accurate tracking of client records and services, increase positive outcomes, and improve service delivery and programs.

- Spearheaded committees to review and strengthen institutional policies, operating procedures, and financial control processes, in collaboration with Board of Directors and Executive Leadership team.
- Independently organized successful in-person fundraising events, digital fundraisers, and direct mail campaigns, including annual fundraising event Shelter Sunday.
- Managed and maintained donor management system Little Green Light, including the processing and allocation of all incoming contributions and private donations
- In 2022, executed full organizational re-branding campaign from inception to realization, including a complete logo redesign and website overhaul.
- In FY24, successfully secured contract renewals for ~\$2.4 million in state and federal funding; new program contracts for ~\$600,000 in state and municipal funding; ~\$63,000 in private grant funding; ~\$50,000 in private donations.

Grants & Stewardship Officer | 2017 - 2022

Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society | Santa Fe, NM

Chair, SFAS Young Professional Advisory Committee

- Managed all grant funds and grant-funded programs across multiple departments to ensure proper and timely usage of funding in accordance with grant terms.
- Authored and submitted full proposals, project budgets, LOIs and stewardship letters, as well as interim and final impact reports.
- Ensured that all proposals had clear goals, measurable outcomes, and were consistent with the needs of the organization and grant end-users.
- Managed and maintained donor management system The Raiser's Edge.
- Generated weekly, monthly, and quarterly analytical donor performance/retention reports and shelter intake/outcome statistics.
- Produced marketing copy and collaboratively produced marketing content for social media and fundraising campaigns.
- Consistently met or exceeded annual designated income goal, generating approx. \$1.4 million in private grant revenue between 2017 and 2022.

Donor Relations Coordinator | 2016 - 2017

Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society | Santa Fe, NM

- Developed and maintained several key systems to track organization growth and identify areas for improvement.
- Processed and allocated shelter income, donations and memberships.
- Maintained and managed CRM The Raiser's Edge.
- Produced mailing lists, analytic reports, tax documents, and revenue statements.
- Cultivated relationships with donors and potential donors.
- Generated copy and collaboratively produced marketing content for social media and fundraising appeals/campaigns with the rest of the Development Team to bring in over \$1 million annually in private donations

Intern / Project Lead | 2014

Ralph T Coe Foundation | Santa Fe, NM

- Created and maintained functioning research library and catalog for Foundation and its member base, including texts relevant to the Foundation's main purpose of educating the public on Indigenous arts and culture
- Assisted lead curator with miscellaneous curatorial work, including collection installation
- Assisted President with miscellaneous administrative support and direct mail-campaigns

Research Assistant | 2010 - 2011

Benjamin Radford | Rio Rancho, NM

- Assisted with research for Mr. Radford's forthcoming nonfiction book, *Tracking the Chupacabra: The Vampire Beast in Fact, Fiction, and Folklore*, published 2011 by University of New Mexico Press.
- Organized data entries and kept detailed notes for future analysis
- Carefully proofread and edited the text prior to publication
- Created full organizational index prior to publication

Proofreader & Indexer, 2010 - 2011

Rhombus Publishing Company | Corrales, NM

- Proofread and edited 2nd edition, "The Wild West Never Died" by Jack Kutz, published 2011 by Rhombus Publishing Company
- Assisted in the selection of cover art
- Created full organizational index prior to publication

AWARDS, HONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Rackham Merit Fellowship - May 2025.

Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society - May 2024.

Susan B. and Peter R. Betzer '65 Fellowship Fund - For Research Travel - February 2024.

Class of 1957 Frances Perkins Endowed Scholarship, Mount Holyoke College - September 2023.

Harry S. Truman Scholarship, Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation - April 2023.

Frances Perkins Scholarship, Mount Holyoke College - 2021-2024.

Dean's List, University of New Mexico College of Arts & Sciences - 2019.

Odyssey Scholarship, St. John's College, Santa Fe - 2012-2015.

First Place in Photography, *The Grout* (literary magazine) - 2012.

Featured Artist, SITE Santa Fe Young Curator Exhibition - 2012.

Gold Key in Photography, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards - 2010.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2024 | Organized and executed inaugural fundraising event Hampshire County Shelter Sunday

2023 | Organized team walk for Western Mass Walk to End Homelessness (Springfield, MA)

2023 | Independently planned, organized, and executed in-person fundraising event and silent auction to benefit unhoused residents of Amherst, MA

2019 | Spearheaded animal training certification program for incarcerated individuals at NM State Penitentiary (Santa Fe, NM)

2019 | Assisted with facilitation of organizing workshops and meetings for local IWW Labor Union Chapter (Santa Fe, NM)

KEY SKILLS

Administration, Finance & Operations: budget development and management; financial compliance & reporting; cash flow management; personnel management; team leadership; policy development; program development; state & federal contract administration.

Marketing, Fundraising & Development: graphic design; website design; strategic branding; donor retention strategies; major donor stewardship; copywriting; technical & grant writing; editing; grant administration; systems design; database management; data analysis; event planning.

Languages: Native English-speaker, with intermediate written and verbal skills in French.

Experienced With: Quickbooks Online, Bill.com (AP/AR, Spend & Expense), Squarespace, MailChimp, Wordpress, Canva, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat, MS365 Online, Microsoft Excel, The Raiser's Edge, Little Green Light, Stata.