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

- **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

- **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, 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

- **FAccT**: Proceedings talk, "Optimization's Neglected Normative Commitments," 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**: Porceedings 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

- **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

- **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

- **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