

**JOSH CARPENTER, PhD**  
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter: @jdcarpenter1](#)

**EDUCATION**

**University of Oxford, Oriel College, Oxford, UK (2013-2016)**

D.Phil. (PhD) in Politics, June 2016

Dissertation: *Democracy and the Disengaged: A Multi-dimensional Study of Voter Mobilization in Alabama*

**University of Oxford, St. Hilda's College, Oxford, UK (2012-2013)**

M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy, September 2013

Thesis: *A Comparative Study of Public Education Finance in Alabama, Texas, and Virginia*

**University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Birmingham, AL (2006-2010)**

B.S. in Business, *Magna cum laude*

**PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Director, Department of Innovation and Economic Opportunity,  
City of Birmingham, Birmingham, AL (Winter 2018-Winter 2021)**

- Converted a Division of the Mayor's Office into a stand-alone Department adding talented staff to drive small business growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, data analytics, talent and workforce development
- Developed and launched a strategic plan for the Department
- Spearheaded COVID recovery efforts by creating a revolving loan fund that matched private capital with \$2.5 M
- Initiated a pandemic service corps to respond to engage displaced workers in meeting emerging community needs in the wake of COVID-19, [BhamStrong](#)
- Launched the [Birmingham Promise](#) program, raising \$24 M, to provide apprenticeships and college scholarships to Birmingham City School Students
- Led effort to secure the project with the single largest job number in Birmingham's history through an innovative human capital incentive scheme
- Collaborated with city officials to leverage economic development into neighborhood development funds to repair homes, remove blight, and replenish housing stock
- Secured national partnerships with the Brookings Institution, the Governance Project, and Accelerator for America
- Forged public-private partnerships to address food deserts and healthcare delivery
- Spurred investment in distressed communities by leading an effort to secure 24 Opportunity Zones in Birmingham, twice as many as the next highest Alabama city
- Assembled city officials and private sector leaders to launch a city-led Qualified Opportunity Fund, the first of its kind in the country ([www.birminghamoz.org](http://www.birminghamoz.org))
- Championed Birmingham's economy with print, radio and television outlets: *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Birmingham Business Journal*, *Alabama News Center*, *Alabama Media Group*, *Birmingham Times*, WBRC-Fox, and ABC 33/40

**Assistant Professor, Economics, Collat School of Business, UAB, Birmingham, AL  
(Fall 2018-Spring 2020)**

- Conduct research on how job attainment alters notions of efficacy by leveraging a blended method research design on the Innovate Birmingham program
- Teach Business Honors Program courses: “Principles of Leadership,” “Microeconomics,” “Macroeconomics” and “Executive Leadership and Strategy”

**Director of External Affairs, Office of the President, UAB, Birmingham, AL  
(Summer 2016-Spring 2018)**

- Launched the Department of External Affairs as an extension of the Office of the President
- Produced a white paper to establish strategy for community partnerships for economic empowerment and civic innovation
- Assembled 15 partners and 30 employer sponsors to form the Innovate Birmingham Regional Workforce Partnership
- Led the effort to secure a \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor through the America’s Promise Grant making Birmingham one of 23 communities selected out of more than 200 that applied
- Recruited, trained and managed a team of 14 staff across five organizations to train 925 disconnected youth for high-demand, high-wage IT jobs in Birmingham

**Bama Covered, Co-founder and President (Fall 2013-Winter 2014)**

- Developed the nation’s only grassroots, non-partisan movement that trained and mobilized college students to inform the public about healthcare options under the Affordable Care Act
- Engaged over 600 students on 14 four-year and 31 community college campuses across Alabama
- Raised \$150,000 of local funding in 30 days to cover the operation
- Recruited a six-person full time staff and 15 board members statewide
- Garnered press coverage including the *New York Times*, NPR, and dozens of local media outlets
- Collaborated with healthcare agencies around the state to enroll over 98,000 Alabamians in health insurance plans over a four-month period, exceeding the goal established by national agencies

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

“Statues as State Power: How Confederate Monuments Symbolize Southern Cities’ Struggle for Self-determination.” *Under Review*.

“City Leader Guide on Equitable Economic Development: Navigating Inclusive Growth, Racial Justice, and Resilience Post-COVID 19.” *Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative*. October 2020. Acting as an advisor and not an author.

<<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5984acf0893fc0dc4b2fe0cf/t/5ff87cd54b2bac145e5445d9/1610120408023/20210108+Bloomberg+Harvard+City+Leader+Guide+on+Equitable+Economic+Development.pdf>>.

“Local Service Corps Can Address Unemployment and Community Need,” with Martha Ross, Suzanna Fritzberg, and Sarena Martinez. *Brookings Institution*. July 23, 2020. <<https://www.brookings.edu/research/local-service-corps-can-address-unemployment-and-community-need/>>.

“The View From Birmingham Alabama.” *Re-opening America: How to Save Lives and Livelihoods*. June 2020. Eds. John R. Allen and Darrell M. West (p15-17). *Brookings Institution*. Online version: <<https://www.brookings.edu/research/reopening-america-the-view-from-birmingham-alabama/>>.

“Investing Not Incentivizing: Birmingham’s Novel Approach to Retaining Tech Companies,” *The Biden Forum*. Hosted by the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware. <<https://bidenforum.org/investing-not-incentivizing-birmingham-high-tech-companies-e0016d1236a>>. August 15, 2018.

“Engines for Empowerment: Role of the Public Urban Research University in the City.” Presented 2018.

“Unhealthy Citizens, Unhealthy Democracy.” *Harvard Law and Policy Review*. <<https://harvardlpr.com/2016/03/31/unhealthy-citizens-unhealthy-democracy/>>. March 31, 2016.

“Beyond the Submerged State: Exploring the Limits of Policy-based mobilization,” with Florian Foos. *Under Review*. <[http://www.florianfoos.net/resources/Carpenter\\_Foos.pdf](http://www.florianfoos.net/resources/Carpenter_Foos.pdf)>.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**National Association of Workforce Investment Boards, Washington, DC, 2020**

“A Data-driven approach to Regional Workforce System Alignment”

**National Manufacturing Institute for Innovation or Manufacturing USA, Manchester, NH, 2019**

“How Data is Helping Define Birmingham’s Promise”

**Accelerator for America, Birmingham, AL, 2019**

**Schwarzman – Rhodes Symposium on Public Leadership, Oxford, UK, 2018**

**Mayor’s Innovation Project, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018**

“Birmingham’s Approach to becoming a ‘Smart City’”

**Contextual Knowledge and Field Experiments Workshop, Scholarly Borderlands Initiative sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, New York, NY, 2017**

“A Case for Blended Methodology in Experimental Research Designs”

**Democratic Anxieties, A Partnership sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the DFG, Mainz, Germany, 2017**

“Voter Turnout and Policy Design: A Cause for Anxiety?”

**American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2016**

**Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2016**

“Beyond the Submerged State: The Limits of Policy-based Mobilization”

**American Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015**

“Mobilizing for Medicaid: A Randomized Field Experiment Testing Pocketbook Versus Sociotropic Campaign Appeals”

**World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community, Shape Europe, Madrid, 2013**

“From backpack to briefcase: how are education systems preparing students for the workforce?”

**SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

- American Association of Rhodes Scholars, Advisory Board Member, 2018-Present
- National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Advisory Committee on STEMM Workforce Needs in the wake of COVID-19, 2020
- MDC, Board Member, 2021-Present
- Birmingham Corps, Advisory Board member, 2020-Present
- Birmingham Promise, Board Secretary, 2019-Present
- Brookings Network for Economic Inclusion, 2018-Present
- Mayor Randall Woodfin’s Economic Development Transition Committee, Co-chair, 2017-2018
- Collaborative on Inclusive Innovation in American Cities, Aspen Institute, 2017
- Academy of Achievement Delegate, 2014
- World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community, 2012-2015

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Named “Democracy Fellow” by the Social Science Research Council and the DFG of Germany, 2018
- Rhodes Scholarship, 2012
- Golden Apple Teacher of the Year for the State of Alabama, 2012
- Global Shaper, World Economic Forum, 2012