Alec McClean

(current as of October 2025)

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Academic appointments

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

2024- **Tech and Society Lab at New York University, Stern School of Business**
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Advisor: Jon Haidt
Social media and teen mental health

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

- Causal inference: observational studies, violations of positivity/unconfoundedness, trimmed & weighted effects, sensitivity analysis, longitudinal data
- Nonparametric & machine learning methods: doubly robust estimation, semiparametric efficiency, high-dimensional and irregular data structures
- Applications & implementation: medical and social science collaborations, simulation studies, open-source software (`lmtp`)

Other experience

2024-	**CharlieHealth** Statistical consultant
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***

8. H. Susmann*, **A. McClean***, I. Díaz, Non-overlap average treatment effects bounds. *arXiv:2509.20206*, 2025.
   *Under review at Biometrika; *equal contribution*

7. **A. McClean**, I. Díaz, Propensity score weighting across counterfactual worlds: longitudinal effects under positivity violations. *arXiv:2507.10774*, 2025.
   Under review at JRSSB

6. **A. McClean**, A. Levis, N. Williams, I. Díaz, Longitudinal weighted and trimmed treatment effects with flip interventions. *arXiv:2506.09188*, 2025.
   Under review at JASA

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. *R&R at Biometrika*

3. **A. McClean**, Z. Branson, E.H. Kennedy. Calibrated sensitivity models. *arXiv:2405.08738*, 2024. *Minor revision at Biometrika*

2. **A. McClean**, E.H. Kennedy, S. Balakrishnan, and L. Wasserman. Double Cross-fit Doubly Robust Estimators: Beyond Series Regression. *arXiv:2403.15175*, 2024.
   Major revision at JRSSB

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*

4. I. Jaffe*, **Alec McClean***, S. Patel, D. Stewart, L. Yan, B. Lonze, J. Stern, D. Segev, A. Massie. Growth Hormone Use Before and After Pediatric Kidney Transplantation: Associations with Graft Outcomes and Mortality in a National Cohort. 2025.
**Equal contribution*

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*

Popular science writing

1. J. Haidt, Z. Rausch, A. McClean. Flaws in a Recent Lancet Study on Phone Use in Schools. `afterbabel.com/p/lancet-study-flaws`

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

Summer 2022	Undergraduate Introduction to Statistical Inference at *Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science*

Teaching; as guest lecturer

Spring 2024	Undergraduate Introduction to Statistical Inference at *Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science*

Teaching; as teaching assistant *(all Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science)*

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

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

Fall 2020 & 2021	*Graduate Statistical Reasoning with R* (Head TA)

Referee Service

American Journal of Epidemiology

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

Additional Academic Service

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