

lauren m. chambers

lauren@ischool.berkeley.edu | laurenmarietta.github.io | pronouns: she/her/hers

education



U. of California, Berkeley 2021 – pres.
Ph.D. Information Science
Advised by Prof. Deirdre Mulligan

Yale University 2013 – 2017
B.S. Astrophysics & Afro-American Studies
Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*

honors / awards



- **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)** (2023–pres.)
- **Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship** (2023–pres.)
- *Public Voices Fellowship on Tech in the Public Interest*, MacArthur Fdn. (2025–pres.)
- *Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award*, Berkeley I School (apr. 2025)
- *ACM FAccT Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Scholarship*, Honorable Mention (jun. 2024)
- *Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship* (2023–2024)
- *Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor & Employment*, Research Award (mar. 2023)
- *Harvard Berkman Klein Center*, Affiliate (2020–2023)
- *Boston Bar Association President's Award*, for prisoner advocacy during COVID-19 (nov. 2020)

public comms



Selected Analytic Blogs & Websites

- “Police Violence Happens Here,” database & [map](#) (sep. 2020)
- “Unpacking the Boston Police budget,” [blog](#) (jun. 2020)
- “Tracking COVID-19 in Mass. Prisons and Jails,” interactive [dashboard](#) (apr. 2020)

Selected Presentations

- “Advocacy Technologists: An Interview Study of Tech Experts in Nonprofits & Civil Society” Berkeley I School student research reception, [talk](#), (mar. 2025)
- “Unpacking the Boston Police Budget,” Boston City Council Budget Hearing, oral [testimony](#), (jun. 2020)

research experience



Berkeley School of Information | *Ph.D. research* | 2021 – pres.

“From Public Interest Technology to Advocacy Technology: The Ecosystem of ‘Tech for Good’ within Civil Society”

- Investigating how ‘public interest technology’ (PIT) manifests when embedded within mission-driven sociopolitical advocacy organizations: a trend I term **advocacy technology**.
- Seeking to understand what it means to “do PIT” within advocacy settings, and how these explicitly sociotechnical workers navigate and influence both policy and technological change in the 21st century.
- Arguing that a greater focus on technological personnel, processes, and changes within civil society and not-for-profit work is critical for modern understandings of advocacy, technology, and policy.

Center for Democracy & Technology | *Ph.D. internship* | 2023

- Studying public interest technologists in civil society; exploring inclusive practices in Internet standards orgs ([blog](#))

Yale University | *undergraduate theses* | 2016 – 2017

- *African American Studies: A Different Kind of Dark Energy: Placing Race and Gender in Physics* (Hazel Carby)
- *Astronomy: Understanding Gas-Phase Ammonia (NH₃) Chemistry in Proto-Planetary Disks* (Karin Öberg & Hector Arce)

professional experience



Berkeley School of Information | 2024 – pres.

- *Python Summer Bootcamp 2024 & 2025*: Designing & teaching summer workshop of lessons & labs for incoming students
- “*Social Issues of Information*” (INFO 203): Assisting professor with course design; mentoring & advising students
- “*Public Policy Data Lab*” (INFO 290): Peer advisor & researcher

American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts | 2019 – 2021

- Supporting civil rights advocacy through data analysis and maintaining the [Data for Justice](#) server and website
- Consulting on and [writing](#) about how the latest technological research affects algorithmic governance
- Developing [interactive web interfaces](#) for public data visualizations in R Shiny, HTML, CSS, & Javascript
- Engaging the public in ACLU work and public interest technology through talks, [blogs](#), and [tweets](#)

Space Telescope Science Institute | 2017 – 2019

- Supporting the NASA JWST mission by developing interactive tools and [simulator software](#) in Python
- Deputy Technical Lead, [JWST Quicklook](#) (trending & analysis app)



Peer-Reviewed

in prep **Lauren M. Chambers.** *A Taxonomy of Professional Work Activities & Goals in Advocacy Technology.*


Lauren M. Chambers, Diag Davenport. *Between Miseducation and Liberation: Embracing the Tensions of Public Interest Technology Clinics and CIS Service Learning.*

- presented at 2025 Berkeley Teaching and Learning Conference
- presented as tutorial at FAccT 2025

Lauren M. Chambers, Dan Bateyko, Jared Katzman. *Mapping Funding Landscapes of Civil Society and Public Interest Technologies: Trends, Strategies, and Traps from Capitalism and Beyond.*

- workshopped at PLSC 2025

2025 **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Beyond Big Tech: Advocacy Technologists within Mission-Driven Civil Society Organizations.* ACM CSCW '25, Bergen, Norway. [DOI: 10.1145/3757559](https://doi.org/10.1145/3757559) (one-page [infographic](#))

-  CSCW impact recognition
- also presented as workshop at 2024 Data for Black Lives Conference

2024 C. Doyle, M. Alvarez, P. Tracey, G. Grill, C. Whitney, **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Reparations of the Horse? Algorithmic Reparation and Overspecialized Remedies.* Big Data & Society, [DOI: 10.1177/20539517241270670](https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517241270670)

A. Abdu, **Lauren M. Chambers,** D. Mulligan, and A. Jacobs. *Algorithmic Transparency and Participation through the Handoff Lens: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Census Bureau's Adoption of Differential Privacy.* ACM FAccT '24, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. [DOI: 10.1145/3630106.3658962](https://doi.org/10.1145/3630106.3658962)

- workshopped at PLSC 2023
- presented at Yale ISP Data (Re)Makes the World Workshop 2023

2019 **Lauren M. Chambers.** *A Different Kind of Dark Energy: Evidence for Placing Race and Gender in Physics.* Astro2020: Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics, APC white papers, no. 162; *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*, Vol. 51, Issue 7, id. 162, [Bibcode: 2019BAAS...51g.162C](https://bibcode.org/2019BAAS...51g.162C)

Workshop Papers & Preprints

2025 Mallory Knodel, Mallika Balakrishnan, **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Shaping a Profession, Building a Community: Integrating Public Interest Technologists into Civil Society.* (May 2025 ([arXiv](#)))

2024 Roderic Crooks, Uriel Serrano, ... **Lauren M. Chambers,** et al. *Critical Connections: Datafication and Community Activism.* Datafication and Community Activism Workshop, Irvine, CA (April 2024) ([essay](#))

mentorship & community (selected)



- 2024 – pres. **Berkeley Algorithmic Fairness & Opacity Working Group (AFOG)**, Co-organizer
- 2023 – pres. **Berkeley International & Area Studies (ORIAS) Speakers Bureau**, K-12 & College Speaker
- 2020 – pres. **Mentor**, Coding it Forward Civic Digital Fellowship
- 2022 – 2024 **Berkeley I School Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice Working Group**, Student Rep
- 2023 – 2024 **Berkeley I School Dean Search Committee**, Student Representative
- 2021 – 2022 **“Effective Data Visualization” Workshop Organizer**, Boston University Spark! Lab ([slides](#))
- 2021 – 2024 **Program Organizer**, Berkeley I School PhD Underrepresented Applicant Feedback Program
- nov. 2019 **Algorithmic Justice League “Drag v. AI” Workshop Organizer**, Boston Public Library

additional skills



Software & Data Analysis:

- Python (pandas, matplotlib, astropy, scipy, pyqt, django, scikit-learn, Jupyter notebooks)
- R (dplyr, ggplot, leaflet, shiny, plotly)
- git (GitHub & GitLab) and CI (Travis/Jenkins/GitLab)
- Unix/Bash, Apache
- HTML, CSS, Javascript

Language: Intermediate Spanish, Intermediate French

Hobbies: ballet, yoga, board games, concerts, disc golf, puzzles, writing & editing Wikipedia articles