

Joseph Foti

Lead anti-corruption, digital democracy, climate, and civic space research at global governance initiative. Founding director of a well-reputed international accountability mechanism. Experienced fundraiser and manager of multi-million dollar policy projects across all regions. US citizen.

Employment

Open Government Partnership (OGP) Washington, DC
Principal Advisor, Emerging Issues - full time 3/2024-Present

- Research and communication. Lead organizational research and public communications on emerging topics in open government, ranging from civic space, anti-corruption, digital governance, and climate.
- Strategic partnerships. Develop and maintain partnerships with civil society networks and researchers in priority areas such as political finance, right to information, enablers of corruption, and energy.
- Schools of Government and Leadership. Lead partnerships with schools of public administration and online education platforms to deploy training materials for civil servants.

Chief Research Officer - full time 5/2018-2/2024

- Organizational leadership. As part of senior management, inform strategy, budget, personnel, and fundraising. Provide thought leadership on issues such as COVID response and inclusion.
- Knowledge and data management. Developed and coordinated OGP's public database of 5000+ member actions, organizational outcomes, contributions, and case studies.
- Policy analysis. Lead all major reports on topics including digital governance, climate, justice, civil liberties, tax and equity, and anti-corruption.
- Publications quality control lead. Develop and implement an institution-wide quality control and knowledge-management function for organization. Coach team members across organizations to finish their work from concept to execution.

Director, Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) - full time 9/2012-5/2018

- Leadership. As founding director, developed and maintained the annual reporting process across OGP's membership in 78 countries. Annual budget \$1.2M.
- Network management. Led 100+ member research network & International Experts' Panel.
- Compliance evaluation. Engaged with governments on public governance commitments.
- Strategic analysis. Regularly authored and presented thematic and synthesis reports delivered at ministerial level.

World Resources Institute Washington, DC
Senior Associate, Institutions and Governance Program - full time 12/2007-8/2012

- Environment and climate policy. Led work on right to information, permitting, justice, climate change adaptation. LAC officer for 50-country network of human democracy and environmental non-profits.
- Air and water quality. Led US environmental justice and transparency work and designed and deployed community monitoring of major industrial projects in Indonesia and Thailand.
- International advocacy. United Nations advocacy on SDG16, Escazu Agreement, and Rio+20.

Education

The George Washington University

Washington, DC

Master of Arts: International Development Studies

5/2009

Antioch College

Yellow Springs, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts: Cultural And Interdisciplinary Studies, Teacher Certification

4/2002

Awards and affiliations

- Certificates, "AI and Corruption" and "International Bribery Law." American University, Washington College of Law. (2024)
- Certificate, "Trade Based Money Laundering." George Mason University Continuing Education. (2021)
- Member, American Political Science Ass'n, Comparative Democratization (2018-present)
- Member, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (2010-2012)
- Freedom House-National Democratic Institute Fellow: Citizen Participation in Legislation, Turkey (2011)
- Fulbright-Hays Award: Peru with Morgan State University, Baltimore (2006)

Additional Skills

- Methods: Comparative legal analysis; statistical analysis (R, SPSS, Excel); impact assessment, cost-benefit analysis
- Spanish - near fluent

Current and former supervisor contacts

- Paul Maassen (current, Open Government Partnership): paul.maassen@opengovernment, +31 6 46167856 (email preferred)
- Joseph Powell (previous, Open Government Partnership): +44 7878914122
- Lalanath de Silva (previous, World Resources Institute): +1 (240) 423-5922

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Expert-Reviewed Publications and Editorial Work

[OGP Horizons](#). Ongoing. Bi-monthly series on emerging topics including:

- How Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Will Change Freedom of Information Administration
- Just Your Average White-Collar Criminal: An Unscientific Look at Grand Corruption
- Virtually Invisible? Crypto-Assets and Open Government
- Blind Spots: Three Ways to Think about AI and Corruption Risks
- Thinking Bigger on Climate, Energy, and Participation
- How to Measure Digital Governance through Open Administrative Data
- From Policy to Practice: Three Ways Open Government can Help Implement the DSA
- Solution or Substitute? Transparency in Corporate Sustainability Standards
- Global Supply Chain Transparency is More Urgent than Ever: Find Out what Governments are Doing about It

“From Atoms to Ecosystems: Integrating Beneficial Ownership Data for Integrity.” (Forthcoming 2024, Title TBC). Lead editor and author, including chapters on Kenya, Ukraine, and the United States. With Brookings.

“The Evidence Base for a Civil Society Fund in IDA 23.” (Forthcoming 2024) With Accountability Lab. Washington, DC OGP.

“System Update: Emerging Tools in Transparency and Oversight in Government Data Processing Regulations.” (Forthcoming 2024) With Tara Davis and Divij Joshi. Chapter in *Government Data Science*. Edward Elgar Press.

“Delivering on Transparency's Promise? The State of Open Governance Data” (Forthcoming 2024) With Kristen Rose. Chapter in *Government Data Science*. Edward Elgar Press.

[Open Gov Guide 2023](#). Contributing author and project manager. Authored chapters: “Lobbying,” “Gender-Based Violence,” “Freedom of Assembly,” “Freedom of Association,” “Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom,” “Climate Finance,” “Energy Transition,” “Automated Decision-Making, Algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence,” “Justice for Accountability,” and “Mainstreaming Participation.”

“[Investing in Openness: Business Engagement in Open Government Reforms](#).” (2023). With Christina Socci and Dieter Zinnbauer. Co-published Open Government Partnership and B-Team.

“[Keeping Good Company: How Financial Regulation is Helping Reduce Corruption in Market Economies](#).” (2023) With Christina Socci. Open Government Partnership.

“[Returns Made Real: How Investors Can Advance Open Government Reform](#).” (2023) With Christina Socci. Open Government Partnership.

“Summit for Democracy Monitoring Framework and Guidance.” (2023) With Annika Silva-Leander, International IDEA.

“[Foreign-sponsored Information Manipulation](#).” (2022) With Jessica Brandt, Corina Rebegea, and Christina Socci. Part of the [Countering Illiberal Influences](#) series. National Democratic Institute.

[Broken Links: Open Data to Counter Corruption](#), OGP Second Global Report, Editor-in-chief, research

design. Author of "[Lobbying](#)," "[Rulemaking](#)," and "[Interoperability](#)" chapters. Open Government Partnership.

["Climate Justice, Accountability, and Rule of Law."](#) (2022) Chapter in [Justice and Accountability for Democratic Renewal](#). Jessica Hickle, editor. Washington, DC: Open Government Partnership .

["Anti-corruption Enforcement."](#) (2022) Chapter in [Justice and Accountability for Democratic Renewal](#). Jessica Hickle, editor. Washington, DC: Open Government Partnership.

"International Ethics and Rule of Law Issues." (2022) In [Overcoming Trumpery](#), Norman Eisen, editor. With Norman Eisen. Washington, DC: Brookings Press.

[OGP at 10: Toward Democratic Renewal](#). (2021) Lead author and editor. Washington, DC: OGP.

[From Rhetoric to Action: Delivering Equality & Inclusion](#). Contributing author. New York: Pathfinders, NYU Center for International Cooperation (2021).

["Innovations in democratic oversight of surveillance."](#) (2021) Policy brief used in negotiation of public oversight of surveillance procurement in Mexico. Washington, DC: OGP.

["Data Protection in Africa: A Look at OGP Member Progress."](#) Tara Davis, author. Research design and editing. Cape Town: Open Government Partnership and AltAdvisory.

["Toyota and the Anti-Democracy Caucus."](#) (2021) With Alberto Alemmano. Washington, DC: OGP.

["International Ethics and Rule of Law Issues."](#) (2021) In *If It's Broke, Fix It*, Norman Eisen, editor. With Norman Eisen. Washington, DC: Brookings Press.

["A Missing Ingredient in COVID Oversight: Equity."](#) With Norm Eisen. Washington, DC: Brookings.

["Open Justice."](#) (2020) *OGP Justice-Policy-Series*. Jessica Hickle, editor. Contributing author. Washington, DC: OGP.

[Regulatory Governance in the Open Government Partnership](#). (2020) Renzo Falla. Contributing author. Washington, DC: OGP.

["At the Frontlines of Justice."](#) (2020) OGP Justice-Policy-Series. Contributing author. With Jessica Hickle, Maha Jweied, Adna Karamejic-Oates, and Mia Katan. Washington, DC: OGP.

[A Guide to Open Government and the Coronavirus: Open Response + Open Recovery](#). (2020) Editor and contributing author with other OGP staff and partners. Washington, DC: OGP.

[Seeking Synergy: The Open Government Partnership and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative](#). (2020) With Jessica Hickle and Renzo Falla. Washington, DC: OGP.

["Access to Justice."](#) (2019) OGP Justice-Policy-Series. With Jessica Hickle and Maha Jweied. Washington, DC: OGP.

[OGP Global Report. Democracy beyond the Ballot Box](#). (2019) Executive Editor, lead author. OGP.

[Opening Justice: Access to Justice, Open Judiciaries, and Legal Empowerment through the Open Government Partnership](#). (2018) Contributing Author, Editor. Washington, DC: OGP.

[When More is More: IRM Technical Paper](#). (2018) With Laura Vossler. Washington, DC: OGP.

[*Aligning Supply and Demand for Better Governance: Open Data in the OGP*](#). (2017) With Sonia Khan. Washington, DC: OGP.

Various OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism reports (as "IRM Staff"). 2013-2018. Washington, DC: OGP.

[*Beyond the Basics: IRM Technical Paper*](#). (2016) Washington, DC: OGP.

[*Independent Reporting Mechanism Procedures Manual*](#). 2015. Washington, DC: OGP.

[*OGP by the Numbers: IRM Technical Paper*](#). (2014). Washington, DC: OGP.

[*Stakeholder Participation in Climate Change Adaptation Planning*](#) (2013) With Aarjan Dixit. Washington, DC: USAID.

"Getting Local Government Right." (2012) Chapter in [*State of the World 2012: Moving toward Sustainable Prosperity*](#). Washington, DC: Worldwatch Institute.

[*Promises Kept: Ensuring Ambition and Accountability through a Rio+20 "Compendium Of Commitments."*](#) (2012) WRI working paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*Adaptation – Rapid Institutional Assessment \(ARIA\) Toolkit*](#). (2012) WRI Toolkit. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*Discussion Paper: Improving Public Participation in International Environmental Governance*](#). (2011) United Nations Environment Programme Perspectives (with Jacob Werksman). Nairobi: UNEP.

Growing the Grassroots: Integrating Environmental Justice Into the Toxics Release Inventory Program (2011), WRI working paper (with Lindsay Conlon). Cited in [Callahan, et al. \(2012\)](#) and others. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*Civil Society Demand for Adaptation: An Approach with Case Studies from Bolivia and Ghana \(2010\)*](#), WRI working paper for Yale-Unitar Conference on Climate Change and Democracy. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*TAI Advocacy Toolkit*](#). (2009) Access Initiative Publication. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*A Seat at the Table: Including the Poor in Decisions for Development and Environment*](#) (2010), WRI Report (with Lalanath de Silva). Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

Changing Courses: Access to Justice and The Fight to Save the Danube Delta. (Film.) Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*Voice and Choice: Opening the Door to Environmental Democracy*](#) (2008), WRI Report (lead author). Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

[*Roots of Resilience: Growing the Wealth of the Poor, 2008 World Resources Report*](#) (2008), WRI Report (contributing author, "Community demand" and "Participatory Decision-Making" subchapters). Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

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Public presentation Highlights

2023

- Local development twitter space: "Building Interoperable Data Systems," With Local Development, Kenya. (Twitter Space event, 25 persons attending).

2022

- "Open Government and Emerging Markets." To the Emerging Markets Investors' Alliance, an alliance of asset managers and asset holders. (Virtual)
- "Land Ownership Transparency and Open Data." Part of LANDAC conference, The Hague, Netherlands. Part of Creative Partnerships track of *Governing land for the future: What (r)evolutions do we need?*
- "Open Data for Public Integrity." International Visitors Leadership Program. Multiple countries, Global. (Partner: US Department of State.)
- "Lobbying and Political Finance in Albania." Albania High-level Parliamentary Delegation. (Partner: National Democratic Institute)
- "Open Government Partnership: Open Contracting and Integrity." Jamaican open contracting professionals delegation. (Partner: US State Department)
- "Continuing Education: Political Integrity in Nigeria." Professional credit course for 117 Nigerian legal professionals (Partner: SPPG, Nigeria)
- "Political Integrity in Lusophone Africa." International Visitors Leadership Program. (Partner: US Department of State.)
- "Access to information in Thailand." Thailand parliamentary senior staff delegation. (With National Democratic Institute.)
- "Open Data to Combat Corruption and Advance Accountability." OGP Europe regional meeting. (250 people attended, with Transparency International, AccessInfo Europe, OECD, and GONG-Croatia.)
- "Open Data for Political Integrity in the Eastern Partnership." Eastern Partnership workshop. This included a 90-minute intensive working session on the report findings from the report *Broken Links* with attendees from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. (25 people)
- "Open Data for Political Integrity in Africa." OGP regional meeting launch, Marrakech. (40 people attending.)
- Workshop: "Open Data for Political Integrity." International Anti-Corruption Convention side event, with Transparency International. 32 TI chapter members.
- "Broken Links: Open Data to IACC Launch" (Dec 11): With TI, GDB, and three TI chapters, we launched the report during the main IACC process. (45 people attended.)
- Anti-corruption Action Network Capitol Hill Launch: At a meeting hosted by the , Joe Foti presented to the Anti-Corruption Action Network, which is a network of dozens of Anti-corruption officials and high-level reformers. Hosted by the US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). (50 people attended.)

2021

- "Public oversight of personal data protection in Africa, A Survey." Open Government Partnership Global Summit. Seoul, Korea (virtual).
- "Political integrity and Democratic Renewal." Open Government Partnership Global Summit. Seoul, Korea.
- "Toward Democratic Renewal. A Decade of Open Government." OGP Academy. Seoul, Korea

(virtual). Book launch.

- "Countering Illiberal Influence through the Open Government Partnership." Presentation to assembled academics and specialists on hidden debt, misinformation, and political finance.
- "Improving Public Oversight of Data Sharing." Part of "Data Sharing Modernization," Panel at Public Service Information Community Connection Data Privacy Week, Canada.

2020

- "USAID, Financial Accountability, and the Open Government Partnership." USAID Anti-corruption learning event.
- "Your Career as a Governance Indicator Expert: The Missing Manual." Guest lecture at Hertie School of Governance, Berlin.

2019

- "OGP's First Flagship Report." Open Society Foundation, London.
- OGP Summit: Opening Plenary on Impacts: "Democracy beyond the Ballot Box."
- Alignment between Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Requirements and OGP Action Plans. EITI Global Conference.
- "State of Open Government 2019: Democracy beyond the Ballot Box" Global Conference on Transparency Research, Fundação Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro.

2018

- "When More is More: Unlocking ambition and implementation in OGP Action Plans." OGP Global Summit, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- "Lobbying as Public Participation: The Open Government Missed Connection" Lobbying Summer Academy, Bilbao, Spain.
- "Open Government in Evolution" University of Gothenburg, V-Dem Institute.

2017

- "Unlocking ambition and implementation in OGP Action Plans" OGP Americas Regional Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- "New Initiatives in Open Government" OGP Uruguay National Multi-stakeholder Group, Montevideo.
- "Access to Justice in the Open Government Partnership." Sunshine Week Presentation. Washington, DC.
- "Open Government Partnership in Global Perspective" Madrid, Spain.
- "The Open Government Partnership: Evolution in Practice and Discourse" University of Bristol Law School. Democracy Beyond Elections: Empowering Citizens, Strengthening Participation.
- "The Open Government Partnership: Evolution in Practice and Discourse" University of Brighton, Institute for Development Studies.

2016

- "The Useful Open Government Researcher" Open Government Academic Days. Sorbonne, Paris.
- "Findings from the Independent Reporting Mechanism." OGP Global Summit, Paris.
- "Accountability Mechanisms in Multi-stakeholder Partnerships" Side event, United Nations, Preparatory Committee for High Level Political Forum.

2015

- "Aligning Supply and Demand for Open Data." International Open Data Conference. Ottawa, Canada.

- Launch: Argentina National IRM Report. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

2014

- "Workshop: Governing Open Data" Open Knowledge-fest. Berlin.
- "Mythbusters: Open Government Partnership Edition." Open Government Steering Committee and Global Summit, Denpasar, Indonesia.
- "European Launch of IRM Reports" OGP Europe Regional Meeting. Dublin, Ireland.

2013

- "Workshop: Open Data for Governance." Open Knowledge Fest, Berlin.
- "Introducing the Independent Reporting Mechanism." Open Government Regional Conference, UN-ECLAC, Santiago, Chile.

2012

- "Ford Foundation Side Event. Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Rio de Janeiro.
- *A Seat at the Table: Including the Poor in Decisions for Development and Environment*. University of Santiago. Santiago, Chile.
- "Getting Local Government Right: Integrating Principle 10 into Sustainable Development"
- Conference organizer and presenter: "Choosing Our Future: A 21st Century Agenda for Principle 10."

2011

- Rapid Institutional Analysis for Adaptation Governance. Talk and training: Colombo, Sri Lanka; La Paz, Bolivia; and Accra, Ghana.
- Keynote address: Toxics Release Inventory Annual Conference, Bethesda, Maryland.

2010

- Conference organizer and presenter, "Access Initiative Global Gathering" Kampala, Uganda.
- *A Seat at the Table: Including the Poor in Decisions for Development and Environment*. Book launch. CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow.

2009

- "The Fight to Save the Danube Delta." Film Presentation. Environmental Law Advocates Worldwide Meeting. University of Oregon Law School, Eugene.
- "Right to Information for Sustainable Development" Carter Center, Lima, Peru.
- "Voice and Choice: Opening the Door to Environmental Democracy." CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow.

2008

- Conference organizer and presenter, "Access Initiative Global Gathering" Sligo Technical Institute, Sligo, Ireland.
- Training: Access Initiative Toolkit - Himachal Pradesh, India
- Launch of *Voice and Choice: Opening the Door to Environmental Democracy* - Yale-UNITAR Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy and World Resources Institute, Washington, DC