

# 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 own work centers on action-based research, using the tools of data science to promote accountable governance<sup>1</sup>, make visible racial and other social inequities<sup>2</sup>, and impact public policy and movement building.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021

- **Director of Equitable Analysis**  
[The Equity Center](#), University of Virginia
  - Faculty, Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, 2021-present
  - Faculty Affiliate & Lead Data Scientist, Global Policy Center, 2019-present
  - Co-Director, Community Policy, Analytics & Strategy Lab, 2018-present

2021  
|  
2015

- **Director, Research Data Services & Social, Natural, and Engineering Sciences**  
UVA Library, University of Virginia
  - Data Science Director, The Equity Center, 2020-2021 (partial buyout)

2015  
|  
2013

- **Director, StatLab and Research Data Services**  
UVA Library, University of Virginia
  - Associate Director, Data Science Institute, 2014-2016 (partial buyout)

2013  
|  
2011

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

2011  
|  
2004

- **Assistant Professor**  
Department of Politics, University of Virginia

2005  
|  
2002

- **Instructor**  
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan

2004  
|  
2002

- **Assistant Professor**  
Department of Politics, University of Oklahoma

## EDUCATION

2002  
|  
1996

- **PhD., Political Science**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  Madison, WI

## CONTACT

-  [mclaibourn@virginia.edu](mailto:mclaibourn@virginia.edu)  
 [mclaibourn.github.io](https://mclaibourn.github.io)  
 [github.com/mclaibourn](https://github.com/mclaibourn)  
 [linkedin.com/in/mclaibourn](https://linkedin.com/in/mclaibourn)

See my [webpage](#) for a more project-oriented portfolio.

## 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<sup>3</sup>, 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..

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

Last updated on 2021-12-13.

1993  
|  
1989

- **B.A., Political Science**  
Rice University

📍 Houston, TX

2021  
|  
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

2020  
|  
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

2020  
|  
2013

- **Select StatLab Workshops<sup>4</sup>**  
University of Virginia
  - Six-part series on 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

2019

- **REU Mentor**  
School of Data Science, UVA

2021

- **Confederate monuments and the history of lynching in the American South: An empirical examination<sup>5</sup>**  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Oct 2021
  - With Kyshia Henderson, Samuel Powers, Jazmin L. Brown-Iannuzzi, and Sophie Trawalter

2015

- **Bigger on the Inside: Building Research Data Services at the University of Virginia<sup>6</sup>**  
Insights 28: 100-106

2013

- **Citizen Participation and Congressional Responsiveness: New Evidence for Why Participation Matters**  
Legislative Studies Quarterly 38: 59-82
  - With Paul Martin

2012

- **Hearing Campaign Appeals: The Accountability Implications of Campaign Tone**  
Political Communication 29: 64-85

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

### 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.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Methods and Software

Statistical modeling and data science  
R, RStudio, Shiny  
Data wrangling and visualization  
Stata and SPSS  
Text analytics  
GitHub and reproducibility  
Some Python and SQL  
Qualitative methods

The source code is available on [github.com/mclaibourn/mpc\\_cv](https://github.com/mclaibourn/mpc_cv).

- 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 Accountability<sup>7</sup>**  
 University of Illinois Press, Series on Democracy, Free Enterprise, and the Rule of Law
- 2008     ● **Making a Connection: Repetition and Priming in Campaigns**  
 Journal of Politics 70: 1142-1159
- 2007     ● **The Third Face of Social Capital: How membership in Voluntary Associations Improves Policy Accountability**  
 Political Research Quarterly 60: 192-201  
 • With Paul Martin
- 2002     |  
 2000     ● **Gender Differences in Citizen-Level Democratic Citizenship: Evidence from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems**  
 Presented to the International Political Science Association (2000), the Midwest Political Science Association (2001), and the Conference on Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (2002)  
 • With Virginia Sapiro  
 • 2001 Winner, Sophonisba Breckenridge Award for best paper on Women & Politics, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2000     ● **Trusting and Joining: An Empirical Test of the Reciprocal Nature of Social Capital**  
 Political Behavior 22: 267-291  
 • With Paul Martin

## ↗ REPORTS AND SELECTED WRITING

- 2021     ● **Albemarle County Equity Profile: Centering Equity in Evaluating Well-Being & Quality of Life for Albemarle County Residents<sup>8</sup>**  
 The Equity Center, A UVA Democracy Initiative for the Redress of Inequity through Community-Engaged Scholarship and the Albemarle County Office of Equity and Inclusion  
 • With Sam Powers, Michael Salgueiro, Siri Russell, Barbara Brown Wilson, and Alissa Ujje Diamond,
- 2020     ● **Child Welfare Referrals in Charlottesville**  
 Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services  
 • With Hannah Lewis and the Public Interest Data Lab
- 2019     ● **Charlottesville Foster Care Study<sup>9</sup>**  
 Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services  
 • With Charlotte McClintock and the Public Interest Data Lab

- 2019 | 2016
- **Blog posts at UVA StatLab<sup>10</sup>**
- 2018
- **Charlottesville Child Welfare Study<sup>11</sup>**  
Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services  
• With Charlotte McClintock and the Public Interest Data Lab
- 2013
- **Review of Competitive Elections and the American Voter, by Keena Lipsitz**  
*Perspectives on Politics* 10: 1030-1031
- 2012
- **Red State, Blue State: Demographic Change and Presidential Politics in Virginia<sup>12</sup>**  
Numbers Count (July)  
• With Dustin Cable
  - **Black in Virginia: Demographic Trends in Historical Context<sup>13</sup>**  
Numbers Count (April)
  - **Blog posts at StatChatVA<sup>14</sup>**
- 2005
- **The Influence of Campaign Advertising**  
*Encyclopedia of Public Opinion*, Greenwood Press
- 1994
- **Fourth-Year Report: Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
• With John Witte, Christopher Thorn, and Kim Pritchard

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2026 | 2021
- **NSF CoPE Hub: Coastal Futures: Building Capacity for Data-driven Adaptation in Rural Coastal Communities**  
• Senior Personnel (PI: Karen McGlathery)
- 2021
- **A Housing Justice Atlas for Virginia**  
4-VA at UVA Collaborative Research Program, University of Virginia  
• Co-Principal Investigator, with Barbara Brown Wilson, Kate Howell, Ben Teresa
- 2021
- **The Charlottesville Regional Equity Atlas: Co-Creating with Our Community**  
New Venture Fund's Public Interest Technology University Network Challenge  
• Principal Investigator, with Barbara Brown Wilson

- 2020  
|  
2018
- **Building a Collaborative Regional Equity Atlas**  
Institute for Museum and Library Services  
• Co-Principal Investigator, with Rebecca Coleman
- 2019
- **Thrive Grant for Project First Gen Plus**  
Office of the Provost and Center for Teaching Excellence,  
University of Virginia  
• Co-Principal Investigator, with Paul Martin
- 2018  
|  
2017
- **Creating a Data Catalog to Promote Access to Open Health Data**  
National Network of Libraries of Medicine  
• Co-Principal Investigator, with Bart Ragon
- 2006  
|  
2005
- **Summer Research Grant**  
Vice-President for Research, University of Virginia
- 2006  
|  
2005
- **Excellence in Diversity Fellow**  
University of Virginia
- 2004  
|  
2003
- **Junior Faculty Research Grant**  
University of Oklahoma
- 2003
- **Faculty Enrichment Grant**  
College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma
- 2002
- **Instructional Technology Grant**  
College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma
- 2001
- **Midwest Political Science Association Sophonisba Breckinridge Award**  
Best paper on Women in Politics presented at the annual meeting
- 2000
- **National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 1999
- **Clara Penniman Fellowship**  
Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- 2021
- **Webinar, Mapping Inequity: Partnering for Data-Informed Decision Making**  
International City/County Management Association
- 2021
- **Speaker, Racial Covenants: The Continuing Legacy of Exclusionary Housing Practices in Albemarle County**  
Albemarle County

- 2021 ● **Presenter, Albemarle County Equity Profile**  
Albemarle County Community Advisory Committees/Board of Supervisors
- 2021 ● **Discussant, Data Feminism with Lauren Klein**  
Online Ethics Center, UVA
- 2021 ● **Panelist, Being a Good Neighbor in Charlottesville**  
Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
- 2021 ● **Presenter, Albemarle Equity Profile**  
Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
- 2020 ● **Speaker, A Justice-Oriented Data Science**  
Girls Hoo Code
- 2020 ● **Panelist, Data for Social Good in Charlottesville**  
TomTom Foundation's Cities Rising Summit
- 2020 ● **Panelist, Racial Equity and Technology**  
Public Interest Technology-University Network
- 2019 ● **Panel Chair and Moderator**  
Data & Democracy, School of Data Science Datapalooza, University of Virginia
- 2019 ● **Homework and Hubris: Preparing for Community-Engaged Courses**  
Innovations in Teaching Pedagogy Summit, University of Virginia
  - With Paul Martin
- 2018 ● **Smaller on the Outside: Supporting Researchers through Library and Research Computing/IT Collaborations**  
Southeastern University Research Association IT Meeting
- 2017 ● **Imagining New Ways to Engage Political News**  
UVA Library
- 2017 ● **From Last to Ancient First: Merging Research Data Services & Social,Natural, Engineering Liaisons.**  
Association of College and Research Libraries Conference
- 2016 ● **Bigger on the Inside: Integrating Research Data Services in Campus-Wide Networks**  
Coalition for Networked Information Fall Meeting
- 2016 ● **Presidential Debate Analysis in R**  
UVA/Cville R User Meetup
- 2016 ● **2016 Presidential Debates: Text as Data**  
[DH@UVA](#) Conference, University of Virginia and UVA/CvilleR User Meetup

- 2016 ● **Congressional Earmarks and the Politics of Representation**  
Center for the Study of Data and Knowledge, University of Virginia
- 2014 ● **Data Services as Information Services: or, Old Wine, New Bottle**  
ALA Midwinter Meeting
  - With Ivey Glendon
- 2013 ● **Population Projections by Demographic Details: A Multi-Layered Approach**  
Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American
  - With Rebecca Tippett and Qian Cai
- 2012 ● **Multilevel Modeling for Population Projections: Projections for Virginia**  
Southern Demographic Association

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- 2021 ● **Batten Curricular Committee**  
University of Virginia
- 2021 | 2019 ● **Search Committee**  
Data Scientist, MDI Predictive Displacement Project, Save the Children, International
- 2019 | 2020 ● **Reimagine CVA Advisory Board**  
Center for Nonprofit Excellence and United Way of Greater Charlottesville
- 2019 ● **Search Committee**  
Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning Services, UVA
- 2019 | 2018 ● **MAPP2Health Data Evaluation Committee**  
Thomas Jefferson Health District
- 2019 | 2018 ● **Data Science Undergraduate Certificate Committee**  
University of Virginia
- 2019 | 2014 ● **Co-founder and co-organizer**  
UVA/CVille R Meetup
- 2019 | 2015 ● **Judge, MSDS Capstone Projects**  
Systems & Information Engineering Design Symposium, UVA
- 2018 | 2014 ● **Data Science Advisory Board**  
University of Virginia

- 2018 | 2002
- **Journal and Award Reviewer**
    - American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly, American Politics Research, Politics and Gender, National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences
- 2017 | 2014
- **Advanced Computing Steering Committee**
    - University of Virginia
- 2016
- **Organizer and Host, UVA DataFest**
    - University of Virginia
- 2015 | 2013
- **Quantitative Collaborative Steering Committee**
    - Colleges of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia
- 2013 | 2012
- **Planning Committee for Graduate Certificate in Survey Research Methods**
    - Colleges of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia
- 2012
- **Section Chair, Elections and Voting Behavior**
    - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2011
- **Philip E. Converse Book Award Committee**
    - American Political Science Association's Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section
- 2011 | 2010
- **Graduate Admissions Committee**
    - Department of Politics, University of Virginia
- 2011 | 2004
- **Undergraduate Studies Committee**
    - Department of Politics, University of Virginia
- 2008
- **Section Chair, Electoral Campaigns**
    - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2008 | 2007
- **Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Committee**
    - University of Virginia
- 2008 | 2007
- **Planning Committee for conference on Polling and Democracy**
    - Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia
- 2008 | 2007
- **Comparative Politics Search Committee**
    - Department of Politics, University of Virginia
- 2007 | 2006
- **Graduate Student Selection Committee**
    - Society of Political Methodology's Annual Meeting
- 2005
- **Kennedy Oral History Research Director Search Committee**
    - Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia

2005

- Undergraduate Honors Thesis award committee  
Department of Politics, University of Virginia

## LINKS

- 1: <https://commpas.batten.virginia.edu/>
- 2: [https://virginiaequitycenter.github.io/cvilleequity\\_covid/](https://virginiaequitycenter.github.io/cvilleequity_covid/)
- 3: <https://data.library.virginia.edu/statlab/>
- 4: <https://data.library.virginia.edu/training/past-workshops/>
- 5: <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/42/e2103519118>
- 6: <http://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.239/>
- 7: <https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/75hhf7en9780252035920.html>
- 8: [https://virginiaequitycenter.org/research/content/8306.](https://virginiaequitycenter.org/research/content/8306)
- 9: <https://doi.org/10.18130/v3-ztey-hn31>
- 10: <https://data.library.virginia.edu/tag/michele-claibourn/>
- 11: <https://doi.org/10.18130/v3-1j50-3z57>
- 12: [https://demographics.coopercenter.org/sites/demographics/files/NC\\_RedState-BlueState\\_07-25-2012\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://demographics.coopercenter.org/sites/demographics/files/NC_RedState-BlueState_07-25-2012_0_0.pdf)
- 13: [https://demographics.coopercenter.org/sites/demographics/files/NC\\_Blacks-in-Virginia\\_4\\_30\\_12\\_r\\_0.pdf](https://demographics.coopercenter.org/sites/demographics/files/NC_Blacks-in-Virginia_4_30_12_r_0.pdf)
- 14: <http://statchatva.org/category/wcc-contributors/michele-claibourn/>