Benjamin Laufer

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Education

- **Cornell Tech** — New York, NY
  Ph.D. Candidate in Information Science — *2021 – present*
  - **Advisor**: Helen Nissenbaum
- **Princeton University** — Princeton, NJ
  B.S. in Engineering, Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Cum Laude — *2015 – 2019*
  - **Minors**: Urban Studies, Environmental Studies
  - **Senior Thesis**: Compounding Injustice: History and Prediction in Carceral Decision-Making

Grants and Fellowships

- **Digital Life Initiative Doctoral Fellowship**: Yearlong fellowship for PhD students interested in ethics, politics, and quality of life in digital societies.
- **Fulbright ETA Fellowship, Laos**: 1 year full support (2019; declined)
- **Princeton SEAS Research Fund**: Funding for senior thesis research (2018-2019)
- **Parkhurst Research Fund**: Funding for senior thesis research (2018-2019)
- **Yale Law School Arthur Liman Fellowship**: Award for a summer internship in the public interest and colloquium attendance (2018) [link1, link2]
- **Princeton SEAS Research Fund**: Funding for junior independent research (2018)
- **Princeton Environmental Institute Fellowship**: Award for environmental research (2017) [link]
- **Princeton International Internship Program**: Award for international summer research (2016)

Honors

- **Lime Hackathon Winner**: 1st place prize in Lime's annual company-wide hackathon. Project entitled "Head First: Real-Time Helmet Detector using Computer Vision" (2020)
- **Best Senior Thesis in Urban Studies**: Princeton Urban Studies department thesis prize (2019) [link1, link2]
- **Kenneth H. Condit Graduation Prize**: Awarded to a graduating senior at Princeton who has exhibited excellence in leadership, academic achievement and community service (2019) [link]
- **Departmental Distinction**: Princeton ORFE Honors (2019)
- **Sigma Xi**: Nominated to the Scientific Research Honors Society upon graduating (2019)

Papers

- **Benjamin Laufer, Thomas Gilbert, Helen Nissenbaum**: "Neglected Normative Assumptions in Applied Optimization." *Working paper.*
- **Benjamin Laufer, Emma Pierson, Nikhil Garg**: "End-to-end Auditing for Decision Pipelines." *ICML Workshop on Responsible Decision Making in Dynamic Environments (RDMDE)*, 2022.
- **Benjamin Laufer*, Niko Grupen***: "Collective Obfuscation and Crowdsourcing." *KDD MIS2-TrueFact and ICML DisCoML workshops*, 2022.
- **Benjamin Laufer, Sameer Jain, A. Feder Cooper, Jon Kleinberg, Hoda Heidari**: "Four Years of FAccT: A Reflexive, Mixed-Methods Analysis of Research Contributions, Shortcomings, and Future Prospects." *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*, 2022.
- **A. Feder Cooper, Emanuel Moss, Benjamin Laufer, Helen Nissenbaum**: "Accountability in an Algorithmic Society." *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*, 2022.

- **Benjamin Laufer**: "Abandoning Criminal Risk and Recidivism: On Dangerous Goals in ML Scoring-Decision Systems." *NeurIPS Resistance AI Workshop*, 2020.
- **Benjamin Laufer**: "Feedback Effects in Repeat-Use Algorithmic Risk Assessments". *ArXiv*, November 2020.
- **Benjamin Laufer**: "Compounding Injustice: History and Prediction in Carceral Decision-Making". Undergraduate Thesis, *ArXiv*, *Princeton Mudd Manuscript Library*, April 2019.
- **Benjamin Laufer**: "Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Environmental Protection: Targeting Air Inspections". Junior Research Paper, *Princeton ORFE*, January 2018.

Talks

- **KDD**: MIS2-TrueFact Workshop talk, "Collective Obfuscation and Crowdsourcing," August, 2022. [event]
- **ICML**: Workshop on Disinformation Countermeasures and Machine Learning, "Collective Obfuscation and Crowdsourcing," July, 2022. [event]
- **ICML**: Workshop on Responsible Decision-Making in Dynamic Environments, "End-to-end Auditing of Decision Pipelines," July, 2022. [video]
- **Economics & Computing**: Poster Session, "End-to-end Auditing of Decision Pipelines," Poster Session, July, 2022. [link]
- **FAccT**: Porceedings Talk, "Four Years of FAccT: A Reflexive, Mixed-Methods Analysis of Research Contributions, Shortcomings, and Future Prospects," Proceedings Talk June, 2022. [video]
- **Cornell Information Science Colloquium**: "Neglected Normative Assumptions in Applied Optimization," April, 2022.
- **Cornell Tech Tree Day**: "Auditing Efficiency and Equity throughout an Operational Workflow," April, 2022.
- **Cornell AI, Policy and Practice**: "Crowdsourcing, Allocation, and Equity in NYC Parks Department Policies," April, 2022.
- **Cornell Tech Course Lecture**: Data Science in the Wild Guest Lecture, "Data Visualization," February, 2022.
- **CUNY Experimental Philosophy Group**: "On Accountability," November, 2021.
- **Cornell AI, Policy and Practice**: "Accountable Metrics," November, 2021.
- **NeurIPS**: Workshop on Resistance AI, December 2020. [event]
- **Princeton ORFE Department**: Invited lecture on algorithmic fairness in ORF473-FinTech Lending (prof: Margaret Holen), May 2020.
- **Princeton Reunions**: "Princeton in Prison: The Petey Greene Tutors" Panel, June 2019.
- **Princeton Urban Studies Department**: Research Symposium, May 2019. [link]
- **High Meadows Environmental Institute**: Research Symposium, April 2019.
- **Yale Law Public Interest Colloquium**: Invited as a fellow, April 2018. [event]

Work Experience

Lime	San Francisco, CA
Data Scientist II (prev. Data Scientist, Data Analyst Intern)	*2019 - 2021 (2 years)*
National Center for Access to Justice	New York, NY
Arthur Liman Research Fellow, Yale Law School	*Jun 2018 - Aug 2018 (3 months)*
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	New York, NY
Data Science Intern	*Jun 2017 - Jan 2018 (8 months)*
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL)	Princeton, NJ
Research Assistant	*Oct 2016 - May 2017 (8 months)*
International Water Management Institute	Accra, Ghana
Intern	*Jun 2016 - Aug 2016 (3 months)*
Princeton High School Debate Team	Princeton, New Jersey
Private Debate Coach	*September 2015 - June 2016 (10 months)*
National Symposium for Debate	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Debate Teacher	*Jul 2015 - Aug 2015 (2 months)*

Freelance Consulting

- **Deputy Data Director for a Democratic Presidential Primary Campaign (3 months)**: Developed the strategy for allocating field organizers and targeting phone calls to effectively gain electoral votes.
- **Research for Lightspeed Venture Partners (2 months)**: Designed and executed a research report for a venture capital company on the impact of COVID-19 on work and changes to companies' IT needs.

Volunteer Experience

- **UCLA COVID Behind Bars Research Group** — Los Angeles, CA
  Data Science Researcher — *Jul 2020 - Present (5 months)*
  - **Data reporting for COVID-19 cases in ICE detention facilities**: Creating a single location for COVID-19 case and death counts in ICE facilities.
- **Petey Greene Program** — Princeton, NJ
  Tutor and Undergraduate President — *2016 - 2019 (4 years)*
  - **Bringing Education into Prisons**: Tutored inside NJ correctional facilities weekly for four years.
  - **Undergraduate President**: Led the team of 100+ tutors and organized educational programs and trainings for tutors.

Programming Skills

- **Languages**: Python, SQL, MATLAB, R, Java, C, html, CSS, JS, STATA
- **Technologies**: AWS, Sagemaker, React, Tableau

References

- **Helen Nissenbaum, Professor, Information Science, Cornell Tech**: hn288 [at] cornell.edu
- **Jon Kleinberg, Professor, Information Science and Computer Science, Cornell University**: kleinberg [at] cornell.edu
- **Nikhil Garg, Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell Tech**: ngarg [at] cornell.edu
- **Miklos Racz, Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Princeton University**: mkracz [at] princeton.edu