

Aaron Kyle Dennis

Institutional strategy · Development finance · Environmental and social risk · Data systems

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PROFILE

I help leaders and teams turn complex social and environmental commitments into clearer decisions, workable systems, and improvements people can sustain. My work spans development finance, social safeguards, accountability, and practical data systems, connecting technical judgment with the people, evidence, and operating processes that make institutional change stick.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| Dec 2023–present | <p>Senior Environmental & Social Specialist
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation · Washington, DC
Concurrent detail, Jul 2026–present: Senior Data & Analytics Liaison Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead environmental and social screening, due diligence, clearance, supervision, and portfolio monitoring across private-sector transactions in energy, mining, infrastructure, agribusiness, education, and financial intermediaries.• Advise on Indigenous Peoples, FPIC, involuntary resettlement, ESIA, ESHIA, ESMSs, action plans, covenants, and corrective-action follow-up.• Design practical monitoring and reporting workflows that connect Salesforce data, active-project lists, documentation, spatial screening, and clearance decisions. |
| Mar 2023–present | <p>Creator
categori.se · Remote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build public-facing evidence systems, structured data products, dashboards, and serverless workflows for development and social-sustainability contexts.• Translate domain expertise into maintainable web tools and decision-support interfaces while preserving sources, version history, and human responsibility. |
| Mar–Oct 2023 | <p>User Success Engineer
Observable Inc. · Washington, DC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coached clients on data management, visual storytelling, notebook architecture, and front-end performance for public-interest and climate-related reporting. |
| Oct 2019–Mar 2023 | <p>Social Development Specialist
Asian Development Bank · Manila and South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed social safeguard compliance and risk mitigation for 27 sovereign energy investments across six South Asian countries.• Served as South Asia focal point for Indigenous Peoples safeguards; led grievance response, dispute-resolution engagements, GESI self-assessment design, visualization initiatives, and reusable reporting templates.• Contributed practice-based inputs to ADB's environmental and social standards update. |
| May 2017–Sep 2019 | <p>Research Analyst
World Bank Group Compliance Advisor Ombudsman · Washington, DC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted compliance appraisals and investigation support in response to allegations of harm raised by project-affected communities.• Assessed institutional performance on Indigenous Peoples, FPIC, supervision obligations, and safeguards commitments; structured case-management data for analytics and public reporting. |

- Jul 2016–Apr 2017** **Staff Consultant, Social Development Specialist (Safeguards); Consultant, Improving Safeguard Policy Applications**
Independent consultant to Asian Development Bank · India and Philippines
- Reviewed resettlement and Indigenous Peoples instruments, advised ADB teams and borrower counterparts, and developed social-performance assessment methods for country safeguard systems.
- Jun 2005–Mar 2015** **Research Associate; Director, Business Development & Research; Special Advisor, Research & Innovation**
Cross-Cultural Consulting Services · Beijing, China / Washington, DC
- Led distributed teams delivering social safeguards, stakeholder engagement, impact assessment, and capacity-building services for extractives and energy clients.
 - Specialized in Indigenous Peoples, resettlement, cultural heritage, baseline studies, performance indicators, and benefit-sharing strategies.
 - Contributed policy studies and good-practice guidance for the World Bank, ADB, EBRD, and OPIC.
- 2004–2016** **Earlier professional experience**
M.E. Sharpe; Asian Development Bank; Bard College at Simon's Rock; UNESCO; Pearl S. Buck International
- Editorial, research, safeguard-policy, IT-user-services, cultural-program, and teaching roles in China, the Philippines, and the United States.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGES, AND PRACTICE

Education and certificates

Business Analytics certificate course · Harvard Business School Online · 2025

Master of Science, Asian Studies · Lund University · 2007–2011

Bachelor of Arts (Honors), Anthropology; minor in German · Pacific Lutheran University · 2000–2004

Languages

English (native); German (advanced); Swedish (moderate); Mandarin Chinese (functional); Russian (passive).

Standards and methods

IFC Performance Standards; MDB safeguards; ESMS review; action plans and covenants; monitoring reports; stakeholder engagement; FPIC analysis; resettlement review; GESI action planning; grievance response.

Data and web tools

SQL, Git, AWS, Azure, Firebase, Observable Framework, JavaScript, Node.js, HTML, CSS, Plot, D3, Tableau, Power BI, QGIS, Leaflet, Mapbox, and OpenLayers.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2022.** *Inclusive Community Energy Resilience in Bangladesh*. Supported coordination of, and responses to, peer review. ADB South Asia Working Paper Series No. 89.
- 2015.** *Practising Social Development: Navigating Local Contexts to Benefit Local Communities*, with Gregory Eliyu Guldin. In *Making a Difference? Social Assessment Policy and Praxis and Its Emergence in China*.
- 2014.** *Indigenous Peoples of Russia: Country Profile*, prepared with Gregory Eliyu Guldin for the World Bank Group.
- 2007.** "The Party Secretary, the Village Head and the Masses: Negotiating Real Contexts in Social Assessment," with Gregory Eliyu Guldin. *Urban Anthropology*, 36(1–2): 9–37.