

# Hilary Olson

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## 📄 Summary

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As an interdisciplinary researcher skilled in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, I am interested in conducting policy-relevant research and program evaluations. Specializing in social innovation, my research interests include social finance, international development, collaborative governance, co-production, and systems change.

## 🎓 Education

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**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Policy and Management** *May 2024*  
*Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California*

- Title of Dissertation: Outcomes-Based Contracting through Impact Bonds - Ties to Social Innovation, Systems Change, and International Development.

**Master of Public Policy (MPP) in International Policy and Planning** *May 2018*  
*Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California*

- Price Women and Allies Board Member.

**Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Diplomacy and World Affairs Major, Economics Minor** *May 2012*  
*Occidental College*

- Microfinance Investment Fund Board Member.

## 🏢 Professional Experience

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**Research Assistant** *Los Angeles, CA*  
*USC Price Center for Social Innovation* *Aug 2018 – July 2023*

- Collaborated on research projects related to Social Impact Bonds and Emergency Aid funds.
- Conducted literature reviews, collected and analyzed data, wrote articles and reports, and presented findings to broad audiences.
- Managed research assistants and liaised with clients throughout the design, implementation, and evaluation of social innovation programs.

**Research Assistant** *Los Angeles, CA*  
*USC Gould School of Law* *Sept 2017 – May 2020*

- Provided research assistance on topics related to immigration detention and Community Bail Funds.
- Reviewed and summarized academic literature using legal resource databases, such as WestLaw.
- Collected and cleaned data for use in quantitative analyses.

**Research Intern, Center for the Future of Aging** *Los Angeles, CA*  
*Milken Institute* *Aug 2017 – Dec 2017*

- Researched initiatives for successful aging programs for future Mayor's Pledge campaigns.
- Cleaned, analyzed, and visualized data in support of the Best Cities for Successful Aging report.
- Provided research support as-needed for conferences and presentations.

**Account Executive** *Los Angeles, CA*  
*Charity Brands Consulting* *Oct 2016 – May 2017*

- Researched companies whose corporate social responsibility objectives matched our clients' interests.
- Identified organizational alignments for public-private partnerships and mission-driven campaigns.
- Wrote memoranda on client strategies and potential partners ahead of client meetings.

## 👩‍🏫 Teaching Experience

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**Future Faculty Teaching Institute Certification** *Spring 2023*  
*Center for Excellence in Teaching, University of Southern California*

**Teaching Assistant (Masters-Level)** *Jan 2017 – Jan 2020*  
*University of Southern California*

- Econometrics for Policy Analysis (Fall 2020)
- Public Policy Practicum (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- Economics for Policy, Planning and Development (Summer 2017)

## Publications

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**Can a Focus on Co-Created, Strengths-Based Services Facilitate Early-Stage Innovation within Social Impact Bonds?** [↗](#) June 2022

Chris Fox, **Hilary Olson**, Harry Armitage, Susan Baines, and Gary Painter.

*International Public Management Journal*

**Are social impact bonds an innovation in finance or do they help finance social innovation?** [↗](#) Apr 2022

**Hilary Olson**, Gary Painter, Kevin Albertson, Christopher Fox, and Christopher O’Leary.

*Journal of Social Policy*

**An evaluation of the emergency aid programs at the University of Southern California and Los Angeles Community College District** [↗](#) May 2021

**Hilary Olson**, Kalen Cornelious, Riley Carbonneau, Victoria Ciudad-Real, Dr. Jovanna Rosen, Cynthia Barboza-Wilkes, Hannah Lee, and Gary Painter.

*Sol Price Center for Social Innovation*

**Social impact bonds 2.0? Findings from a study of four UK SIBs** [↗](#) Dec 2020

Chris Fox, **Hilary Olson**, and Harry Armitage.

*Sol Price Center for Social Innovation*

## Honors and Awards

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- Henry Reining Best Dissertation Award (2024)
- Price Fifth Year Fellowship (2022-2023)
- USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant (2022)
- Price/Graduate School Fellowship (2018-2022)
- Research Fellowship, Immigrants and Global Migration Initiative (2019)
- Linnie & Michael Katz Endowed Research Fellowship (2018)
- Robert P. Biller Award for Best Policy Analysis (2018)
- Price Dean’s Merit Scholarship (2016-2018)
- Distinction on Occidental College Senior Thesis (2012)
- Occidental Trustee Scholarship (2008-2012)

## Skills

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- Qualitative & Quantitative Methodologies
- Research Design, Policy Analysis, & Program Evaluation
- Writing Academic Articles, Evaluation Reports, & Policy Briefings
- Presenting & Communicating Findings to Broad Audiences
- Stakeholder Engagement & Cultural Competency
- Experience with STATA, Nvivo, ATLAS.ti, ArcGISPro, & Python

## Languages

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**English:** Native or bilingual proficiency

**French:** Professional working proficiency