

Christopher J. Callaghan

Sacramento, CA

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Data scientist and software engineer with 8+ years of experience building cloud-native applications, data pipelines, and analytics tools, applying scalable tech and statistical methods to government and non-profit challenges.

Employment

Council of State Governments Justice Center

New York, New York

DATA SCIENCE PROGRAM DIRECTOR | 40HRS PER WEEK, MON-FRI

Jan 2023 - Present

- Managed a cross-functional team of data scientists and engineers assigned to the Justice Counts initiative, delivering production-grade cloud-based applications to gather, validate, and visualize criminal justice data from 2,500+ agencies nationwide.
- Built React applications from custom RESTful APIs to visualize justice metrics, developed automated ETL pipelines to load data from vendors and perform quality assurance on data for 2,500+ criminal justice agencies using Python, SQLAlchemy, PostgreSQL, Docker, and GitHub Actions. This system reduced manual data processing, improved quality validation, and enabled researchers to analyze large datasets with ease.
- Founded and led the Resident Corrections Analyst program, hiring, training, and embedding data analysts within state corrections agencies to strengthen internal data practices. Enabled agencies to improve reporting capacity and operational decision-making using tools like R, Tableau, commercial platforms, and custom open-source solutions.

Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, California

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OPERATIONS, CORE LAB | 40HRS PER WEEK, MON-FRI

Aug 2021 - Jan 2023

- Supported federally funded research efforts for the Common Operational Research Environment, within the Defense Analysis Department, on projects focused on homeland security and defense through the lens of data science. To that end, I designed and conducted quasi-experimental open-source research on issues of great power competition, social systems, and information operations.
- Taught courses on data analysis and visualization methodologies (e.g., Chinese Strategic Social Networks, Dynamic Social Network Analysis, and Visual Analytics) for military (e.g., SOCOM, JTF North), law enforcement (e.g., San Jose, Houston, and Nashville police departments, and Federal Bureau of Investigation), and international defense and security partners (e.g., FFI (Norway), ESGE (Peru), ESPE (Ecuador)).

City of Seaside

Seaside, California

ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST II | 40HRS PER WEEK, MON-FRI

Dec 2020 - Aug 2021

- Managed the administrative and financial operations for a multiyear federal grant program aimed at supporting the U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure Office at Fort Ord, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Toxic Substances Control in the monitoring of land use controls and redevelopment of lands previously owned by the U.S. Army.
- Monitored compliance with regulatory mechanisms through coordination with landowners (e.g., County of Monterey; Cities of Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, and Monterey; and local colleges), data gathering and analysis on program metrics, and communication with Federal and State regulators.

Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, California

FACULTY ASSOCIATE FOR RESEARCH | 40HRS PER WEEK, MON-FRI

Mar 2017 - Dec 2020

- Led data wrangling and analysis of multi-terabyte datasets—including global vessel traffic and social media text—for Department of Defense-sponsored research. Applied statistical modeling and natural language processing techniques to extract insights, with results published in peer-reviewed journals and technical reports for defense stakeholders.
- Engineered full-stack software solutions for law enforcement organizations (e.g., San Jose Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff) to leverage data from their persistent databases and inform intelligence analysts on social networks of interest. This included developing ETL pipelines; building RESTful APIs for transfer; and, leveraging statistical and visualization techniques to deliver insightful front-end experiences.

Middlebury Institute of International Studies

Monterey, California

RESEARCH COORDINATOR | 32HRS PER WEEK, MON-FRI

Jan 2015 - Jan 2017

- Led a data analysis and program evaluation lab composed primarily of graduate students and faculty members providing government, non-profit, and social change organizations with programmatic support and analytics.
- Worked closely with each program team to prioritize, plan, and execute requirements on time. This included aiding staff with data acquisition and analysis, tracking progress across each stage of the project, and ensuring the work done was compliant with industry and internal review board standards for social science research.

Consulting

Sam Houston State University - Institute for Homeland Security

Huntsville, Texas

FULL STACK ENGINEER

Jan 2025 - Present

- Built and maintain the Texas Water Networks Explorer (TWNNet), a public tool for visualizing water distribution networks across Texas using data from the TWDB Water Use Survey. Designed with a Python backend and React/Next.js frontend, hosted on Vercel, TWNNet applies network analysis and interactive visualizations to help policymakers identify key stakeholders, understand water flows, and improve management strategies.

Sam Houston State University - Institute for Homeland Security

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

- Designed and developed a five-day training on social network analysis for homeland security practitioners.

Huntsville, Texas

Dec 2022 - Aug 2023

Community Alliance for Safety and Peace

DATA ANALYST

- Developed a KPI interactive dashboard for a network of 64 partners (public, private and non-profit sectors) dedicated to reducing violence and building a better future for the children of Monterey County.

Salinas, California

Jan 2016 - May 2016

Education

Middlebury Institute of International Studies

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Monterey, California

2016

University of California, Santa Cruz

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, BIOLOGY

Santa Cruz, California

2012

Software Engineering and Data Science Skills

Programming Languages: R (Advanced) | Python (Advanced) | SQL (Intermediate) | JavaScript (Intermediate)

Application Development: Frameworks (Django, Flask, Express.js, NEXT.js) | Front-end (React, Bootstrap, TailwindCSS, Shiny, Quarto) | Back-end (Flask, FastApi, Plumber) | Databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL, AWS RDS) | Web Servers (Apache HTTP Server, AWS EC2) | Containerisation (Docker) | Hosting (Netlify, Heroku, AWS EC2) | CI/CD (Travis CI, GitHub Actions) | Source control (Git, Github) | Testing (Jest)

Digital Communication: Data analysis reporting (RMarkdown, Quarto, Jupyter, Marimo) | Data visualization (ggplot2, altair, highcharts.js, plotly) | Presentation (Xaringan, deck.js)

Data Analysis: Exploratory data analysis (tidyverse, pandas, SQLAlchemy, SQL) | GIS (sf, geopandas, QGIS) | Machine learning (scikit-learn, pyTorch) | Natural Language Processing (spacy) | Network analysis (igraph, NetworkX)

Public Lectures and Conference Presentations

- Understanding Dark Networks*, Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office Counter Tunnel Working Group Workshop, San Diego, California, September 2019.
- Analytic Methods for Strategic Risk Assessment, Leveraging Big Data and Social Media*, Institute of Strategic Studies - Naval Postgraduate School Academic Workshop, Ulaanbaatar, November 2018.
- Geospatial and Social Network Causes of Group Violence*, 1st North American Social Networks Conference (NASNC), Washington, D.C., August 2018.

Publications

Contreras, O., Jones, N., Weisz Argomedeo, D., Sullivan, J., Callaghan, C.

REVEALING HIDDEN TIES IN ORGANIZED CRIME NETWORKS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NODE SIMILARITY, GRAPH EMBEDDINGS, AND GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS.

Journal of Computational Social Science

2025

Contreras, O., Jones, N., Weisz Argomedeo, D., Sullivan, J., Callaghan, C.

THE USE OF SIMILARITY-BASED ALGORITHMS TO PREDICT LINKS IN MEXICAN CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Baker Insititute for Public Policy

2023

Callaghan, C., Schroeder, R., and Porter, N. W.

MAPPING GRAY MARITIME NETWORKS FOR HYBRID WARFARE

Center for International Maritime Security

2020

Porter, N. W., Schroeder, R., Callaghan, C., Barreto, A., Bussell, S., Young, B., Loewer, M., Funk, D., von Eiff, J.

MAPPING GRAY MARITIME NETWORKS

Connections

2019

Honors and Awards

2019 Winner 2019 Annual Defence Innovation Challenge

NATO NCI Agency