

Helen Webley-Brown

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Education

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| Ph.D. in Sociology , Stanford University | Palo Alto, CA |
| • Honors: CCSRE Emerging Scholar | Beginning Aug 2025 |
| S.M. in Political Science , Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | Cambridge, MA |
| • Thesis: Democracy Under Surveillance: The Effect of Pretrial Electronic Monitoring on Voting Behavior | Feb 2025 |
| • 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 Reputation (with Lauren Sukin)
- We've Got Democracy at Home: Resident Council Emergence in Public Housing Developments
- Don't Shoot The Messenger: Do Open Data Initiatives Moderate the Effect of Police Violence News on Trust in Police?
- Why Watch The Watchers? Frame Utilization In Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) Legislation

Research Experience

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| Research Assistant , Oxford Internet Institute (Prof. Helen Margetts) | London, England |
| • Collect and analyze survey data on trends in UK citizen-government information exchange | Jan 2025 – Present |
| Research Officer , LSE Phelan United States Center (Prof. Lauren Sukin) | London, England |
| • Conduct archival research, analyze survey data, and co-author papers on how U.S. domestic political conditions impact its international standing | Dec 2024 – Present |
| Research Assistant , 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 |
| 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 |

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created data visualization of racial disparities in ShotSpotter technology deployment 	
Student Researcher , Modernist Prehistory of Facial Recognition Lab (Prof. Anca Parvulescu) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traced physiognomic roots of facial recognition using archival data and literary analysis 	St. Louis, MO Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
Data Analysis and Research Intern , The Bail Project <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 	St. Louis, MO June 2021 – Aug 2021
Research Assistant , WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed sentiment in pre/post class survey data to track changes in protest attitudes 	St. Louis, MO 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 <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) 	Fall 2024
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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

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 <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 	St. Louis, MO May 2021 – May 2022
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Government Affairs Intern, Human Rights Campaign

Remote

- 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

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

June 2020 – Sept 2020

Campaign Donations Researcher, Lavender for State Senate

Remote

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

June 2020 – Aug 2020

Technical Skills

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