

Amina A. Abdu

aabdu@umich.edu
aminaxabdu.github.io

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

AI ethics, law, and policy | science and technology studies (STS) | algorithmic governance

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

Ph.D. in Information

Ann Arbor, MI

2021–2026 (*expected*)

- Science, Technology & Society Graduate Certificate
- **Dissertation:** Everyday Legitimacy Practices in Algorithmic Governance
- **Committee:** Abigail Jacobs (chair), Ben Green, Elizabeth Popp Berman, Simone Zhang (NYU Sociology)

Pomona College

Claremont, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics & Economics

2014–2018

- Thesis: *Optimal transport theory for selection of Nash equilibria in multiple-equilibria games*, advised by Dr. Adolfo Rumbos (**Distinction in Senior Exercise**)

RESEARCH

Publications

Amina A. Abdu & Abigail Z. Jacobs. AI Evaluations and the Standards Metaphor.

Yale Journal of Law and Technology. 2026 (forthcoming).

- Presented at the *Governing Data Symposium*. New Haven, CT. 2025.
- Presented at *Privacy Law Scholars Conference*. Los Angeles, CA. 2025.
- Presented at the *Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*. Seattle, WA. 2025.

Irene V. Pasquetto, **Amina A. Abdu** & Natascha Chtena. Essential Work, Invisible Workers: The Role of Digital Curation in COVID-19 Open Science.

Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Lauren M. Chambers, Abigail Z. Jacobs & Deirdre K. Mulligan. Algorithmic Transparency and Participation through the Handoff Lens: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Census Bureau's Adoption of Differential Privacy.

ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FACCT). 2024.

- Presented at *Privacy Law Scholars Conference*. Boulder, CO. 2023.
- Presented at *Data (Re)Makes the World Conference*, Information Society Project at Yale Law School. New Haven, CT. 2023.

Amina Abdu & Abigail Jacobs. Public Administration.

In *Keywords on the Datafied State*. Data & Society. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Abigail Z. Jacobs & Irene V. Pasquetto. An Empirical Analysis of Racial Categories in the Algorithmic Fairness Literature.

ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FACCT).

Selected work in progress

Amina A. Abdu & Abigail Z. Jacobs. Legitimacy Practices, Algorithms, and the New Bureaucratic Quantification. *Under Review*.

- Presented at *Privacy Law Scholars Conference*. Washington, D.C. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Jeremy Seeman & Abigail Z. Jacobs. Ethical Closure Problems in Formalizing Technologies. *Under Review*.

- Presented at *Privacy and Public Policy Conference*. Washington, D.C. 2024.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Initiative for Democracy & Civic Empowerment Grant (**\$3,000**). *AI-Driven Fraud Detection and the Transformation of Government Accountability*. University of Michigan, 2025-2026.
UMSI Dean's Fellowship. U-M School of Information, 2025.
Gary M. Olson Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award – *Honorable Mention*. U-M School of Information, 2025.
Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship – *Honorable Mention*. U-M Rackham Graduate School, 2025.
Distinction in Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Paper and Oral Defense (**top 10%**). U-M School of Information, 2023.
Racial Equity in Tech Policy Accelerator (**\$3,000**). Federation of American Scientists & Kapor Center, 2023.
Distinction in Mathematics Senior Exercise (Pomona College Thesis Award), 2018.

TALKS

- University of Iowa. AI Evaluations in Policy. Guest lecture for CS4980/LAW9871. April 2025.
- Participatory AI Research & Practice Symposium. Algorithmic Transparency and Participation through the Handoff Lens: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Census Bureau's Adoption of Differential Privacy. January 2025.
- OpenDP Community Meeting. Differential Privacy Beyond Algorithms, invited discussant. August 2024.
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (LSA). Keywords on the Datafied State Roundtable, panelist. June 2024.
- Data & Society. Keywords and Frames. Public Technology Leadership Collaborative, invited talk. April 2024.
- Northeastern University. Upstream Assumptions in Responsible AI: An Empirical Assessment of Racial Categories in the Algorithmic Fairness Literature. Network Science Institute, invited talk. February 2024.

OTHER WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- Sociotechnical Approaches to Measurement and Validation for Safety in AI. Northwestern Center for Advancing Safety of Machine Intelligence (CASMI). July 2023.
- Methods for Inclusivity in Data Collection. Partnership on AI. May 2023.
- Keywords on the Datafied State Workshop. Data & Society. March 2023.
- Who Has an Interest in "Public Interest Technology"? *ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*. November 2022.
- Doctoral Colloquium. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*. June 2022.
- Governing Everyday Misinformation. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. November 2021.

TEACHING

SI 301: Information Ethics	Fall 2025
<i>Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan</i>	<i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>
SI 206: Data-Oriented Programming	Winter 2024
<i>Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan</i>	<i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>
SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies	Fall 2022
<i>Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan</i>	<i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>
MATH 060: Calculus I	Fall 2016, Fall 2017
<i>Teaching Assistant & Curriculum Design, Pomona College</i>	<i>Claremont, CA</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Antitrust Advocacy Associate	April 2020 – August 2021
<i>Consumer Federation of America</i>	<i>Washington, D.C.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led portfolio on digital platform governance including competition law, data collection and privacy, discrimination, content moderation, and intermediary liability	
Research Associate	July, 2018 – March, 2020
<i>Harvard Kennedy School of Government & Harvard Business School</i>	<i>Cambridge, MA</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted data management, statistical analysis, and research for economic health policy scholarship regarding public insurance, hospital networks, and regulation of the pharmaceutical industry	

REVIEWING

2026: ACM FAccT

2025: ACM AIES; ACM FAccT; NeurIPS Workshop on Regulatable ML; Statistics and Public Policy

2024: ACM AIES; ACM FAccT

2023: ACM FAccT

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Committee Student Representative, U-M School of Information, AY 2025-2026

Steering Committee Student Representative, U-M Science, Technology, and Society Program, AY 2025-2026

Co-organizer, Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop on Science, Technology, and Society, 2024-present

Reviewer, U-M School of Information Ph.D. Application Feedback Program, 2023-present

Peer mentor, U-M School of Information Ph.D. Program, 2022-present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Social Studies of Science

U-M Center for Ethics, Society and Computing