

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 at the Union Square Hilton in San Francisco from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Aug. 16th.

Judges will include Professor Neal Caren, one municipal official from the City of San Francisco, and a developer from the start-up community.

After Party ...after the judging in San Francisco. Details TBA.

Is it free? Yes.

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