

Benjamin Laufer

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EDUCATION

- **Cornell Tech** New York, NY
Ph.D. Candidate in Computing and Information Science *2021 – present*
 - **Advisors:** Helen Nissenbaum, Jon Kleinberg
- **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 preprint*, 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 AND EVENTS

- **c3.ai:** Workshop on Data, Learning and Markets Workshop, “Disparate Impact over a Sequence of Capacity-Constrained Subset Selections,” Poster Session, October, 2022. [\[event\]](#)
- **EAAMO:** Queer in AI panel, October, 2022. [\[event\]](#)
- **Cornell AI, Policy and Practice:** “Accounting for Unforeseeable Machine Learning Harms via Economic Models of Product Liability,” October, 2022.
- **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:** Proceedings 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, “Dangerous Goals in ML Scoring-Decision Systems,” 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**
Private Debate Coach
- **National Symposium for Debate**
Debate Teacher

Princeton, New Jersey
September 2015 - June 2016 (10 months)

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jul 2015 - Aug 2015 (2 months)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- **UCLA COVID Behind Bars Research Group**
Data Science Researcher
 - **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**
Tutor and Undergraduate President
 - **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