

Benjamin Kumpf

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Head of Innovation for Development Facility, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, France

2/2019 – present

Building a new work stream for the OECD Development Assistance Committee on innovation. Design of a strategy and brokering the approval of the launch of the OECD Innovation for Development Facility by the OECD DAC. Design and delivery of advisory services on strategic innovation portfolio management, the adoption of innovation and innovation strategy design. Publication of OECD policy papers and other reports on COVID-19 innovation in low and middle-income countries, systems innovation and more. Led the launch of the OECD group 'i30' to advance peer learning among development funders on innovation.

Head of Innovation, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, London, UK

2/2019 – 12/2020

Leading a multi-disciplinary team and acting as lead advisor for FCDO's programmes on the Global Innovation Fund, and the programmes 'Amplify' and 'Learn Adapt', an internal change management initiative to mainstream adaptive management systems practices. Redesigned FCDO's innovation portfolio, and contributed to programme development on governance, modern day slavery, gender equality and climate change through the provision of advisory services on innovation and emerging technologies. Co-led the strategy process for innovation in the context of the merger of the UK Department for International Development and the UK Foreign Office.

Innovation Facility Lead, United Nations Development Programme, New York, USA

7/2014 – 1/2019

Setting up and managing UNDP's Innovation Facility, leading a multi-disciplinary global team, developing new service lines and products based on field-based experiments. Advising internal and external clients on innovation, behavioral insights, emerging technologies and systems-change including government partners in developing countries. Management of a multi-million US dollar pooled fund to provide risk capital for experiments to UNDP offices with annual 100% delivery rate.

Innovation Specialist, United Nations Development Programme, Sub-Regional Facility for the Syria Crisis Response, Amman, Jordan

1/2014 – 6/2014

Created business case for alternative funding models for the Syria crisis response of UNDP and worked with Country Offices on building new ventures. Supported regional UNDP representative with the development of resource mobilization efforts that resulted in more than ten million US-Dollars mobilized. Co-designed the building blocks of a joint development-humanitarian response plan for the Syria crisis.

Knowledge Management Specialist, United Nations Development Programme, New York, USA

5/2012 – 12/2013

Designed and launched new business model – the ‘Gender Equality Seal’ programme’; served as interface between internal clients and external UX designers on UNDP’s Enterprise 2.0 platform development; and advised distributed gender teams on innovation. This resulted in experimentation budget lines embedded in global programmes on gender equality.

Learning Analyst, United Nations Development Programme, New York, USA

5/2011 – 4/2012

Designed a corporate mentorship programme, developed and delivered UNDP’s first curriculum on innovation including user-centric and behavioral insights methods to middle and senior management.

Knowledge Management Analyst, United Nations Volunteer Programme, Bonn, Germany

5/2009 – 4/2011

Co-led development of internal knowledge sharing platforms (Microsoft SharePoint and custom Drupal-based desktop app), coordinated developers, business users and UX designers, supervised knowledge projects and supported the UNV Directorate’s knowledge programme, including the formulation of recommendations for adjustments based on organisational needs and resource availability.

Communications Specialist, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, India

4/2008 – 4/2009

Translated scientific research findings on agricultural innovations into policy recommendations that resulted in new legislation on rural development, benefitting small-scale farmers. Conducted market research on best-fit technology models to support the adoption of agricultural innovation in diverse markets in rural India, initiated the design, and testing of a new service line for ICRISAT.

Communications Consultant, German Technical Cooperation in Nepal and Germany

11/2007 – 3/2008

Produced web content and advised internal clients on communications, Enterprise 2.0 platforms and social media strategy.

Knowledge Management and Communications Analyst, German Development Service, Kigali, Rwanda

8/2006 – 9/2007

Advised local partners on designing new ventures to support the reconciliation process. This resulted in the launch of a peace-media project, designed as social enterprise and eventually resulted years later in financially viable product in the form of a youth-led newspaper.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

IE Madrid, School of Global and Public Affairs, Spain

5/2020 – 5/2021

Taught a 3-day course on innovation for development for students pursuing dual degrees in May 2020 and May 2021 (12 seminar hours each)

Karlsruhochschule, International University, Faculty for International Business, Karlsruhe, Germany

4/2014 – 7/2014

Guest lecturer: taught seminar 'Intercultural Collaboration and Communication' for Bachelor students (10 seminar hours)

University of Mannheim, Institute for Media and Communications, Germany

5/2010 – 7/2010

Guest lecturer: taught block seminar 'Knowledge Management' for Master students (16 seminar hours)

Between 2016-2018

Guest speaker on development innovation at seminars for Master students at Harvard Kennedy School, NYU, New School, University of Mannheim, Tel Aviv University, Yale

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, obtained in 2006

Political Science (Major), Psychology (Minor) University of Heidelberg, Germany

Media and Communications (Minor) University of Mannheim, Germany

SKILLS

Certifications: Project Management (Prince 2), Knowledge Management (KM Institute Washington D.C), Human-Centered Design (Acumen / IDEO), Organizational Management (NYU School for Continuous Professional Studies), Muay Thai Instructor (Muay Thai Federation Germany).

Proficient in English, French and German. Member of the following Advisory Boards: Humanitarian Innovation Fund, UNLEASH+, UNICEF Social and Behavior Change, and the 'Safer Complex Systems' programme of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering. Volunteered for more than ten years in Germany, Rwanda and the USA in the fields of gender equality and addressing racism and anti-Semitism. Worked as free-lance journalist for German newspaper taz for several years, publishing on international affairs.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Benjamin Kumpf, Ben Ramalingam, Rahul Malhotra, Merrick Schaefer (2021): How Low and Middle-Income Countries Are Innovating to Combat Covid, Harvard Business Review: [How Low and Middle-Income Countries Are Innovating to Combat Covid \(hbr.org\)](https://hbr.org/2021/04/how-low-and-middle-income-countries-are-innovating-to-combat-covid/)
- Benjamin Kumpf, Ben Ramalingam (2021): COVID-19 innovation in low and middle-income countries: Lessons for development co-operation, OECD Development Co-operation Policy Papers, No.39, OECD Publishing, Paris, pp. 7-11
- Lori Foster, Benjamin Kumpf (2019): Work in the Developing World: Technology as a Barrier, Technology as an Enabler; in The Cambridge Handbook of Technology and Employee Behavior, edited by Richard N. Landers, pp. 672-708

- Suhas P Wani, Benjamin Kumpf, TK Sreedevi, PK Joshi, KV Raju, Michael J Wilson, Amita Shah, PG Diwakar, K Palanisami, S Marimuthu, AK Jha, YS Ramakrishna, SS Meenakshi Sundaram, Marcella D'Souza (2009): Integrated Watershed Management in India: Strategic Policy and Institutional Options, Policy Brief No. AES-01, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
- Appoline Bakanasanga, Emilienne Mukansoro, Benjamin Kumpf, Heide Rieder, Kathrin Groninger (2007): Gacaca and Trauma - Psychosocial guidance for trauma victims in Rwanda, German Development Service publishing, Bonn, Germany
- Acted as lead author and editor of UNDP's flagship innovation report between 2014 and 2018. Links to the reports, interviews and more than 30 articles published in Devex, Thomson Reuters, Newton Fund, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, Nesta and the OECD Observatory for Public Sector Innovation available on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/benjaminkumpf/>