

Eric Singleton

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cross-disciplinary researcher and strategist with seven years of applied policy research across major U.S. foundations, spanning 20+ countries. Track record of synthesizing complex technical materials—health systems data, policy environments, cost-effectiveness analyses—into strategic briefs and publications for senior decision-makers and public audiences. Completing an MS in Design at Stanford, where research focuses on AI's societal impacts on Indigenous communities and the design of human-AI systems for community benefit. Deep, daily user of Claude for research, writing, organizational knowledge-gathering, and technical prototyping.

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant | *HELIOS Lab, Stanford Medicine* Sep 2024 – Present
Stanford, CA

- Co-developed interview protocols and conducted 30 ethnographic interviews investigating AI-era impacts on Indigenous Peoples across biomedical research, as part of the NIH Bridge2AI initiative and AI-READI consortium.
- Synthesized peer-reviewed literature spanning AI governance, Indigenous data sovereignty, federated learning, and community-based participatory research (Nature Machine Intelligence, Big Data & Society, American Journal of Bioethics) to inform research design and analysis.
- Delivered preliminary findings to tribal nation partners including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; designing functional prototypes grounded in research data for tribal community use.
- Preparing findings for journal publication (target venues: CSCW, ACM FAccT) and a forthcoming white paper on responsible AI engagement with Indigenous communities.

Grant Analyst / Program Associate | *The Susan T. Buffett Foundation* Jul 2018 – Sep 2021
Omaha, NE

- Co-authored an \$8M, five-year country-level strategy alongside a Senior Program Officer that was implemented across Nepal's national reproductive health framework; one of multiple strategies across a 20+ country portfolio with ~\$300M in annual grantmaking.
- Worked directly with ministry of health officials across Ethiopia, Nepal, and Burkina Faso to co-develop multi-year policy-aligned workplans, navigating politically sensitive subject matter through relationship-based advocacy and sustained engagement.
- Synthesized technical data from WHO, World Bank, and the Global Financing Facility into country-level situational analyses and cost-effectiveness briefs that informed senior leadership decisions and required presidential approval.
- Designed and maintained the global programs budget tracking system centered on payout-based budgeting, serving as the operational backbone for portfolio-wide resource allocation.

Program Associate | *The David & Lucile Packard Foundation* Oct 2021 – Jul 2024
San Francisco Bay Area

- Managed a 14-partner grassroots environmental justice portfolio; coordinated convenings across all partners and led equivalency determination processes to expand organizations' eligibility for U.S. philanthropic funding.
 - Facilitated integration of the palm oil supply chain program into the Foundation's Global Climate Initiative, targeting corporate policy adoption (NDPE) at the distribution bottleneck—a systems-level strategy addressing the five to ten organizations controlling global palm oil flows.
 - Supported grantees in achieving state-level policy wins including stronger regulation of wood pellet biomass in Mississippi and comprehensive mapping of polluting industries in eastern North Carolina that informed ongoing policy advocacy.
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SELECTED PROJECTS & DEMONSTRATIONS

MS Thesis: The Cutting E.D.G.E. | *Stanford d.school*
San Francisco, CA

Sep 2025 – Jun 2026

- Built and deployed a technical demonstration of AI agents embedded in physical objects for community benefit: 17 hand-turned wooden figurines with NFC chips, each linked to a custom AI agent (built on Anthropic's API) delivering site-specific historical fiction narratives that guide users to forgotten sites of queer history in San Francisco.
- Designed the full user experience including a community pass-off system for intergenerational exchange. Grounded in 15 qualitative interviews surfacing four key insights about identity, generational divides, and the limitations of institutional approaches to history. Currently deployed and in active circulation.

Primary Author & Designer | *Taiwan Design Research Institute*
Taipei, Taiwan

Jun – Sep 2025

- Wrote and designed an 80-page publication synthesizing paradigm shifts in design research and practice, developing the full narrative arc, chapter structure, and original data visualizations from thematic analysis of 1,600+ conference papers, 890+ courses, and 240+ journal articles.
- Transformed what was planned as a standard Word document into a designed, publicly distributed publication. Personally endorsed by Don Norman, who recommended it for inclusion in design education curricula. Distributed at the IASDR 2025 conference.

EDUCATION

MS Design (Engineering) | *Stanford University*

June 2026

Relevant coursework: STS 200D Technology, Agency & Power (AI and human-machine relations); qualitative interviewing; design research methods

BS Psychology, BA Global Studies | *College of Charleston*

June 2018 (summa cum laude)

TEACHING

Teaching Team | *Stanford University*
Stanford, CA

2024 – 2026

- **DESIGN 131 (Needfinding):** taught the Stanford needfinding interviewing method, guiding students through research design, fieldwork, and synthesis.
- **DESIGN 141 (Product Design):** led a section of students through a full redesign cycle of a physical hand tool and a digital user interface.

PUBLICATIONS

Liou, S., Hernandez Sibó, I.P., & Singleton, E.C. (2025). [Design in Systems: An Emergent Paradigm Shift in Research and Practice](#). Taiwan Design Research Institute.

Singleton, E.C. (2019). [Civic Engagement Summary: Community Conversations and Regional Data](#). Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina.

White paper on AI-era impacts on Indigenous Peoples in biomedical research (forthcoming).

SKILLS & TOOLS

Skills: Cross-disciplinary synthesis · Policy analysis & stakeholder engagement · Qualitative & ethnographic research · Strategic communications · Grant portfolio management · Visual communication & publication design · Systems thinking · AI governance & responsible AI frameworks · Community-engaged research · Facilitation

Tools: Claude (daily research & writing) · Anthropic API · NotebookLM · NVivo · Tableau · Adobe Creative Cloud · Figma · NFC/IoT prototyping

Languages: Spanish (proficient) · Indonesian (intermediate)