

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 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
- 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
• 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

- 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 <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 	Remote Jan 2021 – April 2021
Public Affairs and Communications Intern , Hanbury Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted client op-eds, government consultation responses, and stakeholder maps 	London, England June 2020 – Sept 2020
Campaign Donations Researcher , Lavender for State Senate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched past contributions of 300+ potential donors; out-raised incumbent by 106% 	Remote June 2020 – Aug 2020

Technical Skills

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