

# Benjamin Laufer

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## EDUCATION

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- **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

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- **Meta PhD Fellowship Finalist:** Runner-up for a two-year, fully-funded fellowship in Computational Social Science. Over 3200 applicants internationally. (2023) [[link](#)]
- **Digital Life Initiative Doctoral Fellowship:** Yearlong discretionary funding for PhD students interested in ethics, politics, and quality of life in digital societies. (2022)
- **Fulbright 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 supporting 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

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- **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

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- Benjamin Laufer, Jon Kleinberg, and Hoda Heidari: “Fine-tuning Games,” *In Review*.
- Benjamin Laufer, Jon Kleinberg, Karen Levy, and Helen Nissenbaum: “Strategic Evaluation,” *In Review*.
- Benjamin Laufer and Helen Nissenbaum: “When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?.” *Forthcoming, Knight Institute Symposium on Algorithmic Amplification and Society*, 2023.
- Benjamin Laufer, Thomas Gilbert, Helen Nissenbaum: “Optimization’s Neglected Normative Commitments.” *Forthcoming, ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*, 2023.
- 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:** “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

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- **FAccT:** Proceedings talk, “Optimization’s Neglected Normative Assumptions,” June, 2023.
- **PLSC:** Workshop participant as paper-writer and discussant, “First-Party Surveillance,” June, 2023.
- **Columbia Knight Institute:** Symposium entitled ‘Optimizing for What? Algorithmic Amplification and Society.’ Presenting work, “When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?” April, 2023. [\[event\]](#)
- **Cornell Digital Life Initiative Seminar:** “When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?” March, 2023. [\[event\]](#)
- **Cornell AI, Policy and Practice:** “When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?” February, 2023.
- **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,” July, 2022. [\[link\]](#)
- **FAccT:** Proceedings talk, “Four Years of FAccT: A Reflexive, Mixed-Methods Analysis of Research Contributions, Shortcomings, and Future Prospects,” 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

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- **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)

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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- **Academic Conference Service**  
*Program Committee Reviewer*
  - **FAccT**: 2023
  - **AIES**: 2023
- **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

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

## REFERENCES

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- **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