

# lauren m. chambers

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## 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.)
- **Outstanding Grad 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 (IRLE) Graduate Research Award** (mar. 2023)
- **Berkeley Fellowship** (2021–2023)
- **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 Massachusetts Prisons and Jails,” interactive [dashboard](#) (apr. 2020)

### Selected Presentations

- “Technology for Liberty,” Davidson College Math & CS Dept. Colloquium, [invited talk](#), (sep. 2020)
- “Unpacking the Boston Police Budget,” Boston City Council Budget Hearing, oral [testimony](#), (jun. 2020)

## research experience



### Berkeley School of Information | phd 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 | phd 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 (NH<sub>3</sub>) 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. *The Public Interest Technology Clinic: A Berkeley Case Study & Beyond.*  
- workshopped at PLSC 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.*

2025 **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Beyond Big Tech: Advocacy Technologists within Mission-Driven Civil Society Organizations.* ACM CSCW '25, Bergen, Norway. DOI: 10.1145/3757559 (pending upload to ACM DL)

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

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

- 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

## Workshop Papers &amp; Preprints

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

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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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