

UNSEALED

# The Placement Machine

*How Epstein embedded himself in elite institutions — with checks and with people*

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Unsealed Research Team

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Jeffrey Epstein’s official biography is one paragraph long. It is, sentence for sentence, one of the most information-dense documents in the entire DOJ release.

“Mr. Epstein is a former member of the Trilateral Commission and a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Epstein is a member of the Board of Directors and the President of The C.O.U.Q. Foundation, Inc., one of the largest scientific philanthropies, funding topics such as ‘Biologically Inspired Financial Computing,’ ‘Game Theory and the Currency Markets,’ ‘The Mathematics and Political Impacts of Esoteric Financial Instruments,’ and ‘Personal Genomics and Power.’”<sup>1</sup>

Read that last one again. **“Personal Genomics and Power.”**

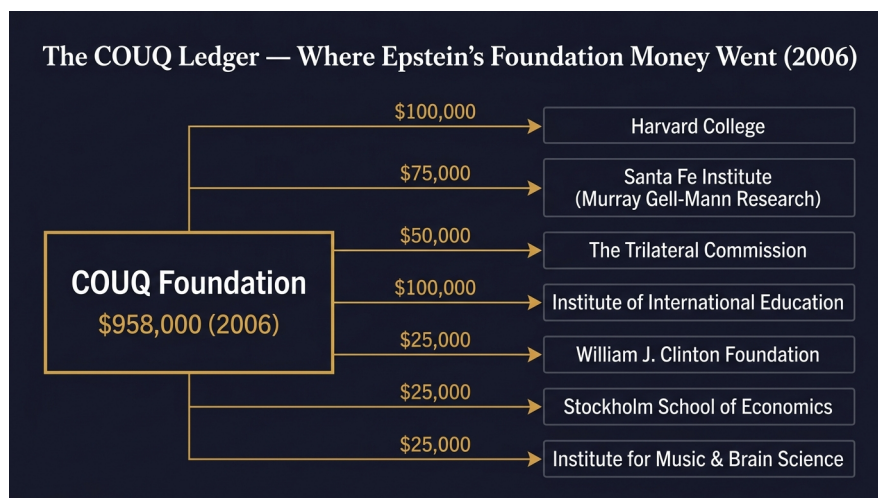
This is a man who owned a ranch in New Mexico where, according to reporting by the *New York Times*, he told scientists he wanted to seed the human race with his own DNA.<sup>2</sup> And the research program he ran through his own foundation was called *Personal Genomics and Power*.

The bio tells you exactly what Epstein was building. Not a fortune. Not a social circle. A **placement machine** — one that embedded him in the institutional architecture of American power through two levers: money and people.

## Act I: The Money

### The COUQ Ledger

The COUQ Foundation’s 2006 disbursement ledger survived in the DOJ release. Check by check, it shows \$958,000 flowing outward in a single year:<sup>3</sup>



Harvard. The Trilateral Commission. The Clinton Foundation. The Santa Fe Institute, ear-

marked for Murray Gell-Mann — the Nobel laureate who discovered quarks. This is not a charity. This is an access ledger.

The [Trilateral Commission article](#) covered the \$50,000 check to TC. But look at the whole picture. Nearly a million dollars, disbursed across institutions that sit at the intersection of science, governance, and elite social networks. Every check bought a seat at a different table.

### ***The Research That Wasn't***

What did COUQ actually fund? The bio lists four research topics. Let's look at them:

- **“Biologically Inspired Financial Computing”** — What does this mean? No published papers appear under this title. No academic conferences. No citations. It reads like a phrase engineered to sound impressive while remaining impossible to audit.
- **“Game Theory and the Currency Markets”** — Plausible as academic work, but no COUQ-funded publications have surfaced.
- **“The Mathematics and Political Impacts of Esoteric Financial Instruments”** — The word *esoteric* is doing a lot of heavy lifting. This describes Epstein's own business more than any academic discipline.
- **“Personal Genomics and Power”** — The quiet one. The one that, in hindsight, tells you everything.

### ***George Church's Lab***

We know where at least some of the COUQ money went. In February 2008, George Church — Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Director of the NIH Center for Excellence in Genomic Science — emailed Epstein's assistant to say he'd write up “three pages of about how the COUQ money has been used in 2007 and will be used in 2008.”<sup>4</sup>

A Harvard genetics professor, reporting to a financier with no scientific credentials on how the foundation's money was spent. Not to a board. Not to a grant committee. To Jeffrey Epstein, through his assistant Lesley Groff.

COUQ also reimbursed Martin Nowak — the Harvard mathematician who ran the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics, another Epstein-funded initiative.<sup>5</sup> And behind the scenes, COUQ's accounts were managed by Bella Klein and Rich Kahn at HBRK Associates, who shuffled money between COUQ's JPMorgan accounts, a separate entity called “Enhanced Education,” and Epstein's personal funds — sometimes confused about which pot the money was supposed to come from.<sup>6</sup>

One internal email noted: “Florida Science is COUQ. Ask Darren for an explanation of the different names for the same foundation.”<sup>7</sup>

Different names. Same foundation. Same man at the center.

## Act II: The People

### *The Director of Events*

Valerie Post held the title of **Director of Special Events at the Council on Foreign Relations** — the organization whose members have included every Secretary of State since 1940, most CIA directors, and every president of the World Bank.

She also had regular phone dates with Jeffrey Epstein.<sup>8</sup>

The DOJ release contains at least 58 email threads between Epstein and Post, spanning 2010 to 2013. Lesley Groff scheduled their calls like diplomatic meetings: *“A Phone Date with Valerie Post at the Council on Foreign Relations has been organized for Wed. Sept 8th at 4:30. YOU are to call her.”*<sup>9</sup>

These were not formal exchanges. They were personal. Casual. Intimate in the way that only real access produces.

### *“Buying Respectability”*

On the morning of September 13, 2010, Epstein texted Post:

█ *“orange juice before you go to work... 9 east 71?? at 9?”*<sup>10</sup>

9 East 71st Street. His Manhattan townhouse — the same address where the FBI would later execute a search warrant and find a safe containing compact discs labeled with the names of young women.

Later that day, he sent her this:

█ *“buying respectability is like the Oscar Wilde quote that says, sincerity is the most important characteristic, and once you can fake that you’ll be fine”*<sup>10</sup>

Epstein, quoting Oscar Wilde on faking sincerity. To the CFR’s Director of Events. Two years after his conviction.

Post’s responses were warm, familiar. When Epstein invited her for tea with Naomi Campbell, she replied: *“If you said brad pitt or Richard Gere I might have come. Let me know when shes gone.”*<sup>10</sup>

She mentioned Tony Blair. Richard Branson. Ehud Barak. Bill Clinton. In one email, she told Epstein casually: *“I missed Clinton speaking to the Hamilton project here Saturday morning. He was apparently hitting on my staff.”*<sup>11</sup>

She was telling a convicted sex offender that the former President of the United States was hitting on her staff. At the Council on Foreign Relations.

### ***The Science Symposium***

On September 16, 2010, Epstein wrote to Post:

“I accept your proposal to host and fund a science symposium. IT can range from origin of the universe, bio-fabrication, artificial life, computation and privacy, astronomy, to the uniqueness of human life, mathematics of nature, brain advances and its future”<sup>12</sup>

A convicted sex offender, offering to host and fund a science symposium through the Council on Foreign Relations. Post replied with a joke about God creating the universe and offered to “stop by on way to dinner.”

Two months later, Libyan President Mohammad Magariaf’s upcoming address to the UN General Assembly — followed by a luncheon at the Council on Foreign Relations “for members and invited guest” — was forwarded directly to Epstein’s inbox.<sup>13</sup>

### ***“Young People”***

Then came September 20, 2013.

Epstein to Post:

“how are you? i have some young people that would gladly volunteer to help you.”<sup>14</sup>

Post replied: “Volunteer at the Council? Let me know what you are thinking.”

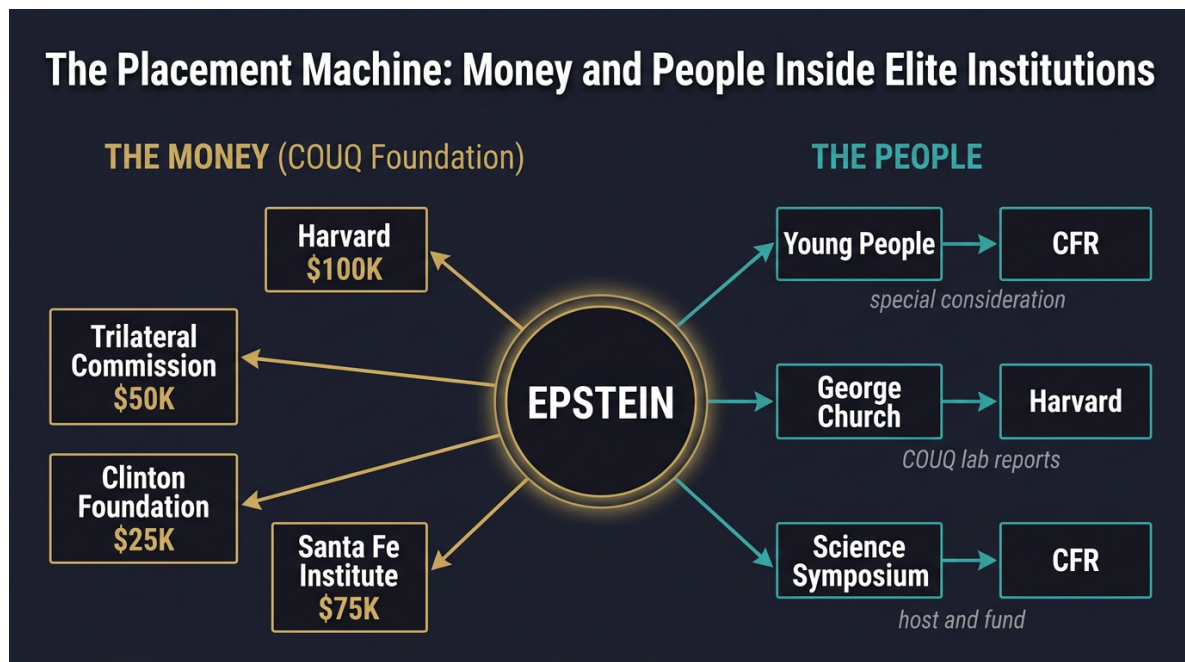
Epstein: “yes, they have been at the UN helpin out, multilingual, some in late twenties. foreign council looks interesting to them.”

One month later, Post responded:

“Sorry, checked in to this for you. The Council has strict rules around interning. They would have to apply for a certain position or try next Spring to come on for the summer. **Please have them forward their resumes to me and I will put in front of HR for special consideration.**”<sup>14</sup>

Special consideration. For Jeffrey Epstein’s “young people.” At the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2013 — five years after his conviction, while he was a registered sex offender.

The Council has strict rules around interning. But not, apparently, strict enough to prevent a convicted sex offender’s nominees from receiving “special consideration” from the Director of Special Events.



### The Machine

COUQ bought the institutional credentials. The checks to Harvard, to the Trilateral Commission, to the Clinton Foundation — they purchased the biography. They made it possible for Epstein’s one-paragraph bio to list memberships and board seats at the organizations where global policy is shaped.

But the checks were only one lever. The other was personnel. Offering to place “young people” at the CFR. Having George Church report back on how the money was spent. Hosting science symposiums. Forwarding guest lists for heads-of-state luncheons.

Epstein didn’t just write checks to institutions. He inserted himself — and his people — into their operations. Money bought the door. People walked through it.

The COUQ Foundation funded “Personal Genomics and Power.” At the Council on Foreign Relations, that research program had a name the academics wouldn’t have chosen: **placement**.

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### Sources & Documents

All documents referenced below are from the U.S. Department of Justice Epstein document release, searchable on [Unsealed](#).

1. **EFTA00725190** — Official Epstein biography: TC member, CFR member, COUQ Foundation president. [View](#) □

2. *New York Times*, July 31, 2019 — “Jeffrey Epstein Hoped to Seed Human Race With His DNA.”
3. **EFTA00804104** — COUQ Foundation 2006 disbursement ledger: \$958,000 across Harvard, TC, Clinton Foundation, Santa Fe Institute, and others. [View](#) □
4. **George Church email, Feb 25, 2008** — Church Lab “annual update” on COUQ money usage, forwarded by Lesley Groff. [View thread](#) □
5. **EFTA01815686** — Martin Nowak reimbursement from COUQ Foundation, confirmed by Bella Klein. [View](#) □
6. **EFTA00776343, EFTA02428401, EFTA00879580** — COUQ JPMorgan account funding requests from Bella Klein, transfers between COUQ and “Enhanced Education.” [View](#) □
7. **EFTA00559409** — Internal note: “Florida Science is COUQ. Ask Darren for an explanation of the different names for the same foundation.” [View](#) □
8. **EFTA02421956** — Lesley Groff reminder: “4:30 Phone Date with Valerie Post at the Council on Foreign Relations.” [View](#) □
9. **EFTA02423409** — Valerie Post phone date confirmation: “YOU are to call her.” [View](#) □
10. **EFTA02419605** — Epstein–Post correspondence: “orange juice before you go to work,” Oscar Wilde quote, Naomi Campbell tea invitation. [View thread](#) □
11. **EFTA00751793** — Post to Epstein: Clinton “apparently hitting on my staff” at Hamilton Project event at CFR. [View](#) □
12. **EFTA02421092** — Epstein to Post: “I accept your proposal to host and fund a science symposium.” [View thread](#) □
13. **EFTA00635170** — Libyan President Magariaf’s CFR luncheon invitation forwarded to Epstein. [View](#) □
14. **EFTA01753765** — Epstein offers “young people” as CFR volunteers; Post offers “special consideration” bypassing “strict rules around interning.” [View thread](#) □

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*This article draws on the [Secret Societies & Elite Power Networks](#) research dossier, compiled from 1.3 million full-text documents, 73,000+ emails, and the complete knowledge graph in the Unsealed database.*