

MICHELE CLAIBOURN

I am a research director – a political scientist, data scientist, community-engaged scholar, and senior administrator – and professor with over 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

2023
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2021

2021
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2013

2013
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2011

2011
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2002

- **Director of Equitable Analysis, Asst Professor of Public Policy**
The Equity Center and The Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia
 - Lead the Equitable Analysis initiative in the UVA Equity Center to provide data tools, research and analysis in collaboration with leaders and advocates promoting regional equity.
 - Manage equitable data science team
 - Teach courses on public interest data and on equitable policy in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.
 - Affiliated Faculty in the School of Data Science, 2024-present
- **Director, Research Data Services & Sciences**
UVA Library, University of Virginia
 - Build new research data services team to support data use and infrastructure; manage and develop library staff and services for the social, natural, and engineering sciences; provide statistical and data science consultation and instruction to researchers across disciplines.
 - **Data Science Director, The Equity Center**, 2020-2021 (25% appointment), lead the Democratization of Data initiative.
 - **Faculty Affiliate & Lead Data Scientist, Global Policy Center**, 2019-2021 (pro bono), develop predictive analytics on the magnitude, and duration of mass-displacement with Save the Children, International.
 - **Associate Director, Data Science Institute**, 2014-2016 (25% appointment), contribute to services and infrastructure for data-intensive research.
- **Senior Analyst**
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia
 - Design and conduct quantitative and demographic research for local governments, civic sector clients, and the public interest.
- **Assistant Professor**
University of Virginia (2004-2011) and University of Oklahoma (2002-2004)
 - Design and teach graduate-level research and statistics courses and undergraduate-level courses on political behavior and political psychology.
 - Develop, implement, and publish new research on social capital, electoral responsiveness, and political communication.

CONTACT

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Project portfolio and complete CV at [webpage](#).

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.

Manage teams ranging from 4 to 12 full-time staff, 3 to 6 graduate fellows, and research teams across multiple collaborations on a range of programmatic and research projects.

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.

EDUCATION

- 2002 • **PhD., Political Science**
University of Wisconsin-Madison 📍 Madison, WI
- 1993 • **B.A., Political Science**
Rice University 📍 Houston, TX

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- 2024 |
2023 • **Lead Community Data Fellow Program**
UVA Equity Center and School of Data Science
- 2023 |
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

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 • **Confederate monuments and the history of lynching in the American South: An empirical examination**
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**
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 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 Tools

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

- 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**
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)
- 2001 ● **Gender Differences in Citizen-Level Democratic Citizenship: Evidence from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems**
Presented to the Midwest Political Science Association (2001)
(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)

↳ RECENT REPORTS AND PROJECTS

- 2024 ● **Charlottesville Urban Heat Islands**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Beth Mitchell and Lee LeBouef)
- 2023 ● **Stepping Stones 2023**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Beth Mitchell, Lee LeBouef, and the Public Interest Data class)
- 2023 ● **Eastern Shore Climate Equity Atlas Prototype**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Beth Mitchell and Lee LeBouef)
- 2023 |
2022 ● **Virginia Evictors Catalog**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia and The RVA Eviction Lab, Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2022 ● **Orange Dot Report 5.0: Family Self-Sufficiency in the Charlottesville Region**
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 Atlas**
Picturing Climate Justice Exhibit, UVA Equity Center and the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- 2022 | 2019 ● **Charlottesville Regional Equity Atlas**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia
- 2021 ● **Albemarle County Equity Profile: Centering Equity in Evaluating Well-Being & Quality of Life for Albemarle County Residents**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia (With Sam Powers, Michael Salgueiro, Siri Russell, Barbara Brown Wilson, and Alissa Ujie Diamond)
- 2021 ● **Albemarle County Child Welfare Study**
Report to the Albemarle Department of Social Services (With the Public Interest Data Lab)
- 2020 ● **Reading Outcomes and Equity in Virginia**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia
- 2020 ● **Voices for Equity**
The Equity Center, University of Virginia
- 2020 ● **Charlottesville Child Welfare Study: Understanding Referral Disproportionality**
Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services (With Hannah Lewis and the Public Interest Data Lab)
- 2019 ● **Charlottesville Foster Care Study**
Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services (With Charlotte McClintock and the Public Interest Data Lab)
- 2018 ● **Charlottesville Child Welfare Study**
Report to the Charlottesville Department of Social Services (With Charlotte McClintock and the Public Interest Data Lab)

💻 RECENT GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2026 | 2021 ● **Building Capacity for Data-driven Adaptation in Rural Coastal Communities (\$5M)**
National Science Foundation, Coasts and People
 - Senior Personnel (PI: Karen McGlathery)
- 2021 ● **A Housing Justice Atlas for Virginia (\$25K)**
4-VA at UVA Collaborative Research Program, University of Virginia
 - Co-Principal Investigator, with Barbara Brown Wilson
- 2021 ● **Needs Assessment and Development of a Proprietary Eviction Database (\$20K)**
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

- 2021
- **The Charlottesville Regional Equity Atlas: Co-Creating with Our Community (\$87.5K)**
New Venture Fund's Public Interest Technology University Network Challenge
 - Principal Investigator, with Barbara Brown Wilson
- 2020 | 2018
- **Building a Collaborative Regional Equity Atlas (\$150K)**
Institute for Museum and Library Services
 - Co-Principal Investigator, with Rebecca Coleman
- 2019
- **Thrive Grant for Project First Gen Plus (\$4K)**
Office of the Provost and Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Virginia
 - Co-Principal Investigator, with Paul Martin
- 2018 | 2017
- **A Data Catalog to Promote Access to Open Health Data (\$19K)**
National Network of Libraries of Medicine
 - Co-Principal Investigator, with Bart Ragon