

Robert Ward

Postdoctoral Researcher
Division of Social Sciences
University of Chicago

rbward@uchicago.edu
+1 (614) 905-6018
robertnward.github.io

Education

- └ Ph.D. Carter School of Public Policy, *Georgia Institute of Technology*, 2025
- └ M.P.A., John Glenn College of Public Affairs, *The Ohio State University*, 2019
- └ B.S. in Molecular Genetics, *The Ohio State University*, 2017

Positions

- └ *University of Chicago*, Division of Social Sciences
Postdoctoral Researcher, Knowledge Lab, Dec 2025 –
- └ *Stanford University*, Department of Bioengineering
Visiting Student with Megan Palmer and Drew Endy, Oct 2022, Jun-Sep 2023
- └ *Université Paris Cité*, Learning Planet Institute
Systems Engineering and Evolution Dynamics Division
Visiting Student with Marc Santolini, Interaction Data Lab, 2019 – present
- └ *Georgia Institute of Technology*, School of Public Policy
Research Assistant for Cassidy R. Sugimoto, 2021 - 2025
Research Assistant for John P. Walsh, 2022
Research Assistant for Jan Youtie and Philip Shapira, STIP Group, 2019-21
- └ *The Ohio State University*, Battelle Center for Science, Engineering, and Public Policy
Graduate Research Associate, 2018 – 2019
- └ *The Ohio State University*, Department of Molecular Genetics
Research Assistant for Jay B. Hollick, 2014-16

Research Interests

⟨ Social and Information Networks ⟩ ⟨ Organizations: *Formal and Informal Structure, Self-Organization, Controllability* ⟩ ⟨ Science, Technology and Innovation ⟩ ⟨ Computation: *Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Microcanonical Ensembles and Simulation* ⟩

Papers

In print

- └ Large language models recover scientific collaboration networks from text.

- Applied Network Science*, 2024. Rathin Jeyaram **Robert Ward** and Marc Santolini.
- └ Quantifying the rise and fall of scientific fields. *PLoS ONE*, 2022.
Chakresh Singh, Emma Barrie **Robert Ward**, Liubova Tupikina and Marc Santolini.
 - └ Exploring new approaches to understanding innovation ecosystems.
Technology Analysis & Strategic Management, 2021. Jan Youtie, **Robert Ward**, Philip Shapira, R. Sandra Schillo & E. Louise Earl.
 - └ Corporate engagement with nanotechnology through research publications. *Journal of Nanoparticle Research*, 2021. Jan Youtie, **Robert Ward**, Philip Shapira, Alan Porter, Nils Newman.
 - └ Profiling and predicting the problem-solving patterns in China's research systems.
Quantitative Science Studies, 2021. Zhang, Yi, Mengjia Wu, Zhengyin Hu, **Robert Ward**, Xue Zhang, Alan Porter

In progress

[‡]Joint first-authors.

- └ Quantifying Interdisciplinarity | Preparing for submission.
Robert Ward.
- └ iGEM: A Model System for Team Science and Innovation | Preparing for submission.
Marc Santolini, Megan J. Palmer, Leo Blondel, **Robert Ward**, Rathin Jerayam, Abhijeet Krishna and Albert-Laszlo Barabasi.
- └ Designing Interventions on Network Formation | Preparing for submission.
Robert Ward
- └ Endogenous Division of Labor | Data collection.
Robert Ward and Marc Santolini.
- └ The Social Structure of Improvisation | Design.
Robert Ward

Talks

- └ Invited Talk, *Google*, 2023
- └ Invited Talk, Clauset Lab Seminar, *University of Colorado, Boulder*, 2023
- └ Invited Talk, Knowledge Lab Seminar, *University of Chicago*, 2023
- └ Invited Talk, C-EENRG, *University of Cambridge*, 2023
- └ Invited Talk, *International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition (iGEM)*
Paris, France, 2022
- └ Invited Talk, Center for the Science of Science and Innovation, *Northwestern University*, 2022
- └ Invited Talk, Knowledge Lab Seminar, *University of Chicago*, 2022

- └ *1st International Conference on the Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI).*
Jun 6-9, 2022. National Academies of Sciences, Washington DC
- └ Invited Talk, Workshop on Original Policy Research, *Georgia Institute of Technology*, 2022
- └ *Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference.*
Mar 27-29, 2022 (Online).
- └ *6th Summer School on Data and Algorithms for Science, Technology & Innovation Studies.*
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki-KU Leuven, Sep 22-24 (Online)
- └ *10th Global TechMining Conference.* Nov 11–13, 2020, Atlanta, Georgia
- └ Invited Talk, *Just One Giant Lab*, 2020

Workshops and Summer Schools

- └ *Santa Fe Institute*, Graduate Workshop on Computational Social Science, June 18-30, 2023
- └ Atlanta Academy on Science and Innovation Policy, *Georgia Institute of Technology*
March 21-25, 2022
- └ Society of Young Network Scientists (SYNS) Networks Pre-Conference Workshop.
Jun 26, 2021 (Online)
- └ Science of Science Summer School, iSchool, *Syracuse University*.
Jul 26-Aug 8, 2021 (Online)

Funding and Awards

- └ Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2023
- └ Travel Support (\$2,875)
School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2023
- └ The Endogenous Division of Labor (\$2,480)
Ivan Allen College SODA Grant, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2023
- └ Travel Support (\$3,956)
School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2022
- └ iGEM Team Interaction Study (\$6,000)
Google and University of Vermont OCEAN Grant, 2022
- └ Quantitative assessment of open collaborations in science and engineering (€278,064)
Supporting author with PI: Marc Santolini
French National Research Agency AAPG2021, 2022-24.
- └ S4 Fellowship. (\$2,000)
Subaward from NSF #1933675 shared with Alec McGail and Aaron Mendon-Plasek., 2021
- └ President's Fellowship. (\$22,000)

Georgia Institute of Technology, 2019-2023

Teaching

- └ Guest Lecture on Causal Inference and Interventions in Networks
Complex Systems Physics Seminar, *Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology*
Nov 10, 2022 (Online).
- └ Instructor for Computing Bootcamp
Georgia Institute of Technology, 2022 Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology
- └ Coinstructor for International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition Team
The Ohio State University, 2019

Service

Organizer

- └ Volunteer Coordinator *Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy* May 27, 2023.
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- └ *Workshop on the Organization of Science*. Oct 25, 2022. LPI, Paris, France.
- └ *NetOpen21: Modeling open innovation communities with network science*.
Satellite at Networks 2021: A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference.
Co-organizer with Marc Santolini, Liubov Tupikina and Juniper Lovato.
Jun 30, 2021 (Online). interactiondatalab.com/netopen21

Reviewer

- └ Research Policy, 2019-
- └ IEEE Transactions in Engineering Management, 2019

Consulting and Other Projects

- └ *Mass Customizable and On-demand Integrated Circuits*, 2021-22.
PIs: Michael Filler and Eric Vogel
- └ *Technology Forecasting*, 2021-22. United States Army Research Lab
- └ *Corporate Entry into Nanotechnology*, 2020.
NSF Subcommittee on Nanoscale Science Engineering and Technology (NSET)
- └ *Social Network Analysis*, 2020-22.
Southeastern Nanotechnology Infrastructure Corridor (SENIC) Georgia Tech / NSF
- └ *Scientific Impacts of the Georgia Sea Grant*, 2019.
University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

- └ *Social Network Analysis*, 2019.
Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Space Technology and Research (CSTEP).
- └ *Improving the Cybersecurity and Cost Effectiveness of USAF Industrial Control Systems*, 2019.
United States Air Force Installation Contracting Agency (AFICA/KA).

November 2025