





ASHLEY DRAKE, PhD

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCHER

CONTACT

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 [LinkedIn Profile](#)
 Michigan, USA

SKILLS

// PROFESSIONAL

Research Design & Method
Qualitative Data Analysis
Project Management
Cross-Cultural Communication
Design Thinking
Strategic Planning
Consulting

// TECHNICAL

Microsoft Office Suite
MAXQDA
Qualtrics
Asana
Calendly

EDUCATION

PhD & MA, Comparative Human Development
University of Chicago (2020; 2013)

BA, Psychology & Anthropology
Bucknell University (2008)

SUMMARY

I am an expert in human development and organizational culture with 10+ years of experience planning and facilitating mixed-methods projects. I have worked with diverse populations at the local, national, and global level, and I have led research and evaluation of science education, environmental policy, mental health and wellbeing, and military and veteran concerns. My strengths span the full range of functions that are essential for this work: needs assessment, program strategy and design, coalition-building, project implementation, and impact evaluation. I hold a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in Comparative Human Development, with specialization in Anthropology & Psychology.

EXPERIENCE

FACULTY (SENIOR RESEARCHER & INSTRUCTOR)

2020-2022

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

- Performed qualitative beta testing on mental health treatment program for veterans in Cook County, IL
- Conducted and thematically coded 1:1 interviews with veterans to identify pain points in accessing medical care across 3 VA institutes
- Provided training in observational tools and supervised 7 weeks of fieldwork for 37 students, resulting in 40+ hours of observational data and 185 surveys
- Designed and taught 4 virtual and 4 in-person/hybrid undergraduate courses for the Department of Comparative Human Development and the College

FACULTY (SENIOR RESEARCHER & INSTRUCTOR)

2019 - 2020

Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA)

- Performed thematic analysis of Complementary and Integrative Health (CIH) data for 50+ healthcare providers in Department of Veterans Affairs
- Conducted virtual focus groups and surveys with 120+ students to ensure smooth transition to remote teaching in response to COVID-19
- Taught 7 undergraduate courses in cross-disciplinary context and oversaw the development of 86 departmental research projects
- Collaborated with IT Services and Digital Humanities to design learning modules using VR technology; conducted qualitative usability test with 30+ students

LEAD RESEARCHER

2013-2020

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

- Conceptualized, designed, and implemented mixed-methods research project on military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX
- Conducted 12 months of ethnographic research, including 167 semi-structured and unstructured interviews and 1,000+ hours of participant observation
- Produced compelling report and presentation to DOD stakeholders to enhance understanding of strategic recommendations
- Received 15+ grants and fellowships from national and international organizations, totaling over \$200K

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INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCHER

SERVICE

ACLU

Volunteer
2008-2010

Graduate Women in Science, Eta

Chapter Co-Founder and Volunteer
2013-2018

Diversity & Inclusion Administration

Williams College
2018

ACHIEVEMENTS

WILLIAM HENRY MEMORIAL DISSERTATION AWARD

University of Chicago
2021

GIANNINO DISSERTATION WRITE-UP GRANT

University of Chicago
2018

DISSERTATION FIELDWORK GRANT

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
2016

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN COMPARATIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

University of Chicago
2010-2015

EXPERIENCE continued

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

2015-2018

Institute for the Future (Remote)

- Conducted 48 expert interviews to identify key future work skills and soft skills development for nontraditional students and veterans
- Revised 7 initial skill write-ups and developed 3 new skill write-ups using feedback from expert interviews
- Generated written content for final publication report for stakeholders, including the ACT Foundation and the University of Phoenix

RESEARCH & EVALUATION ASSOCIATE

2015-2016

Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago, IL)

- Designed and implemented a research protocol with the Lincoln Park Zoo examining visitor meaning-making behaviors across 4 exhibits
- Coordinated with cross-functional team of zoologists, education specialists, and administrators to develop research infrastructure from front-end project setup to back-end data analysis
- Codeveloped coding system and analytic technique to assess higher order thinking in parents and children

INTERN, CITY HALL

2013-2015

Partij voor de Dieren (Amsterdam, NL)

- Conducted custom qualitative research on expats living in Amsterdam, including focus groups, 1:1 interviews, and surveys
- Developed and launched recruitment campaign for expat voters in Amsterdam, increasing voting in this population by 23%
- Translated and compiled all campaign materials from Dutch to English for a newly created political party
- Compiled database of expat-related materials for city council members, including targeted report on environmental issues for legislative decision making

RESEARCHER

2008 - 2010

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

- Analyzed field visits of parent-child interactions for the effect of speech and gesture on language and math learning
- Administered standardized surveys and tasks in a sensitive manner with 120+ neurotypically developing children
- Collected and coded 500+ hours of videotaped naturalistic interactions of research subjects
- Supervised and trained team of 8 research assistants on new tasks and implemented standardization protocol across assistants