**Adam Stepan, PhD**

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Contact Information:**

Adam Stepan

Director, Picker Center Digital Education Group

SIPA

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**Qualifications:**

Adam Stepan is an Emmy award-winning documentary film producer and writer, who has worked since 2010 in the area of online and digital education. A former member of the DGA and WGA, Adam has written and produced for PBS, BBC, Discovery Channel and National Geographic.

Since 2014 Adam has been the Director of the Picker Center Digital Educational Group at SIPA, where he has overseen several large-scale digital education projects, and worked closely with senior SIPA faculty in the research and writing of case studies in public sector innovation. Adam has overseen case research and production in USA, Brazil, India, Ghana, Rwanda, Afghanistan and The Democratic Republic of the Congo.

His work has been featured in both international documentary film festivals and Ivy+ online education conferences. Adam is the co-author of the forthcoming Columbia University Press book *Leveling the Learning Curve: Creating a More Inclusive and Connected University*. The book will be released in September 2023, and discusses digital education and digital cases at Columbia, the UN, and OSUN.

Adam has a BA with Magna Cum Laude and Phi Betta Kappa honors from Brown University, and a PhD from King’s College London.

Adam taught a successful 2018 version of “Digital Case Projects” class in 2018 at SIPA, and has been the lead instructor of a class called “Visual Storytelling For Civic Engagement” at Bard College and 5 global campuses of the Open Society University Network in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

**Work Experience:**

**Director - Picker Center Digital Education Group, 2014-Present**

Adam has overseen major digital education projects, with support of the Lemann Foundation, Brava Foundation, Howard G. Buffett and Comunitas foundations.

Adam has overseen filming of more than 100 hours of SIPA classes, supported the creation of online learning projects such as Jeffrey Sach’s 2014 “The Age of Sustainable Development” MOOC, and the creation of the Picker Center Case Collection on the Canvas/Courseworks LMS platform.

Adam has overseen successful grant applications to major funders, and received internal Columbia University grants from the President’s Global Innovation Fund and the Provost For Online Learning. He was an invited speaker presenting on SIPA’s audiovisual case study project at the 2016 “Learning with MOOC’s” conference at UPenn. In 2017, Adam and the Picker Center team received a “Hybrid Course Redesign” award from the Provost’s Office, and worked closely with students in SIPA’s EMPA and MPA-DP programs in the creation of student researched and filmed cases.

Since 2014, Adam has overseen research and been the co-author of more than 25 SIPA audiovisual case studies:

*Public Private Partnerships for Parks in NYC* – Co-Authored with Ted Smalley Bowen, with Professor Steve Cohen as faculty Sponsor, 2014

*From Compstat to Gov 2.0 – Big Data in New York City Management*– Co-Authored with Kathleen Gilsinan, with Professor William B. Eimicke as faculty sponsor, 2014

*Digital India* – Co-Authored with Ted Smalley Bowen, with Professors William B. Eimicke and Jhagdish Bhagwati as faculty sponsors, 2015

*Schools of Tomorrow? School Reform in NYC, Rio and Mumbai* – Co-Authored with Ted Smalley Bowen, with Professors William B. Eimicke and Brian Perkins as faculty sponsors, 2015

*eDoctors: Primary Care Innovation in Brazil and India* – Co-Authored with Ted Smalley Bowen, with Professors William B. Eimicke and Michael Sparer as faculty sponsors, 2015

*Juntos – Mentoring Cities in Brazil* – Co-Authored with Nora Johnson and Bruna Santos, with Professors William Eimicke and Thomas Trebat as faculty sponsors, 2016

*Aid or Investment? Post-Conflict Development in DRC and Rwanda* – Co-Authored with Howard W. Buffett, with Professors William B. Eimicke and Glenn Denning as faculty sponsors, 2017

*Saved by the Soil? Africa’s Frontier for Conservation Agriculture* – Co-Authored with Howard W. Buffett, with Professors William B. Eimicke and Glenn Denning as faculty sponsors, 2017

*Rural Development in Afghanistan* - Co-Authored with Howard W. Buffett, with Professor William B. Eimicke as faculty sponsor, 2018

*Private Rainforest Reserves of Costa Rica* – Co-Authored with Julie Tumasz and Nigora Isamiddinova, with Professor Glenn Denning as faculty sponsor, 2019

*Internet in a Box – Technology and Education in Rural Peru -* Co-Authored with Marcia Sanzovo, with Professor Glenn Denning as faculty sponsor, 2019

*Civic Tech in NYC and Rio* – Co-Authored with Marcia Sanzovo, with Professor William B. Eimicke as faculty sponsor, 2019

**Director – Corporate Solutions Giros Interativa**November 2010 – June 2013

Director of corporate solutions at Giros Interativa, a leading Brazilian digital communications and online education firm, whose educational and corporate communications clients include many of Brazil’s largest companies, including Vale, Itaú, Natura, CPFL Energia and Petrobras.

**Consultant - NLP Consultants Inc.**February 2009 – October 2010

Worked as consultant to international technology and education firms entering the Brazilian market, and to Brazilian groups looking to connect with international technology firms in areas of media, IT and education. Provided services as educational consultant to NIIT, a leading global online education group based in India, conducting a country study for them of the Brazilian educational market.

**Independent Producer and Writer - PBS, Discovery Channel, History Channel, National Geographic and BBC** 1995-2003 (Brazil) 2004-2008 (NY)

Worked as a producer and writer for a wide variety of PBS, BBC, National Geographic and Discovery programs and specials, including educational content for PBS Learning Media and PBS Teacher’s Domain. Member of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) and Writer’s Guild of America (WGA). Production of reports for National Geographic *Explorer* and Discovery Channel’s High Definition Theater.

**Post-Production Supervisor, Buena Vista Television,** 1992-4

Implemented new digital editing solution using Avid editing systems. Managed US$2 million annual post-production budget and staff of 16 editors and assistant editors.

**TEACHING/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY:**

**Coordinator, Internship Program Brown in Brazil Program** 1997-2003, 2009-2012

Organized and ran intern program for Brown University students in Brazil. Coordinated annual event, inviting members of Rio based companies and non-profit groups to offer internships to visiting Brown undergraduates. Supervised and mentored more than 20 students, many of whom went on to careers in digital media and online education.

**EDUCATION:**

**King’s College London, PhD 2021**

PhD in Development Studies

**Brown University, BA 1989 in Modern Culture and Media**

Bachelor of Arts *Magna Cum Laude* Honors Graduate Elected *Phi Beta Kappa*

**UCLA, Film and Media Extension Program, 1992-4**

Courses in Cinematography and 3D Animation Techniques

**IBMEC, Brazilian Executive MBA Program, 2009-2010**

Course work in Finance