Helen Webley-Brown

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Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, Stanford University   Palo Alto, CA
- **Honors:** CCSRE Emerging Scholar   Beginning Sept 2025

S.M. in Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   Cambridge, MA
- **Thesis:** Democracy Under Surveillance: The Effect of Pretrial Electronic Monitoring on   Feb 2025
  Voting Behavior
- **Fields:** American Politics, Quantitative Methods [GPA: 4.9/5.0]

A.B. in Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis (WashU)   St. Louis, MO
- **Honors:** Danforth Scholar, Civic Scholar, College Honors, Phi Beta Kappa [GPA: 3.97/4.0]   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.

Works in Progress

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

We've Got Democracy at Home: Resident Council Emergence in Public Housing Developments

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

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Oxford Internet Institute (Prof. Helen Margetts)   London, England
- Collected and analyzed survey data on trends in UK citizen-government information ex-   Jan 2025 – Aug 2025
  change

Research Officer, LSE Phelan United States Center (Prof. Lauren Sukin)   London, England
- Conducted quantitative and archival data analysis across Dr. Sukin's research portfolio   Dec 2024 – Aug 2025
- Co-authored papers on global ideological polarization and nuclear attitudes

Research Assistant, MIT Political Science (Prof. Ariel White)   Cambridge, MA
- Used Sequential Monte Carlo algorithm to analyze ⧉ impact of prison gerrymandering   May 2023 – Aug 2023
  reforms on legislative outcomes

Summer Research Fellow, 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

Research Intern, 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

Student Researcher, Modernist Prehistory of Facial Recognition Lab (Prof. Anca Parvulescu) — St. Louis, MO / Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
- Traced physiognomic roots of facial recognition using archival data and literary analysis

Data Analysis and Research Intern, The Bail Project — St. Louis, MO / June 2021 – Aug 2021
- 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

Research Assistant, WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby) — St. Louis, MO / Jan 2020 – June 2020
- Analyzed sentiment in pre/post class survey data to track changes in protest attitudes

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
- **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

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 / May 2021 – May 2022
- Managed team of 4 to create website⧉ on e-carceration and juvenile justice

- Built resource bank, designed infographics, and wrote articles on youth incarceration

Government Affairs Intern, Human Rights Campaign

Remote
Jan 2021 – April 2021

- Coded 506 cities' LGBTQ+ police liaison policies for HRC's Municipal Equality Index ⬈
- Tracked politicians' votes and bill sponsorships for HRC's Congressional Scorecard ⬈

Public Affairs and Communications Intern, Hanbury Strategy

London, England
June 2020 – Sept 2020

- Drafted client op-eds, government consultation responses, and stakeholder maps

Campaign Donations Researcher, Lavender for State Senate

Remote
June 2020 – Aug 2020

- Researched past contributions of 300+ potential donors; out-raised incumbent by 106%

Technical Skills

LaTeX, R and R Studio, ArcGIS, QGIS, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, Survey/Polling (Prolific, Lucid)