

# Eli Ben-Michael

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## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley**, Berkeley, CA Expected May 2020  
PhD in Statistics, Advisor: Avi Feller

**Columbia University**, Columbia College, New York, NY May 2016  
Bachelor of Arts, *Summa Cum Laude*, Computer Science and Statistics  
**Honors:** Phi Beta Kappa, Computer Science Department Award, Dean's List (Fall 2012-Spring 2016)

## RESEARCH

### Research Interests:

Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Quasi-Experimental Methods, Program Evaluation

### Working Papers:

Ben-Michael, E., Feller, A., and Rothstein, J. (2018). The augmented synthetic control method

### Contributed Talks:

UAI 2018 Causal Workshop, 2018 European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society,  
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness 2019

### Open Source Software:

[augsynth](#): R implementation of the augmented synthetic control method

## EXPERIENCE

**U.C. Berkeley Department of Statistics**, Berkeley, CA Fall 2017, Fall 2018  
*Graduate Student Instructor*

- (Fall 2018) Stat 232: Experimental Design
- (Fall 2017) Stat 159/259: Reproducible and Collaborative Data Science

**Walmart Labs**, Sunnyvale, CA Summer 2017  
*Machine Learning Scientist Intern*

- Designed models of consumer purchase behavior to learn latent representations of products
- Implemented efficient learning algorithms on tens of millions of consumer purchases with Spark
- Validated the representations' predictive power by reconstructing a human-generated catalog
- Presented results to various teams across the organization for use in their modelling pipelines

**Knewton**, New York, NY Summer 2016  
*Data Science Intern*

- Generalized Bayesian models of student learning to incorporate hierarchical structure
- Scaled learning algorithms with a 10x speedup using Spark
- Analyzed performance, strengths, and weaknesses of models on student data

**Columbia University Department of Economics**, New York, NY Fall 2014 - Spring 2016  
*Research Assistant*

- Built a natural language processing text analysis application in Python for use by economists
- Performed econometric and statistical analysis on text data with associated metadata

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Co-president of the Statistics Graduate Student Association Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

## SKILLS

R, Python, Machine Learning, Experimental Design, Program Evaluation