

Helen Webley-Brown

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Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

Research Assistant , MIT Political Science (Prof. Ariel White)	Cambridge, MA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used Sequential Monte Carlo algorithm to analyze impact of prison gerrymandering reforms on legislative outcomes 	May 2023 – Aug 2023
Summer Research Fellow , Stanford Regulation, Evaluation, and Governance Lab	Remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted content analysis of 25 federal agencies' equity action plans Analyzed privacy-related barriers to data collection, and its impact on bias assessments 	June 2022 – Aug 2022
Research Intern , Surveillance Technology Oversight Project	Remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote two reports on emerging surveillance technologies' impact on civil rights Created data visualization of racial disparities in ShotSpotter technology deployment 	Jan 2022 – May 2022
Student Researcher , Modernist Prehistory of Facial Recognition Lab (Prof. Anca Parvulescu)	St. Louis, MO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched facial recognition's physiognomic roots using archival and literary analysis 	Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
Data Analysis and Research Intern , The Bail Project	St. Louis, MO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performed data fidelity checks on Salesforce reports with 900+ unique client records Surveyed 43 clients and conducted 3 interviews to write report on socio-economic impacts of pretrial electronic monitoring 	June 2021 – Aug 2021
Research Assistant , WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby)	St. Louis, MO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed sentiment in pre/post class survey data to track changes in protest attitudes 	Jan 2020 – June 2020

Teaching Assistant Experience

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

Pedagogical Training

MIT Teaching + Learning Lab Teaching Certificate	Fall 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Design Track (backward design, inclusive class policies, syllabus development) Lesson Planning Track (giving formative feedback, active learning) Inclusive Teaching Track (strategies to foster a welcoming, equitable classroom) Microteaching Track (lecture skills, facilitating discussions, teaching demos) 	

Service

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

Conferences and Workshops

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

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

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

Non-Academic Experience

Legal Lark , Founder and Project Manager	St. Louis, MO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed team of 4 to create website on e-carceration and juvenile justice Built resource bank, designed infographics, and wrote articles on youth incarceration 	May 2021 – May 2022
Government Affairs Intern , Human Rights Campaign	Remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coded 506 cities' LGBTQ+ police liaison policies for HRC's Municipal Equality Index Tracked politicians' votes and bill sponsorships for HRC's Congressional Scorecard 	Jan 2021 – April 2021
Public Affairs and Communications Intern , Hanbury Strategy	London, England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted client op-eds, government consultation responses, and stakeholder maps 	June 2020 – Sept 2020
Campaign Donations Researcher , Lavender for State Senate	Remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched past contributions of 300+ potential donors; out-raised incumbent by 106% 	June 2020 – Aug 2020

Technical Skills

LaTeX, R and R Studio, Python, ArcGIS, QGIS