

# big cities, big data: big opportunity for computational social science

1st annual pre-ASA datathon: Call for participation and FAQs

**When** 15 - 16 August 2014

**Where** Berkeley, CA in UC-Berkeley's D-lab

**Apply** [Application form](#)

**Apply by 1 August 2014**

Fill out a form asking for a description of your skills, interest in cities, preference in pizza toppings and caffeine, and past research.

## FAQs

### What is a datathon?

A datathon is an intense 24-hour workshop that asks researchers to do their best to turn information into knowledge. It's a format modeled after hackathons. The difference is that datathons use research questions and datasets to advance knowledge, not to launch apps.

At a datathon, participants work in teams to frame a research question, create and implement a research design, mobilize data resources and present their findings in front of a panel of judges.

The datathon starts at 1:00 pm on Aug. 15th, work ends at 1:00 pm on the 16th, and judging takes place at 6:30 on the 16th. Teams will be announced August 8th.

Sleeping during the datathon is optional.

### What's the topic?

This datathon invites participants to examine contemporary urban issues - especially housing challenges - using data gathered and made publicly available by cities including San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Austin, Boston, Seattle, etc.

### Who's invited?

Social scientists, data scientists, computer scientists, municipal staffers, start-up employees, grad students, and data hackers of all stripes. Quantitative + qualitative types are welcome.

People with experience doing research design, data management, statistical research, textual analysis and/or computational research are strongly encouraged to apply.

Once you are accepted, expect to work with 2-4 other people from different disciplines.

### Judging

Judging is open to the public. It will be in San Francisco from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Aug. 16th.

Judges will include one senior academic, one municipal official from the City of San Francisco, and a top developer from the start-up community.

There will be prize money, amount TBD.

### Party

...after the judging in San Francisco.

**Is it free?** Yes.

### Organizers

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