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 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 (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 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 (NH_3) 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)

academic publications ✏️

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 (pending upload to ACM DL)
- 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](#)

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 & 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