*Sebastian Benthall*

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**Education**

University of California, Berkeley
PhD, School of Information, 2011 – Present
*Berkeley Fellowship 2011-2013*
*Member, Berkeley Institute for Data Science, 2015 - Present*

Brown University
B.A., Cognitive Science, *magna cum laude*, 2003-2007
*Phi Beta Kappa*

**Work History**

*Operations Consultant/Graduate Student Researcher*
Berkeley D-Lab, June 2013 - Present
- Assisting UC Berkeley's D-Lab in building and using technical infrastructure to support data-intensive social science research.
- Consulting and workshop lead for social data analytics, research design, and software development best practices
- Building BigBang and poll.emic, open source toolkits for analyzing communications data.

*Consultant*
Center for Investigative Reporting, July – October 2013
- Consulted on ConText, a tool for analyzing the impact of social justice documentaries on discussion in social media using text and network analysis.
- Worked with CIR researcher to develop framework for measuring impact of investigative reporting

*Consultant*
American Bridge 21ˢᵗ Century, June – July 2012
- Developed and executed email and social media strategy for Super PAC support of presidential and legislative political campaigns.
- Analyszed campaign CRM data.

*Project Manager*
OpenGeo, July 2009 - 2011
- Managed projects developing GeoNode, an open source platform for social management of spatial data.

- Lead international team through initial $60k pilot project through over $1 million in sales.
- Coordinated between clients, designers, developments, and upper management.
- Grew open source community building and established governance structure; managed personnel through organizational growth; functional specification; strategic planning.

*Business Developer*
OpenGeo, January 2009 - 2010
- Provided broad, "many hats" support in sales and marketing, including grant writing, web marketing, marker research, conference presentations, and case study development.

*Software Engineer*
OpenGeo, September 2007 November 2009
- Built rich client user interfaces for spatial data crowdsourcing and cartography
- Contributed to core web GIS software libraries

*Software Engineering Intern*
ITA Software, Summer 2006
- Iterative interaction design and implementation for a vacation destination finder tool.

## Publications

S. Benthall, "Designing Networked Publics for Communicative Action," *Interface*, (forthcoming)

S. Benthall, "Why Weird Twitter", *Ethnography Matters*, June 2013.
http://ethnographymatters.net/blog/2013/06/30/why-weird-twitter-part-1/

G. Fanti, Y. B. David, S. Benthall, E. Brewer, and S. Shenker. Rangzen: Circumventing Government-Imposed Communication Blackouts. Technical Report UCB/EECS-2013-128, EECS Department, University of California, Berkeley, Jul 2013.

S. Benthall and J. Chuang, "Computational Asymmetry in Strategic Bayesian Networks," Poster at W-PIN+NetEcon 2013, Pittsburgh.  arXiv:1206.2878 [cs.GT]

"An Open Source Web GIS Solution: The OpenGeo Stack", *GEO Informatics*, March 2009

"Kudos for the Mindless Expert." Review of *Expert Political Judgment*, by Philip Tetlock. *Critical Review*, Volume 19, Issue 1, January 2007, pages 65-79.

## Selected Presentations

"Reflexive Data Science on SciPy communities" SciPy 2014, Austin, TX

S. Benthall and Rolando Peñate "Designing a better SDI", FOSS4G 2011, Denver, CO

"Open Source Geospatial for Governments," Environmental Public Health Tracking Workshop, New York, NY. Morning plenary and discussion.

**"**Building Bottom Up SDI's with the GeoNode Project" G*lobal Spatial Data Infrastructure 2010*,

Singapore

**Teaching Experience**

*University of California, Berkeley, School of Information, Berkeley, CA*
Co-instructor
Open Collaboration and Peer Production

*Brown University, Department of Computer Science, Providence, RI*
Head Teaching Assistant, 2006-2007
Courses: Models of Computation, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

*Brown University, Department of Computer Science, Providence, RI*
Teaching Assistant, 2004-2006
Courses: Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

**Undergraduate Research Experience**

*Causal Learning*
Sloman Lab, Department of Cognitive Science, Brown University, Spring 2007,
Designed experiment to test model of causal learning based on Bayesian statistics and complexity theory.
Built experiment's user interface and data collection in MATLAB.

*Economics of Intellectual Property*
under Professor S. Turner, Department of Economics, Brown University, Summer 2005
Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award ($3000)
Researched the effects of restrictive and unrestrictive intellectual property regimes on production and
distribution in several game theoretic models.

*Functional Reactive Programming Languages*
under Professor S. Krishnamurthi, Department of Computer Science, Brown University, Summer 2004
Worked with Brown's Programming Language Team to design and test FrTime, a functional reactive
programming language based on Scheme.

**Technical Experience**

• *Languages*: JavaScript, Python, Java, Scheme, MATLAB
• *Frameworks*: GeoExt, OpenLayers, Django, Wordpress, SciPy, NetworkX
• *Platforms*: Linux (Ubuntu, CentOS), Windows
• *Concepts*: computational statistics, natural language processing, network analysis, artificial
intelligence, rich web user interfaces, web application programming,

**Project Experience**

*BigBang*

D-Lab, June 2014-Present
A scientific toolkit for analyzing collaborative projects

*poll.emic*
D-Lab, January 2014-Present
A tool for collecting egocentric networks of Twitter data.

*GeoNode*
OpenGeo, June 2009 - 2011
Web 2.0 spatial data infrastructure built on GeoServer, Django, and GeoExt.

*Community Almanac*
OpenGeo, June 2008 - September 2008
Web application for publication of geolocated community stories to assist in rural land use planning.

*Vespucci*
OpenGeo, September 2007 - May 2008, September 2008
A JavaScript application framework based on OpenLayers for collaborative map editing with version-controlled data.