

MICHELE CLAIBOURN

I am a research director – a political scientist, data scientist, community-engaged scholar, and senior administrator – and professor with 20 years of experience teaching, leading, and managing research and data science teams.

My work centers on action-based research, using the tools of data science to promote accountable governance, make social inequities visible, and impact public policy and movement building.



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022
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2021

Director of Equitable Analysis, Asst Professor of Public Policy
The Equity Center and The Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia

 - Leading the Democratization of Data initiative in the UVA Equity Center to provide data tools, research and analysis in collaboration with leaders and advocates promoting regional equity.
 - Teaching courses on data ethics and practice, visualization, and equitable policy in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.
 - Faculty Affiliate & Lead Data Scientist, Global Policy Center (2019-2021), using predictive analytics on the timing, magnitude, and duration of mass-displacement in partnership with Save the Children, International.
- 2021
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2013

Director, Research Data Services & Sciences
UVA Library, University of Virginia

 - Built a new research data services team to support data use and infrastructure, managed and developed library staff and services for the social, natural, and engineering sciences, and provided statistical and data science consultation and instruction to researchers across disciplines including on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.
 - Data Science Director, The Equity Center, 2020-2021 (partial buyout)
 - Associate Director, Data Science Institute, 2014-2016 (partial buyout)
- 2013
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2011

Data Scientist
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia

 - Design and conduct quantitative research for local governments, civic sector clients, and the public interest.
- 2011
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2002

Assistant Professor
University of Virginia and University of Oklahoma

 - Department of Politics, University of Virginia (2004-2011); Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma (2002-2004).
 - Designed and taught graduate-level research and statistics courses and undergraduate-level courses on political behavior and political psychology.
 - Developed, implemented, and published new research on social capital, electoral responsiveness, and political communication from ideation, data collection and wrangling, analysis and communication.



EDUCATION

- 2002
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1996

PhD., Political Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison

📍 Madison, WI
- 1993
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1989

B.A., Political Science
Rice University

📍 Houston, TX

CONTACT

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🌐 linkedin.com/in/mclaibourn

Project portfolio at
mclaibourn.github.io.

Leadership

Envision, design, and lead research projects with academic and community partners seeking to understand racial and other disparities and to develop policy responses. Manage multiple projects and train and mentor students engaging in community-engaged data science.

Founded StatLab, a data science consulting service for members of the UVA community. Built a new division within the library to support the growing data science research community at UVA, recruiting, hiring, and managing a team with diverse skills and talents..

Managed a team of 10-12 full-time staff, 3-4 graduate fellows, and research teams across multiple collaborations on a range of programmatic and research projects.



TEACHING AND MENTORING

- 2022
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2002 • **Graduate Courses**
University of Virginia and University of Oklahoma
 - Imagining Equitable Policy, Public Interest Data: Ethics & Practice, Data Visualization, Saving Lives with Data, Text as Data, Applied Causal Inference, General Linear Models, Linear Models, Applied Time Series, Mixed-Effects Models/Longitudinal Analysis, Introduction to Statistical Analysis
- 2021
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2013 • **University-wide Workshops**
University of Virginia
 - Data Science in R, Multiple Imputation, Cluster Analysis, Duration Models, Matching Methods, Mixed-Effects Models, Sentiment Analysis, Topic Modeling, Text Classification, Data Wrangling, Linear Modeling
- 2020
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2002 • **Undergraduate Courses**
University of Virginia and University of Oklahoma
 - Project First Gen +, Research Design & Analysis, The Presidency and the Public, Media & Political Communication, Political Psychology & Decision Making, Citizen Competence in American Democracy, Introduction to American Politics



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

- 2021 • **Confederate monuments and the history of lynching in the American South: An empirical examination¹**
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Oct 2021 (With Kyshia Henderson, Samuel Powers, Jazmin L. Brown-Iannuzzi, and Sophie Trawalter)
- 2013 • **Citizen Participation and Congressional Responsiveness: New Evidence for Why Participation Matters**
Legislative Studies Quarterly 38: 59-82 (With Paul Martin)
- 2012 • **Creating Constituencies: Presidential Campaigns, Selective Mobilization, and the Scope of Conflict**
Political Behavior 34: 27-56 (With Paul Martin)
- 2011 • **Presidential Campaigns and Presidential Accountability²**
University of Illinois Press, Series on Democracy, Free Enterprise, and the Rule of Law
- 2007 • **The Third Face of Social Capital: How membership in Voluntary Associations Improves Policy Accountability**
Political Research Quarterly 60: 192-201 (With Paul Martin)
- 2000 • **Trusting and Joining: An Empirical Test of the Reciprocal Nature of Social Capital**
Political Behavior 22: 267-291 (With Paul Martin)
- 2022 • **Virginia Evictors Catalog³**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia and The RVA Eviction Lab, Virginia Commonwealth University (With Kate Howell, Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood, Elizabeth Mitchell, Ben Teresa, Connor White, Barbara Brown Wilson, and Hannah Woerhle)

Teaching and Writing

20+ years of experience teaching statistics and data science methods, policy, and political behavior to undergraduate and graduate students.

Design data workshop series for student and adult learning communities, including recruiting and mentoring instructors, marketing and assessment, and contributing to select topics.

Experienced writer in multiple formats, from university press books and peer-reviewed journal articles, to action-oriented reports for local and state agencies, educational materials, and informal writing.

Skilled in communicating about data, technology, and policy to stakeholders, advocates, and learners.

Methods and Software

Inferential and predictive modeling
Data visualization and computation
Text analytics
R, RStudio, Shiny
GitHub and reproducibility
Stata and SPSS
Some Python and SQL
Qualitative methods

Last updated on 2023-01-03.

- 2022 ● **Orange Dot Report 5.0: Family Self-Sufficiency in the Charlottesville Region⁴**
[Network2Work@PVCC](#), Piedmont Virginia Community College and The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Ridge Schuyler, Lee LeBoeuf, and Beth Mitchell)
- 2022 ● **Charlottesville Region Climate Equity Atlas⁵**
Picturing Climate Justice Exhibit, UVA Equity Center and the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- 2021 ● **Albemarle County Equity Profile: Centering Equity in Evaluating Well-Being & Quality of Life for Albemarle County Residents⁶**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Sam Powers, Michael Salgueiro, Siri Russell, Barbara Brown Wilson, and Alissa Ujie Diamond)
- 2020 ● **Child Welfare Referrals in Charlottesville**
Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services (With Hannah Lewis and the Public Interest Data Lab)