

Alec McClean

(current as of June 2025)

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Academic appointment

2024- **New York University Grossman School of Medicine**
Postdoctoral Fellow
Causal inference, statistics, and machine learning for healthcare

Education

2019-2024 **Carnegie Mellon University**
Ph.D., Statistics
Advisors: Zach Branson, Edward H. Kennedy.
Thesis: Heterogeneity, Optimality, and Sensitivity in Causal Inference

2019-2021 **Carnegie Mellon University**
M.S., Statistics

2012-2016 **Swarthmore College**
B.A., Economics and Mathematics

Research Interests

- Theory: causal inference; functional estimation; nonparametric statistics and machine learning
- Applications: economics; medicine; healthcare services research

Other experience

2018-2019 **The Brattle Group**
Senior Research Analyst

2016-2018 **The Brattle Group**
Research Analyst

Awards

- 2024 **PhD Teacher Assistant of the Year.** *Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science*
- 2023 **Tom Ten Have award** for “exceptionally creative or skillful research on causal inference” at the 2023 American Causal Inference Conference
- 2016 **Phi Beta Kappa.** *Swarthmore College*

Papers; *statistical theory and methods*

6. **A. McClean**, A. Levis, N. Williams, I. Díaz, Longitudinal weighted and trimmed treatment effects with flip interventions. *arXiv:2506.09188*, 2025.
5. A. Levis, E.H. Kennedy, **A. McClean**, S. Balakrishnan, and L. Wasserman. Stochastic interventions, sensitivity analysis, and optimal transport. *arXiv:2411.14285*, 2024.
4. **A. McClean**, Y. Li, S. Bae, M. McAdams-DeMarco, I. Díaz, W. Wu. Fair comparisons of causal parameters with many treatments and positivity violations. *arXiv:2410.13522*. 2024.
3. **A. McClean**, Z. Branson, E.H. Kennedy. Calibrated sensitivity models. *arXiv:2405.08738*, 2024.
2. **A. McClean**, E.H. Kennedy, S. Balakrishnan, and L. Wasserman. Double Cross-fit Doubly Robust Estimators: Beyond Series Regression. *arXiv:2403.15175*, 2024.
1. **A. McClean**, Z. Branson, and E.H. Kennedy. Nonparametric estimation of conditional incremental effects. *Journal of Causal Inference*, 12(1):20230024, 2024. doi:10.1515/jci-2023-0024

Papers; *health and social science*

3. **A. McClean**, Z. Rausch, and J. Haidts. The Effect of Broadband Access on Mental Health: A Review of Instrumental Variable Studies. 2025. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5188105>
2. L. Sigaud, Z. Rausch, **A. McClean**, and J. Haidt. How three studies by Vuorre and Przybylski may have obscured the impact of social media on youth mental health. 2025. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5196540>
1. L. A. Jacobs, **A. McClean**, Z. Branson, E. H. Kennedy, and A. Fixler. Incremental Propensity Score Effects for Criminology: An Application Assessing the Relationship Between Homelessness, Behavioral Health Problems, and Recidivism. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, pages 1–20, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-024-09582-7>

Book chapters

1. M. Bonvini*, **A. McClean***, Z. Branson, and E. H. Kennedy. Incremental causal effects: an introduction and review. In Handbook of Matching and Weighting Adjustments for Causal Inference, pages 349–372, 2023. ISBN: 9781003102670
**Equal contribution*

Conference presentations (*= invited)

10. *Lifetime Data Science Conference (5/2025)
9. *American Causal Inference Conference (5/2025)
8. European Causal Inference Meeting (4/2025)
7. East North American Region Spring Meeting (3/2025)
6. American Causal Inference Conference (5/2024)
5. International Conference on Computational & Methodological Statistics. (12/2023)
4. Joint Statistical Meetings (8/2023).
3. American Causal Inference Conference (5/2023)
2. East North American Region Spring Meeting (3/2023)
1. American Causal Inference Conference (5/2022)

Software

2. Contributor to `lmtp` R package <https://github.com/nt-williams/lmtp>
1. Contributor to `npcausal` R package <https://github.com/ehkennedy/npcausal>.

Teaching; as course instructor

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| Summer 2022 | Undergraduate Introduction to Statistical Inference at <i>Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science</i> |
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Teaching; as guest lecturer

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| Spring 2024 | Undergraduate Introduction to Statistical Inference at <i>Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science</i> |
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Teaching; as teaching assistant (*all Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science*)

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| Fall 2023 | <i>Graduate Intermediate Statistics</i> (Head TA) |
| Summer 2023 | <i>Undergraduate Optum Summer Research Experience</i> |
| Spring 2022 & 2023 | <i>Undergraduate Causal Inference</i> |
| Fall 2022 | <i>Graduate Causal Inference</i> |
| Spring 2021 | <i>Undergraduate Advanced Methods for Data Analysis</i> (Head TA) |
| Summer 2021 | <i>Undergraduate Methods for Statistics</i> |
| Fall 2019 | <i>Undergraduate Modern Regression</i> |

Teaching; as teaching assistant (*all Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy*)

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| Fall 2020 & 2021 | <i>Graduate Statistical Reasoning with R</i> (Head TA) |
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Referee Service

American Journal of Epidemiology
Annals of Statistics
Behavioral Research Methods
Bernoulli
Biometrical Journal
Biometrika
JASA Theory & Methods x2
Observational Studies
Review of Economics and Statistics
Statistics in Medicine

Additional Academic Service

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| 2024 | Reviewer for American Causal Inference Conference |
| 2019-2024 | Carnegie Mellon University Statistics Student Activities Committee representative |
| 2022-2024 | Pittsburgh ASA Carnegie Mellon University student representative |