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

Honors

- **LinkedIn Bowers CIS PhD Fellowship**: Full support plus discretionary funding (2023-2024) [link1, link2]
- **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 Alternate**: MSc at Imperial College London, UK (2021)
- **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)
- **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)
- **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) [link]
- **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)

Papers

- **Benjamin Laufer, Jon Kleinberg, and Hoda Heidari**: "Fine-tuning Games: Bargaining and Adaptation for General-Purpose Models," *ArXiv pre-print*.
- **Benjamin Laufer and Helen Nissenbaum**: "Algorithmic Displacement of Social Trust," *Knight Institute*, *Symposium and Essay Series on Algorithmic Amplification and Society*, 2023.
- **Benjamin Laufer, Jon Kleinberg, Karen Levy, and Helen Nissenbaum**: "Strategic Evaluation: Subjects, Evaluators, and Society," *ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO)*, 2023.
- **Benjamin Laufer, Thomas Gilbert, Helen Nissenbaum**: "Optimization's Neglected Normative Commitments." *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

- **NYU Center for Data Science (CDS) Seminar**: Visit and talk, "Fine-tuning Games: Bargaining and Adaptation for General-Purpose Models," New York, NY, January, 2024.
- **Harvard EconCS Seminar**: Visit and talk, "Fine-tuning Games: Bargaining and Adaptation for General-Purpose Models," Cambridge, MA, November, 2023. [link]
- **MIT AI and Society Reading Group**: Visit and talk, "Fine-tuning Games: Bargaining and Adaptation for General-Purpose Models," Cambridge, MA, November, 2023.
- **EAAMO**: Proceedings paper and poster presentation, "Strategic Evaluation," Boston, MA, October, 2023.
- **Symposium on Applications of Contextual Integrity**: Proceedings talk, "Party's Over: First-Party Surveillance Through the Lens of Contextual Integrity," Toronto, Canada, September, 2023.
- **Industria 5.0**: Presentation, "Algorithmic Amplification," New York, NY, September, 2023.
- **BIRS Workshop**: Participant, "Contextual Integrity for Differential Privacy" Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, August, 2023.
- **Cornell Milstein Fellowship Program**: Lecture, "When is Algorithmic Amplification Problematic?" July, 2023.
- **Cornell AI, Policy and Practice**: "First-party Surveillance" July, 2023.
- **FAccT**: Proceedings talk, "Optimization's Neglected Normative Commitments," Chicago, IL, June, 2023.
- **PLSC**: Workshop participant as paper-writer and discussant, "First-Party Surveillance," Boulder, CO, June, 2023.
- **Columbia Knight Institute**: Symposium entitled 'Optimizing for What? Algorithmic Amplification and Society.' Presenting work, "When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?" New York, NY, April, 2023. [event, video]
- **Cornell Digital Life Initiative Seminar**: "When is Algorithmic Amplification Wrongful?" New York, NY, March, 2023. [event, video]
- **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, Champaign, IL, 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.
- **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)*

Service and Volunteering

Academic Conferences and Journals
Program Committee Reviewer
- **FAccT**: 2023, 2024
- **AIES**: 2023
- **CHI**: 2023
- **WWW**: 2023
- **Journal of Responsible Computing**: Reviewer

Cornell University — New York, NY
Information Science Graduate Student Association (ISGSA) and PhDs at Cornell Tech (PACT) — *2023-2024*
- **Faculty Hiring Representative**: Elected position; responsible for attending faculty hiring meetings and representing student interests.

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
Alumni volunteer — *2020-present*
- **Volunteer alumni interviewer**: Serve as an interviewer for high school students applying to college.

UCLA COVID Behind Bars Research Group — Los Angeles, CA
Data Science Researcher — *2020*
- **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