

# Helen Webley-Brown

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[!\[\]\(666e09182d4cd268646ea700ea60dcdf\_img.jpg\) helenwebleybrown.github.io](https://helenwebleybrown.github.io)

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## Education

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**Ph.D. in Sociology**, Stanford University

- **Honors:** CCSRE Emerging Scholar

Palo Alto, CA

Sept 2025 – Present

**S.M. in Political Science**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

- **Thesis:** Democracy Under Surveillance: The Effect of Pretrial Electronic Monitoring on Voting Behavior
- **Fields:** American Politics, Quantitative Methods [GPA: 4.9/5.0]

Cambridge, MA

Feb 2025

**A.B. in Political Science**, Washington University in St. Louis (WashU)

- **Honors:** Danforth Scholar, Civic Scholar, College Honors, Phi Beta Kappa [GPA: 3.97/4.0]

St. Louis, MO

May 2022

## Publications

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Gupta, A., Wu, V., **Webley-Brown, H.**, King, J., Ho, D. (2023). [The Privacy-Bias Tradeoff: Data Minimization and Racial Disparity Assessments in U.S. Government](#). In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT).

- Best Paper Award [at FAccT, 2023](#)
- Student Paper Award [from Future of Privacy Forum, 2023](#)

## Other Writing

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**Webley-Brown, H.**, Sipek, A., Buoymaster, K., Shivalkar, J., Owen, W., Manis, E. (2022). [ShotSpotter and the Misfires of Gunshot Detection Technology](#). Surveillance Technology Oversight Project.

Loshkajian, N., Van Doran, S., Melendi, J., Saran, S., **Webley-Brown, H.**, Manis, E. (2022). [Privatizing The Surveillance State: How Police Foundations Undermine Rule of Law](#). Surveillance Technology Oversight Project.

## Working Papers

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Divisions at Home, Broken Promises Abroad? How Domestic Politics Shapes the United States' Nuclear Credibility (with Lauren Sukin)

- Conditionally accepted at *International Studies Quarterly*

Global Ideological Polarization In Nuclear Attitudes: Evidence From 23 Countries (with Lauren Sukin and Stephen Herzog)

Assessing the Impact of Generative AI Search Tools on Government-Citizen Information Exchange (with Chris Cai, Peter John, and Helen Margetts)

Who Contacts Government and How? Survey Evidence from the UK (with Chris Cai, Peter John, and Helen Margetts)

## Works in Progress

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Telling on Yourself To Build Trust: The Effect of Open Data Initiatives on Public Perceptions of the Police

Why Watch The Watchers? Frame Utilization In Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) Legislation

Democracy at Home: How Racial Diversity in Public Housing Developments Shape Resident Council Emergence

The Face of Public Housing: Measuring Descriptive Representation in Public Housing Authority Leadership

## Research Experience

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**Research Assistant**, Oxford Internet Institute (Prof. Helen Margetts)

- Analyzed original survey data on trends in UK citizen-government information exchange

London, England

Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

**Research Officer**, LSE Phelan United States Center (Prof. Lauren Sukin)

- Conducted quantitative and archival data analysis across Dr. Sukin's research portfolio

London, England

Dec 2024 – Aug 2025

<b>Research Assistant</b> , MIT Political Science (Prof. Ariel White)	Cambridge, MA
• Used Sequential Monte Carlo algorithm to analyze impact of prison gerrymandering reforms on legislative outcomes	May 2023 – Aug 2023
<b>Summer Research Fellow</b> , Stanford Regulation, Evaluation, and Governance Lab	Remote
• Conducted content analysis of 25 federal agencies' equity action plans	June 2022 – Aug 2022
• Analyzed privacy-related barriers to data collection, and its impact on bias assessments	
<b>Research Intern</b> , Surveillance Technology Oversight Project	Remote
• Wrote two reports on emerging surveillance technologies' impact on civil rights	Jan 2022 – May 2022
• Created data visualization of racial disparities in ShotSpotter technology deployment	
<b>Student Researcher</b> , Modernist Prehistory of Facial Recognition Lab (Prof. Anca Parvulescu)	St. Louis, MO
• Researched facial recognition's physiognomic roots using archival and literary analysis	Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
<b>Data Analysis and Research Intern</b> , The Bail Project	St. Louis, MO
• Performed data fidelity checks on Salesforce reports with 900+ unique client records	June 2021 – Aug 2021
• Surveyed 43 clients and conducted 3 interviews to write report on socio-economic impacts of pretrial electronic monitoring	
<b>Research Assistant</b> , WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby)	St. Louis, MO
• Analyzed sentiment in pre/post class survey data to track changes in protest attitudes	Jan 2020 – June 2020

## Teaching Assistant Experience

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<b>Making Public Policy (UG)</b> , MIT Political Science (Prof. Andrea Campbell)	Fall 2024
<b>Quantitative Political Methodology (UG)</b> , WashU Political Science (Prof. Christopher Lucas)	Spring 2021
<b>Social Movements (UG)</b> , WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby)	Spring 2020

## Pedagogical Training

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<b>MIT Teaching + Learning Lab Teaching Certificate</b>	Fall 2024
• <b>Course Design Track</b> (backward design, inclusive class policies, syllabus development)	
• <b>Lesson Planning Track</b> (giving formative feedback, active learning)	
• <b>Inclusive Teaching Track</b> (strategies to foster a welcoming, equitable classroom)	
• <b>Microteaching Track</b> (lecture skills, facilitating discussions, teaching demos)	

## Service

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<b>First-Year Representative</b> , Association of Sociology Graduate Students, Stanford Sociology	Fall 2025 – Present
<b>Co-Chair</b> , Graduate Student Works-in-Progress Workshop, MIT Political Science	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
<b>Diversity Co-Chair</b> , Graduate Student Council, MIT Political Science	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
<b>Mentor</b> , Political Science Application Mentorship Program (PSAMP), MIT Political Science	Fall 2022

## Conferences and Workshops

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American Politics Group (APG) Early Career Researcher Conference	2025
BRIDGE Event on Electronic Monitoring (Arnold Ventures)	2025
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2024

## Grants and Awards

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<b>Stanford</b> , CCSRE Emerging Scholars Award (3-year fellowship)	2025
<b>MIT</b> , Political Methodology Lab Research Grant (\$1000)	2023
<b>Future of Privacy Forum</b> , Student Paper Award (shared with co-authors)	2023
<b>FAccT</b> , Best Paper Award (shared with co-authors)	2023

<b>WashU</b> , Shepley Outstanding Senior Award	2022
<b>WashU</b> , Harriet K. Switzer Leadership Award	2022
<b>WashU</b> , Gephardt Institute Fox-Clark Civic Scholarship	2020
<b>WashU</b> , William H. Danforth Scholarship (4-year full tuition award)	2018

## Non-Academic Experience

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<b>Legal Lark</b> , Founder and Project Manager	St. Louis, MO
• Managed team of 4 to create <a href="#">website</a> on e-carceration and juvenile justice	May 2021 – May 2022
• Built resource bank, designed infographics, and wrote articles on youth incarceration	
<b>Government Affairs Intern</b> , Human Rights Campaign	Remote
• Coded 506 cities' LGBTQ+ police liaison policies for <a href="#">HRC's Municipal Equality Index</a>	Jan 2021 – April 2021
• Tracked politicians' votes and bill sponsorships for <a href="#">HRC's Congressional Scorecard</a>	
<b>Public Affairs and Communications Intern</b> , Hanbury Strategy	London, England
• Drafted client op-eds, government consultation responses, and stakeholder maps	June 2020 – Sept 2020
<b>Campaign Donations Researcher</b> , Lavender for State Senate	Remote
• Researched past contributions of 300+ potential donors; out-raised incumbent by 106%	June 2020 – Aug 2020

## Technical Skills

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**LAT**EX, R and R Studio, Python, ArcGIS, QGIS