

Alex James Odlum

Research Coordinator & PhD Student

Research interests: humanitarianism – datafication and quantification – decision-making – organisational culture – research methods

Education

- Sep 2020 - **PhD in Management (Organisational Behaviour)**, *University of Lausanne*,
May 2024 *Faculty of Business and Economics (HEC Lausanne), Switzerland. (Ongoing to 2025).*
- Title: Values & heuristics in humanitarian datafication/quantification decisions
- Sep 2013 - **Master of Public Policy**, *Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany.*
Jun 2015 ○ Thesis on humanitarian shelter, Exchange semester in Cairo, GPA 90.5%
- Nov 2012 - **Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice**, *Australian National University*,
Feb 2015 *Canberra, Australia.*
- Feb 2007 - **Bachelor of International Studies (1st Class Honours)**, *University of*
Oct 2012 *Adelaide, Australia.*
- Feb 2007 - **Bachelor of Laws (Honours)**, *University of Adelaide, Australia.*
Oct 2012

Employment

- Mar 2020 - **Research Coordinator**, *Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies (Geneva*
May 2024 *Graduate Institute and University of Geneva), Geneva, Switzerland. (Ongoing).*
- Coordinate experts drafting concept entries for the Humanitarian Encyclopedia.
 - Conduct research using large corpus of texts, survey data, interviews, workshops.
 - Coordinate linguistic analysts, community managers, practitioners.
 - Manage web platform, communication and dissemination.
 - Develop and teach modules on research methods for Master students.
 - Conduct field research for Pulse, COVID-19 Humanitarian, and other projects.
- Feb 2019 - **Knowledge Management Focal Point**, *ACAPS – The Assessment Capacities*
Sep 2019 *Project, Geneva, Switzerland.*
- Develop knowledge management and M&E systems, evaluate internal projects.
- Dec 2017 - **Analysis Team Leader & Senior Analyst**, *ACAPS – The Assessment*
Feb 2019 *Capacities Project, Geneva, Switzerland + missions abroad.*
- Line manage team of 5 analysts, lead research projects, represent organisation.

Sep 2015 - **Information Analyst**, ACAPS – *The Assessment Capacities Project*, Geneva,
Nov 2017 *Switzerland + missions abroad.*

Consultancies, internships and volunteering

- Consultant International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office for West Africa.
- Consultant Lessons Learned Simulations and Training (LLST), Remote-based.
- Consultant Tofta Educational Trust, Jinja, Uganda.
- Consultant International Organization for Migration (IOM), Department of Operations and Emergencies, Land, Property and Reparations Division, Geneva, Switzerland.
 - Intern Australian Embassy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Political and Economic Section, Berlin, Germany.
 - Intern Tactical Tech Collective, Berlin, Germany.
- Researcher Media Intelligence Partners, London, United Kingdom.
 - Intern Democracy Reporting International, Berlin, Germany.
- Research Assistant Centre for Housing, Urban & Regional Planning, University of Adelaide, Australia.
 - Intern Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin, Germany.
- Volunteer Australian Red Cross, 14KM, English teacher for Syrian refugees, Student Representative for MPP class.

Skills and interests

- Languages English (native), French (advanced), German (advanced), Spanish (basic).
- Reports R Markdown, MS Word, Google Docs.
- Spreadsheets MS Excel, Google Sheets.
- Surveys Qualtrics, Google Forms, Survey Monkey.
- Analysis R/R Studio, STATA, Tableau, Google Data Studio.
- Qualitative NVIVO, Taguette, SketchEngine.
- Automation Zapier.
- References Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote.
- Storage Dropbox, Dropbox Paper, Google Drive, Switch Drive.
- Projects Trello, Google Tasks, GitHub, Azure DevOps.
- Website Hugo, Google Sites, WordPress.
- Comms Email, Slack, Discourse, MailChimp, Hootsuite.
- Hobbies Australian Football (AFL), Tennis, Mountain sports.

References

- Academic Prof. Joerg Dietz (jorg.dietz@unil.ch), Prof. Julian Marewski (julian.marewski@unil.ch), Prof. Karl Blanchet (karl.blanchet@unige.ch).

Publications and presentations

1. Isaacs, L., Odlum, A., & León-Araúz, P. (2024). Quartz: A Template for Quantitative Corpus Data Visualization Tools. *Languages*, 9(3), 81. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages9030081>
2. Odlum, A., Marewski, J. N., & Dietz, J. (2024). *Misfortunes never come singly: Reflections of the environment in a proverb*. https://serval.unil.ch/notice/serval:BIB_5BB75C96F005
3. Odlum, A., & Ramachandran, S. (2023, November). *Power, language and localisation: Who defines “the local”?* <https://conference.ihsa.info/proposed-panels/view/4093/>
4. Odlum, A. (2022, November). *Principled Humanitarian Analysis: What effect do humanitarian norms have on information quality?* <https://www.eur.nl/en/events/workshop-6-years-after-agenda-humanity-humanitarianism-challenged-2022-11-25>
5. Odlum, A. (2021, November). Determinants of conceptual evolution in humanitarian discourse. *Beyond the Local: Cultural Translatability in Humanitarian Interventions*. <https://conference.ihsa.info/call-for-papers/view/2971/>
6. Odlum, A., James, R., Mahieu, A., Blanchet, K., Altare, C., Singh, N., & Spiegel, P. (2021). Use of COVID-19 evidence in humanitarian settings: The need for dynamic guidance adapted to changing humanitarian crisis contexts. *Conflict and Health*, 15(1), 83. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-021-00418-w>
7. Odlum, A., & Muller, J. (2021). Exploring how humanitarian actors use key COVID-19 concepts. *SouthAsiaDisasters.net*, 191. <http://www.aidmi.org/publications.aspx>
8. Singh, N. S., Abraham, O., Altare, C., Blanchet, K., Favas, C., Odlum, A., & Spiegel, P. B. (2020). COVID-19 in humanitarian settings: Documenting and sharing context-specific programmatic experiences. *Conflict and Health*, 14(1), 79. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00321-w>
9. Odlum, A. (2020). Preparing, responding and adapting existing programmes to Covid-19 in humanitarian settings: The Covid-19 Humanitarian platform. *Alternatives Humanitaires Humanitarian Alternatives*, 14, 115–117. <http://alternatives-humanitaires.org/en/2020/07/23/the-covid-19-pandemic-a-double-burden-in-humanitarian-crises/>
10. Odlum, A. (2019). To Stay or to Go? Decision-Making of LGBTQI Syrians in Mixed Migration Flows. In A. Güler, M. Shevtsova, & D. Venturi (Eds.), *LGBTI Asylum Seekers and Refugees from a Legal and Political Perspective: Persecution, Asylum and Integration* (pp. 71–93). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-91905-8_5
11. Odlum, A. (2015). *Humanitarian Resilience? Impact of the Syrian Refugee Response on Adequate Housing in Egypt and Jordan*. Hertie School of Governance.
12. Odlum, A. (2012). *Re-envisaging support to civil society in Egypt*. University of Adelaide.
13. Odlum, A. (2011). *Home without a Home: The Challenges of Legal Pluralism for Returning Afghan Refugees’ Right to Property Restitution*. University of Adelaide.