

# Stanford

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## Keith Bowen

Director, Learning Design Challenge, SAL Digital Learning

### Bio

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#### BIO

For 20+ years, I have worked in the fields of international relief, development, and conflict resolution, building capacity in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, South Africa, Rwanda, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, as well as educating students in the U.S., Europe, and other countries who aspire to work in these fields.

#### Academics & Film

I've worked as an academic and filmmaker, creating educational documentaries on liberation movements around the world, which I've then used with university students in my classrooms. I've had several programs distributed by the Discovery Channel, which has been rewarding, but what has been especially remarkable to me is the response of my students. I've come to appreciate the power of narrative and immediacy of film to transform students' perceptions of the world and their place in it.

#### Learning Design

Along with an emphasis on narrative and immediacy, I've designed interactive programs that draw students into learning through exploration and discovery - with a dynamically shifting experience based on student choice and response. I've also designed learning programs featuring advanced multiplayer simulations with both live and online interaction.

#### Scale

I've taken this work to scale. In my work for the U.S. Government and international humanitarian organizations, I've designed courses that have been completed by tens of thousands of students and practitioners, not only at the State Department, USAID, relief agencies, and universities in the U.S., but also at comparable institutions in other countries, and even in internet cafes and refugee camps around the world. I've earned about a dozen awards for these efforts and have delivered presentations on them for the Under Secretary of State, the Senate Appropriations Committee, representatives of the the 57 countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the 35 countries of the Organization for American States, and others.

#### Virtual Exchange & "Wicked" Global Problems

I am continuing this work at Stanford. My focus now is designing media and technology programs to bring university students in the U.S. and other high-income countries into extended contact with counterpart students in fragile states and zones of conflict to address complex problems that no single country can solve on its own. As students work collaboratively to address these "wicked" problems, we measure advances in learning and shifts in attitude through qualitative and quantitative methods.

I have also launched and serve as Director for the Stanford Learning Design Challenge, which supports students across campus who seek to leverage research in the learning sciences, methodologies in human-centered design, and breakthroughs in emerging technology to change what's possible in teaching and learning. <https://edtech.stanford.edu/>

This is an extraordinary time for those who design media and technology solutions for teaching and learning. Blended in smart combinations, especially with traditional in-person learning, the new tools we have are powerful:

- Visual narrative, through its expression in digital cinema
- Expanding and interconnecting networks of lifelong learners
- Complex human interaction, including multiplayer games and simulations
- Complex machine interaction, including generative AI, dynamically responsive to user needs
- Statistical data analysis, upon which to base informed, iterative human-centered design
- Worldwide electronic distribution, especially to inexpensive mobile devices

If we do this right, the world will be much better for it.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Communicator Award, International Academy of Visual Arts
- Best Practices Award, U.S. Distance Learning Association
- Award of Excellence, Technology & Learning Magazine
- Telly Award, 26th Annual Telly Awards
- Gold Award, National Educational Media Network
- Best of the Best Award: Software, Hewlett Packard
- Omni Award, Omni Intermedia
- Aurora Award: Education, The Aurora Awards
- Aurora Award: Training, The Aurora Awards
- Bronze Award, National Educational Media Network
- Selection, Columbus International Film Festival
- Golden Eagle Award, CINE

## Research & Scholarship

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### PROJECTS

- Confronting the Refugee Crisis: Virtual Exchange in Global Health - Stanford University (September 24, 2018 - present)
- Interrogating Stereotypes: Virtual Exchange in Education - Stanford University (February 15, 2015 - present)
- Reporting from Zones of Conflict: Virtual Exchange in Journalism - Stanford University (December 1, 2013 - present)

## Teaching

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### COURSES

2025-26

- Digital Learning Design Workshop: EDUC 254 (Win, Spr)
- Engineering Education and Online Learning: EDUC 391, ENGR 391 (Aut)

#### 2024-25

- Digital Learning Design Workshop: EDUC 254 (Win, Spr)
- Engineering Education and Online Learning: EDUC 391, ENGR 391 (Aut)

#### 2023-24

- Digital Learning Design Workshop: EDUC 254 (Win, Spr)
- Engineering Education and Online Learning: EDUC 391, ENGR 391 (Aut)

#### 2022-23

- Digital Learning Design Workshop: EDUC 254 (Aut, Win)
- Engineering Education and Online Learning: EDUC 391, ENGR 391 (Spr)

## Professional

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

- Program Director & Lecturer - Stanford University
- Director of Training - Relief International
- Senior Instructional Designer - U.S. Institute of Peace
- Lecturer - Hunter College

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **Virtual Exchange in Global Health: an innovative educational approach to foster socially responsible overseas collaboration.** *International journal of educational technology in higher education*  
Bowen, K., Barry, M., Jowell, A., Maddah, D., Alami, N. H.  
2021; 18 (1): 32
- **Theory of Change in Learning Experience Design** *Learner and User Experience Research*  
Bowen, K., Forssell, K., Rosier, S.  
EdTech Books.2020
- **Virtual Exchange in Journalism: Collaborative Reporting Through New Media and Technology** *Australian Journalism Review*  
Bowen, K., Khan, A., Wake, A.  
2019
- **Validation of the first Arabic version of the life skills scale among university students** *COGENT EDUCATION*  
Maddah, D., Hallit, S., Kabbara, W., Akel, M., Bowen, K., Hasan, Z., Khasholian, T., Alami, N. H., Salameh, P.  
2023; 10 (1)
- **The Use of Virtual Reality for Public Health Education with Reference to Syrian Refugee Camps**  
Alami, N., Bowen, K., Dawson, H., Maddah, D.  
2019
- **Global Assignments: Virtual Exchange in Preparing Australian and Pakistani Students for Cross-Cultural, Collaborative Journalism** *5th World Journalism Education Congress*  
Bowen, K., Khan, A., Wake, A.  
2019

## PRESENTATIONS

- Virtual Exchange, Virtual Reality & Artificial Intelligence: Addressing “Wicked” Global Problems through Emerging Technologies - International Virtual Exchange Conference (10/21/2024 - 10/24/2024)
- Virtual Reality in Syrian Refugee Camps: Collaborative Learning in Virtual Exchange - International Virtual Exchange Conference (10/26/2022 - 2/28/2025)
- Refugee Health in Education: Problem-Based Learning in Virtual Exchange - International Virtual Exchange Conference (9/14/2020 - 9/16/2020)
- Reporting from Zones of Conflict: Virtual Exchange in Journalism - World Journalism Education Congress (7/9/2019 - 7/10/2019)
- Interrogating Stereotypes Through Virtual Exchange - Ninth International Conference on Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at the American University in Beirut (2/15/2019 - 2/16/2019)
- Socially Responsible Overseas Global Health Programming Through Virtual Exchange - Global Health Research Convening (1/16/2019 - 1/16/2019)
- Cross-Cultural, Collaborative Reporting Through Virtual Exchange - Journalism Education and Research Association (12/3/2018 - 12/5/2018)
- Conflict Resolution Training for Rapid Expert Assistance & Co-operation Teams (REACT) - Annual Conference for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (6/14/2010 - 6/16/2010)
- United States Institution of Peace: Online Academy - Diplomatic Training for the Organization of American States (5/12/2008 - 5/14/2008)
- United States Institution of Peace: Online Academy - 24th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning (8/5/2008 - 8/8/2008)
- Iraq Experience: Training in Lessons Learned - U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee (3/20/2006 - 3/20/2006)
- Iraq Experience: Training in Lessons Learned - Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State (1/16/2006 - 1/16/2006)