Cameron D. Appel

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Summary

Data scientist with a background in health, AI, and open research. I've worked on ML-assisted evidence synthesis for NHS decision-makers, co-developed computer vision tools from scratch, and helped scale open data platforms used by millions. I'm especially interested in building tools that solve real research problems—by working directly with users, responding to feedback, and translating complex tech into something people trust and want to use. Dual US/UK citizen, open to relocation.

Experience

Research Data Scientist
Health Equity Evidence Centre | *NHS Primary Care* | *Oct 2023 – Present*

- Contributing to AI-assisted systematic review projects, including developing ML-driven evidence maps that streamline literature identification for NHS policymakers and healthcare practitioners.
- Built analytics dashboard using patient data from electronic health records, allowing practices to strategically prioritize high-value, achievable procedures to maximize payments, directly influencing up to £5M in potential revenue across 250 practices.
- Built inequality dashboard, integrating 1.5M+ data points from 10 sources to assess inequalities in workforce, payments, disease prevalence, service quality, and access across a £11.5B healthcare system serving 60M+ people.
- Built data preprocessing methods, reducing missing data from 8% to 0.5%, and identifying 810+ missing practices.

Machine Learning Product Developer
TackleTek | *AI sports analytics startup* | *Jan 2025 - Present*

- Co-developing computer vision software for real-time rugby tackle analysis to improve player safety and performance evaluation.
- Led user research and iterative product development through direct collaboration with professional rugby coaches and players, ensuring alignment with real-world coaching workflows.
- Developed custom ML models (MediaPipe, OpenCV) and intuitive scoring algorithms to clearly communicate complex AI outputs to non-technical users.

Machine Learning Researcher
Environmental Data Science Book | *Alan Turing Institute* | *July 2024 – Nov 2024*

- Developed reproducible ML pipelines for livestock detection models, training PyTorch CNNs and managing large-scale environmental datasets (7.1GB) via cloud hosting and version control (GitHub, Hugging Face, Binder).
- Published and communicated open data methods clearly to diverse stakeholders, ensuring broad accessibility and transparency of research outcomes.

Research Data Analyst
Our World in Data | *Oxford University* | *June 2019 – July 2022*

- Designed and maintained real-time data dashboards tracking 250K+ COVID-19 data points daily across 200+ countries, used by policymakers and international health organizations.
- Developed automated data pipelines to collect, clean, and transform large-scale healthcare and economic datasets, ensuring high-quality and up-to-date information.
- Built interactive visualizations and self-service analytics tools, allowing researchers, journalists, and the public to explore trends in COVID-19, economic inequality, and public health.
- Scaled the platform to 100M+ visitors and 300M+ pageviews annually, with content referenced in 50,000+ media articles (e.g., The Guardian, BBC, The New York Times).

Teacher
Harven College & Guildford College | *Sept 2018 – May 2019*

- Taught English as a Second Language to students from a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and nationalities, adapting lessons to varied skill levels.
- Supported students with special educational needs in literacy and numeracy, often through one-on-one and small-group sessions.
- Developed strong communication and facilitation skills, learning to explain complex ideas clearly and respond quickly to different learning needs.

Education

Imperial College

Master of Science | *Health Data Analytics and Machine Learning* | *2023*

- Applied projects in epidemiology and clinical ML (random forest, CNNs) to classify disease status from cough audio recordings and detect early stages of cancer from blood biomarkers.

Columbia University

Bachelor of Arts | *Economics* | *2020*

- Specialized in econometrics, statistical modeling, and quantitative methods.