From Energy Access to Grid Resiliency: A Story of Anthropology, Engineering, and Business



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Laboratory for Energy and Power Solutions (LEAPS) The Polytechnic School

## Laboratory for Energy And Power Solutions



The Laboratory for Energy And Power Solutions (LEAPS) takes energy innovations from concept to construction with a focus on microgrids, off-grid solutions, smart networks, and capacity building.

Dr. Nathan Johnson manages the one-acre microgrid test bed and computational laboratory that combines simulation-based design with hands-on fabrication to create next-generation solutions to current market needs. The entire LEAPS team is active in technical development and service, and regularly participates in capacity building programs inside and outside standard curriculum.

- > 25-person research team including students and staff
- > Basic and applied research in microgrid simulation and control
- > One-acre microgrid test bed, planning expansion
- > Development leading to commercialization
- > New market opportunities for on-grid and off-grid solutions



## **Turning Ideas into Prototypes**



## **Turning Prototypes into Reality**







## A plug-and-play environment for advanced energy research, development, testing, and education

#### **Simulation and Design Environments**



System/network design

Real-time simulations



Power hardware in the loop



#### Intelligent distributed controls

#### **Grid Modernization & Microgrid Test Bed**



Flexible microgrid designs



"Test bay" for new equipment



Campus-scale solutions



Testing and refinement

#### Grid Modernization



#### **Critical Infrastructure**



#### **Off-grid Solutions**



#### Workforce Development



Engineering Ethnography



## 2.7 Billion





1.0 Billion

Energy

## Poverty

1.4 Billion









## Improving understanding through qualitative and quantitative methods



## Using participatory observation to gain deeper insights





Dissatisfaction *and* Aspiration



#### General needs

and

#### Specific interests

## Let's take an example

## Viewpoint

## Judgment

Choice

## Action



## Detailed look into a single home (over 2,000 visited)



## Taking cooking as a example



## Engineering a value proposition - consumer

Removes pollution





Saves time

Johnson NG, Bryden KM. 2013. Clearing the air over cookstoves. DEM+ND. 1(1):8–13.

Value for money



## Engineering a value proposition - product

#### **Designing for Modularity**









#### Forced draft stove



#### Locally sustainable fuel



## Engineering a value proposition - business



Agyemang M, Johnson NG. 2015. "Development of biomass energy technologies and business models for Southern Africa," Proceedings of the 2015 ASME International Design Engineering and Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. <sup>18</sup>

## Engineering a value proposition - business













## Taking a broad look into needs and opportunities



*Johnson NG, Bryden KM. 2012. Energy supply and use in a rural West African village. Energy.* 43(1):283–92.

75% of all energy on cooking stoves



electricity use is a rounding error yet invaluable



no energy for economic development (value creation)





## Containerized microgrids for disaster response

**Challenge:** Lack of critical infrastructure after disasters such as Matthew (Haiti), Maria (PR), Sandy (US). **Solution:** Turnkey microgrids packed into 20' and 40' containers for rapid deployment. Scalable 10-150 kW.

#### Ease of transport



#### **Rapid deployment**



#### **Unpacked microgrid**



20 kW solar PV 20 kWh Li-ion battery 20 kW diesel generator Microgrid controller



#### **Dispatch and AGC**



#### Video: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yan5zlyy">http://tinyurl.com/yan5zlyy</a>

Janko, S., Atkinson, S., & Johnson, N. (2016). Design and fabrication of a containerized micro-grid for disaster relief and off-grid applications. ASME 2016 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences (IDETC) and Computers and Information in Engineering (CIE) Conference. American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

## Universal charge controller for off-grid architectures

**Challenge:** 1.4 billion people without power; lots of solutions; high cost and no interoperability.

Solution: Custom 500W inverter for battery charging, solar home, DC microgrid, and AC microgrid.

Applications



Rural



#### Major features

- Inputs: 12/24/48 VDC, 110/220 VAC
- PWM charging from solar PV
- Current limiting
- Low-voltage disconnect and reconnect
- High-voltage disconnect
- Temperature control
- Lead-acid and Li-ion chemistries
- Pre-pay metering
- WiFi/900 MhZ communication
- Efficiency > 90%, cost < \$50

Saha, S., Janko, S., Johnson, N., Podmore, R., Riaud, A., & Larsen, R. (2016). A universal charge controller for integrating distributed energy resources. 2016 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference, 459-465

## Universal charge controller for off-grid architectures



#### Configuration #2: Sunblazer







#### **Configuration #3: AC Microgrid**

## Potable water for refugee host communities in scarce water regions

**Challenge:** Syrian refugees; insufficient potable water; limited access to grid; grid outages.

**Solution:** Custom 3.5kW inverter, VFD motor drive, and controls for reliable water treatment.

#### Water System



Reverse osmosis + UV

#### Power System



Grid + solar PV

#### Overview:

- Water scarce regions of Lebanon and Jordan
- 18 refugee host communities
- Water kiosks serve 2000 people daily
- 36,000 people total affected

#### **Technical Outcomes:**

- Reduce energy costs by 25-50%
- Increase system efficiency by 15-30%
- Provide energy autonomy up to 2 days

#### **Technical Specifications:**

- 2 kW Solar PV and battery storage
- 1,300 Liter/Hour reverse osmosis system
- Grid connection optional

## Potable water for refugee host communities in scarce water regions

- Logic vs. model predictive control (MPC)
- MPC enables optimal energy usage



## Potable water for refugee host communities in scarce water regions

- Commissioned prototype unit in Lebanon
- Decreased operational cost

Goal	Existing Solution	Generation 1	Generation 2
Cost of energy (\$/kWh)	.13	.065	.055
Energy per unit water (kWh/L)	.0011	.0011	.00056
Grid independent operation (hours)	0	3	3+





**Challenge:** Refugee camps; water access; limited access to grid; medical needs.

**Solution:** Provide turn-key capabilities to expeditionary naval, disaster response, and humanitarian aid applications.





- Off-grid, rapidly-deployable system with power, water, and healthcare
- Includes solar PV, backup generator, diesel fuel storage, a large capacity battery, UV water purification, and medical equipment
- Designed to be rapidly deployment on site for military bases, humanitarian needs, and disaster response





- Site visits are critical to the "empathize" design phase of engineering
- Understanding your end user's needs to build a system that addressed the actual problem (rather than the perceived problem)











## Critical Infrastructure

## Increasing stress on infrastructure uncovers more vulnerabilities

**Challenge:** Extreme weather events causing unforeseen failures in coupled infrastructure systems **Solution:** Quantify and simulate the effects of extreme events to improve planning and operations

#### **Climate non-stationarity**



The "slow bake" problem

#### **Extreme events**



Exacerbated weather incidents

We are trained as problem solvers but not as problem finders.

#### **Problem Solvers**

Known problem, scripted approach, one solution

# LAUREL HEIGHTS

#### **Problem Finders**

Unknown problem, exploratory approach, multiple solutions



We need to advance our approach, tools, and training to become problem finders.

# Quantifying the effect of extreme heat on US transmission infrastructure



transmission infrastructure summer peak demand climate models population growth line thermal limits reduction in ampacity

(line carrying capacity)

Burillo, D., Chester, M. V., Ruddell, B., & Johnson, N. (2017). Electricity demand planning forecasts should consider climate non-stationarity to maintain reserve margins during heat waves. Applied Energy, 206, 267-277.
# Quantifying the effect of dust storm intensity and propagation on solar PV output reduction in Phoenix area



#### Dust storm intensity

Dust storm propagation



#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYnuzoH5oBA

Janko, S. A., Gorman, B. T., Singh, U. P., & Johnson, N. G. (2015). High penetration residential solar photovoltaics and the effects of dust storms on system net load. In ASME 2015 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences (IDETC) and Computers and Information in Engineering (CIE) Conference. American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

### But what about connections between infrastructures and interdependencies?



### The Resilient Infrastructure Simulation Environment (RISE)

The **Resilient Infrastructure Simulation Environment (RISE)** is a real-time simulation and training environment that enables researchers and operators to test *network design configurations* and *operating strategies* to improve system resilience to environmental (e.g., extreme heat), anthropogenic, and cyber threats. <u>https://tinyurl.com/ybl65vn6</u>

#### Infrastructure Models





Power

Water



Gas



Transportation





#### **Threat and Resiliency Simulation**



#### Human Interaction





**GIS Maps** 

SCADA





#### Infrastructure Management



Real-time Adaptation & Response

Gorman, B., Hamel, D., Bondank, E., Barela, E., Scott, S., Carmody, C., Lajom, A., Chester, M., Johnson, N. G. (2017). Real-time simulation and control of interdependent power and water networks using Resilient Infrastructure Simulation Environment (RISE). In ISSST.

### What we model and measure

Temporal Domain	Spatial Domain					
	Local effect	Regional effect				
Fast-acting	<ul> <li>Grid voltage (power)</li> <li>Individual movement (social)</li> <li>Protection mechanisms (power)</li> <li>Network reconfiguration (power/cyber)</li> <li>Direct personal communication (social)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Grid frequency (power)</li> <li>Electrical resource adequacy (power)</li> <li>Social media traffic (social)</li> <li>SCADA denial of service (cyber)</li> <li>Reported outages (cyber/social)</li> </ul>				
Slow-acting	<ul> <li>Water pressure (water)</li> <li>Time allocation of activities (social)</li> <li>Power/water source selection (social)</li> <li>Communication format (cyber/social)</li> <li>"Waiter" malware (cyber)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Population movement (social)</li> <li>Loss of water availability (water)</li> <li>Fuel availability (power)</li> <li>Market operation (power/water)</li> <li>Direct personal communication (social)</li> </ul>				

But the connections and relationships between these are rarely tracked ... ... which leads to unknown vulnerabilities

### Taking research into practice

Resiliency score & cost Cyber attack / controls

# Resiliency planning, disaster risk reduction



XENDEE microgrid and distribution network design with costing

IncSys/PowerData PowerSimulator for real-time operation

Microgrid developers

Electric utilities and ISOs

ASU RISE network design and real-time operation

City and community planners, electric utilities

### Grid Modernization

# Power system equivalent model development for power electronics devices

**Challenge:** Power system equivalent model development of power electronics components

Solution: Developing equivalent simulation models mimicking the behavior of power electronics components



For a three-phase fault, the positive sequence power dropped immediately to zero for the case **with the greatest voltage dip (53%)** and decreased slowly to zero for smaller voltage dips as fault duration increased.

Saha, S. & Johnson, N. (2018). Point-on-wave analysis of three phase induction motor drive under fault external to the power plant. IEEE PES General Meeting.



### Assessing the impact of business-as-usual residential solar PV

**Challenge:** Potential impact of residential solar assuming no technical, financial, or policy change (2015). **Solution:** Quantify and contrast potential future scenarios in US cities.





Janko, S., Arnold, M., & Johnson, N. (2016). Implications of highpenetration renewables for ratepayers and utilities in the residential solar photovoltaic (PV) market. Applied Energy, 180, 37-51.

### IoT solutions for remote connectivity and control of building EMS

**Challenge:** Smart inverters lack capability for remote monitoring/control. Utilities forced to take generation. **Solution:** Provide seamless remote connectivity and interoperability to solar and other DER assets.

data



Web-based interface for viewing data and control



### Smart Nodes with building-level EMS controller

**Challenge:** Greater uncertainty in loads due to increasing amounts of consumer-side technologies. **Solution:** Integrate control of all technologies in intelligent home EMS (HEMS); simple external portal.

Each 5-20kW "Smart Node" control solution is suitable for buildings, campuses, off-grid sites, and mobile power systems



On-board controls can dispatch assets with simple commands from the utility such as energy cost, net load set point, ancillary services



### Model predictive control for scheduling DER assets

**Challenge:** Poorly coordinated asset scheduling limits cost savings and resiliency

Solution: Optimize near term control to accommodate future variability in resources



### Model predictive control for scheduling DER assets



Rate Structure	тоυ			TOU + Demand				
Control Method	Baseline	Logic	Advanced	Advanced AS	Baseline	Logic	Advanced	Advanced AS
Yearly Bill (\$)	1764.90 (-)	871.92 (-50.6)	477.16 (-73.0)	525.61 (-70.2)	1534.47 (-)	738.51 (51.9)	567.09 (63.0)	672.76 (56.2)
On Peak Energy (kWh)	5775.33 (-)	181.99 (-96.9)	-912.67 (-115.8)	15.93 (-99.7)	5775.33 (-)	170.83 (-97.0)	-1221.86 (-121.2)	1988.7 (-65.6)

# Distributed energy resource aggregation

- Challenge: Controlling the increasing number of distributed energy resources (DER).
- Solution: Aggregate the resources to enable cost savings and increased grid reliability.



### Multi-agent facilitation of transactive energy networks

**Challenge:** Increase in distributed energy resources but no coordinated exchange market. **Solution:** Transactive energy networks to facilitate trading between microgrid nodes.



Janko, S. & Johnson, N. (2018). Scalable multi-agent microgrid negotiations for a transactive energy market. Applied Energy, 229, 715-727. 50

### Multi-agent facilitation of transactive energy networks





51

### Distributed security of grid-edge devices

**Challenge:** Security of grid-edge devices threatened by adversaries.

Solution: Advanced intrusion detection techniques coupled with distributed Blockchain ledgers.



IoT and "smart" vendors

**DER product vendors** 

Infrastructure vendors

# Distributed security of grid-edge devices



\*\*\*

chip

**Current Cyber-Physical Security Architecture** 

# Distributed security of voltage regulating devices

Challenge: Stability of distribution network disrupted by cyberattacks.

Solution: Develop methodology and tools allowing automatic reconfiguration of distribution grids .



Inverters fail to converge to a stable point due to steep droop curve

Inverters converge to a stable operating point with updated droop curve

### Rapid design and evaluation of microgrids and DER distribution

**Challenge:** Long time to design and quote. Each project is unique; start from scratch. Project management. **Solution:** Single tool combines analysis of generation, distribution, loads, economics. 90% time reduction.



#### **Time series**

#### **Power flow**

Modeling Overview: <u>https://youtu.be/-C0E5j9prxo</u> SnapShot Power Flow: <u>https://youtu.be/3F1ay5CazCQ</u> Google Maps Integration: <u>https://youtu.be/QwA2IMMU-Nk</u>

### Workforce Development

# LEAPS workforce development

Our eight training programs support the advancement of **microgrid project funders/managers**, **engineers**, **technicians**, **operators**, and **installers** through in-person workshops and online content delivery.

Entity	Training	Delivery	Capacity	Trained so Far	Comments
ASU	Microgrid Boot Camp	In-person	20/session	80	Five days, offered twice per year at ASU
ASU	Microgrid Master Class	In-person	Varies	100	One or two days, offered anywhere
ASU/HNEI	Grid Resiliency	In-person	20/session	Upcoming	Two days, offered once per year at ASU
ASU	Microgrid Design and Control	In-person	25/session	25	Three-credit special topics course at ASU
IncSys	Grid Cybersecurity	In-person	25/session	20	Two days, offered once per year at ASU
IncSys	Power4Vets	Online	10/session	20	90-hours online, available anytime
ASU/XENDEE	Microgrid Design	Online	N/A	Upcoming	20-hours online, available anytime
BlockFrame	New Cyber Frontier	Online	N/A	No data	Online cybersecurity show, monthly

**ASU** collaborate with **HNEI**, **IncSys**, **XENDEE**, and **BlockFrame** to create and deliver training materials and programs to benefit civilians, Navy Veterans, and active military.









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### Microgrid boot camp for civilian and military applications

Challenge: Rapidly growing market needs require short courses and continuing education credits.

Solution: One-week introductory course for design, installation, operation, maintenance, and safety.

#### Infrastructure basics



#### Simulation-based design



#### Hands-on integration



Interactive tours











### Microgrid boot camp for civilian and military applications

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Introduction	<u>On-grid and Off-grid</u> Systems in HOMER	Hands-on Integration Microgrid Test Bed	Distribution Network Simulation & Analysis	Walking Tours of Local Facilities	
<ul> <li>Basics of microgrids and energy infrastructure</li> <li>Small-scale hands- on activity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>System sizing and component selection</li> <li>Applying HOMER to personal case study</li> <li>Mobile microgrids</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Safety training</li> <li>System deployment and testing</li> <li>Primary controls</li> <li>Controller configuration</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Power flow analysis</li> <li>QSTS analysis</li> <li>Short circuit analysis</li> <li>Voltage stability and asset sizing/placement</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Power plant tour (SRP Santan Generating Station – 1.2 GW)</li> <li>Grid-operator control center tour</li> </ul>	

#### Video: https://vimeo.com/285148179/69793233bd

### Cyber and kinetic vulnerabilities in electrical infrastructure

**Challenge:** Cybersecurity threats rapidly evolving with uncertain entry points and impacts.

Solution: Real-time simulations with regional assets and transmission lines; competitive attack-defend.







Nathan G Johnson @johnsonasu

Training in #CyberAttack and #CyberSecurity of electric grids @ASU with IncSys and participation from @SRPconnect, @apsFYI, @USNavyResearch



Ruben Robles @RubenRobles18

It was an honor and a privilege to talk with the engineers of tomorrow @ASU about defending #criticalinfrastructure #utilities #ICS #SCADA

Nathan G Johnson @johnsonasu Great talk on #cybersecurity and #cyberdefense by @RubenRobles18 at @ASU @asu\_gsi @ASUEngineering @SRPconnect thanks!!!



# Scaling to meet a growing global workforce

**Challenge:** A \$40B market without sufficient trained personnel to realize market potential. **Solution:** 200+ hours of classroom, simulation, and hands-on curriculum.

Online Microgrid and DER Design Tool and Program Management



#### Grid Modernization and Microgrid Test Bed

![](_page_61_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Mobile Microgrid Training Platform

![](_page_61_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### Video: https://vimeo.com/252371023/80fe83fc61

# Microgrid master classes

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Event Agenda** (example)

Introductions and Overview				
Dr. Nate Johnson, Assistant Professor, <b>ASU</b>				
Introduction to XENDEE				
Shammya Saha, Graduate Research Assistant, ASU				
Lunch Break				
Split into three groups and switch every hour:				
Group 1: Mobile Microgrid Training Platform				
Alexander Mobley, Microgrid Testbed Manager, ASU				
Group 2: Primary Control Demonstration				
James Nelson, Graduate Research Assistant, ASU				
Group 3: Mobile Training Toolkits				
Shammya Saha				
Closing Discussion				
Nate Johnson				

- Partnership with GOEE and EdPlus for online content development
- Partnership with XENDEE for design software
- Microgrid Design Process curriculum

![](_page_63_Figure_4.jpeg)

- **Overview**
- Basics of energy infrastructure
- Terminology
- On-grid architectures (and use cases)
- Off-grid architectures (and use cases)

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- Microgrid Design Process curriculum

![](_page_64_Figure_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_65_Figure_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_66_Figure_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_67_Figure_4.jpeg)

QSTS Power Flow

- **Overview**
- Basics of energy infrastructure
- Terminology
- On-grid architectures (and use cases)
- Off-grid architectures (and use cases)

Starting with 18 hours of content (Fall 2018). Includes videos and activities on the following topics:

#### **Basics of Microgrids (6 hours)**

- Basics of Energy Infrastructure (1 hour)
- Terminology (1 hour)
- On-grid Architectures (2 hours)
- Off-grid Architectures (2 hours)

#### Selecting & Sizing Assets in XENDEE (4 hours)

- Economic and Technical Feasibility (2 hours)
- Financial Analysis of On-grid and Off-grid Systems (2 hours)

#### Power Flow in XENDEE (5 hours)

Power Flow Analysis (5 hours)

#### Commissioning/Deployment (3 hours)

- Inverter Setup (1.5 hours)
- Microgrid Integration (1.5 hours)

![](_page_68_Figure_15.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_16.jpeg)

### **Supporting Entities and Partners**

![](_page_69_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

![](_page_70_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Picture_3.jpeg)

### **Multi-agent Facilitation of Transactive Energy Networks**

![](_page_71_Figure_1.jpeg)