

JUSTIN JACOBY SMITH
hoosteen.net

BACKGROUND & RESEARCH INTERESTS

I'm a longtime political organizer, communications professional, Buddhist and amateur boxer. My research interests include mutual aid disaster relief, the emerging critical disaster studies framework, and field investigations of emergent responses to disaster.

SELECT WORK HISTORY

Disaster Research Center, Newark, DE — Grad. Research Assistant 9/22 – (Current)

Assisted in EL Quarantelli Disaster Archive projects, including seeking & surfacing collection content on emergent groups which use a “mutual aid disaster relief” framework, on community-based disaster relief organizations doing disaster relief in politically contentious environments, and on the logics of looting in the catastrophic disaster. Provided research support to DRC faculty.

Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC — Digital Strategist 9/17 - 9/22

Owned strategic planning for all e-mail communication. Developed demographically strategic audience cohorts through targeted advertising, market research & testing. Led institute-wide database development & management. Coached junior staff on digital best practices, targeted advertising tools & strategy.

Democracy Spring, Virtual Office — Board Mem. & Nat'l Organizer 1/16 - 8/17

Trained activists in the methods of civil resistance mass movements. Assisted in developing & delivering political education & organizing methodology training. Developed leadership of local activists through coaching. Built & maintained partnerships with allies & coalition organizations.

Communications Workers of America, Washington, DC — Digital Tech 3/15 - 1/16

Created a strategic campaign to organize workers online. Built & analyzed results of A/B tests and digital advertising experiments in lead acquisition. Acted as digital community manager, building relationships with our online core of workers to move them toward the union.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

University of Delaware, Newark, DE — M.S., Disaster Science & Mgmt. 2024 (Expected)

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX — B.A., English 2008

SELECT WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATIONS

- *Social Movements: Theory, Practice, and Movement Ecologies 2018 - 2022*
 - Annually for Institute for Policy Studies Summer Fellows.
- *Mutual Aid: A Deep History SEP 2020*
 - For Washington, D.C. COVID-19 Mutual Aid Network.
- *Gun violence is a disease — has D.C. found a cure? 2018. The Hill.*
- *Nonviolent Direct Action: Discipline, De-escalation & Distributing Risk. JUNE 2017.*
 - Co-created & co-led for The People's Summit conference 2017.
- *Left Politics and Generations: Race, Class, Youth, and Social Change. MAY 2016*
 - Co-led panel at *Left Forum* conference 2016.
- *Why We Need Each Other: Climate Change Resilience Circles I-IV. 2018*
 - Four-workshop sequence for Love+Solidarity Collective.
- *"Practical Action: Reviewing Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolutions." 2012 Sep 6. Red Pepper.*

SELECT CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

- *2023-: At-Large Member*
 - Counterpower
- *2013-2021: Board Member & Resident*
 - Love+Solidarity Collective
- *2020-1: Mutual Aid Historian*
 - COVID-19 DC Mutual Aid Network
- *2018: Volunteer Strategy Team*
 - Sunrise Movement
- *2017-2018: Volunteer Mentor for Student Organizers*
 - Real Food Challenge
- *2013-2014: Volunteer Neighborhood Organizer*
 - Occupy Our Homes DC
- *2012-2015: Volunteer Host & Producer*
 - *Voices of the 99%* talk-politics radio program
- *2011-12: Volunteer Social Media Manager*
 - @OccupyWallSt & @Occupy_DC