

# lauren m. chambers

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## education



**U. of California, Berkeley** 2021 – pres.  
Ph.D. Information Science  
Advised by Prof. Deirdre Mulligan

**Yale University** 2013 – 2017  
B.S. Astrophysics & Afro-American Studies  
Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*

## honors / awards



- **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)** (2023–pres.)
- **Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship** (2023–pres.)
- *Public Voices Fellowship on Tech in the Public Interest*, MacArthur Fdn. (2025–pres.)
- *Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award*, Berkeley I School (apr. 2025)
- *ACM FAccT Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Scholarship*, Honorable Mention (jun. 2024)
- *Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship* (2023–2024)
- *Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor & Employment*, Research Award (mar. 2023)
- *Harvard Berkman Klein Center*, Affiliate (2020–2023)
- *Boston Bar Association President's Award*, for prisoner advocacy during COVID-19 (nov. 2020)

## public comms



- “Beyond Big Tech: Why ‘advocacy technology’ will be the next hot career in AI-driven world,” *Local News Matters*, [op-ed](#) (nov. 2025)
- “Advocacy Technologists: An Interview Study of Tech Experts in Nonprofits & Civil Society” Berkeley I School student research reception, [talk](#) (mar. 2025)
- “Unpacking the Boston Police budget,” [blog](#) (jun. 2020)
- “Unpacking the Boston Police Budget,” Boston City Council Budget Hearing, oral [testimony](#), (jun. 2020)
- “Tracking COVID-19 in Mass. Prisons and Jails,” interactive [dashboard](#) (apr. 2020)

## research experience



**Berkeley School of Information** | *Ph.D. research* | 2021 – pres.

“From Public Interest Technology to Advocacy Technology: The World of ‘Tech for Good’ within Civil Society”

- Investigating how ‘public interest technology’ (PIT) manifests when embedded within mission-driven sociopolitical advocacy organizations: a trend I term **advocacy technology**.
- Seeking to understand what it means to “do PIT” within advocacy settings, and how these explicitly sociotechnical workers navigate and influence both policy and technological change in the 21st century.
- Arguing that a greater focus on technological personnel, processes, and changes within civil society and not-for-profit work is critical for modern understandings of advocacy, technology, and policy.

**Center for Democracy & Technology** | *Ph.D. internship* | 2023

- Studying public interest technologists in civil society; exploring inclusive practices in Internet standards orgs ([blog](#))

**Yale University** | *undergraduate theses* | 2016 – 2017

- African American Studies: *A Different Kind of Dark Energy: Placing Race and Gender in Physics* (Hazel Carby)
- Astronomy: *Understanding Gas-Phase Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) Chemistry in Proto-Planetary Disks* (Karin Öberg & Hector Arce)

## professional experience



**Berkeley School of Information** | 2024 – pres.

- *Python Summer Bootcamp 2024, 2025, 2026*: Designing & teaching summer workshop of lessons & labs for incoming students
- “Social Issues of Information” (*INFO 203*) Spring 2024: Assisting professor with course design; mentoring & advising students
- “Public Interest Tech Clinic” (*INFO 290*): Peer advisor & researcher

**American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts** | 2019 – 2021

- Supporting civil rights advocacy through data analysis and maintaining the [Data for Justice](#) server and website
- Consulting on and [writing](#) about how the latest technological research affects algorithmic governance
- Developing [interactive web interfaces](#) for public data visualizations in R Shiny, HTML, CSS, & Javascript
- Engaging the public in ACLU work and public interest technology through talks, [blogs](#), and [tweets](#)

**Space Telescope Science Institute** | 2017 – 2019

- Supporting the NASA JWST mission by developing interactive tools and [simulator software](#) in Python
- Deputy Technical Lead, [JWST Quicklook](#) (trending & analysis app)



Peer-Reviewed

- in prep* **Lauren M. Chambers.** *The Public Interest Technology Job Description: Situating Advocacy Technologists' Professional Work Tasks, Goals, and Impacts*
- Lauren M. Chambers.** *Tracing Genealogies of Critical Technical Practice: From "Tech for Good" to "Public Interest Tech" and Beyond*
- Lauren M. Chambers,** Steven F. Luo, Kylie Nguyen. *Undergraduate Peer-to-Peer Mentorship in Public Interest Technology and Critical Technical Practice*
- 2026 **Lauren M. Chambers,** Diag Davenport. *Putting the 'Practice' in Critical Technical Practice: A Decision-Making Pedagogy for the Public Interest Technology Clinic.* ACM FAcCT '26, Montreal, Canada. [DOI: forthcoming](#)
- presented at 2025 Berkeley Teaching and Learning Conference
  - presented as tutorial at FAcCT 2025
  - presented as poster at CS&Law 2026
- 2025 **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Beyond Big Tech: Advocacy Technologists within Mission-Driven Civil Society Organizations.* ACM CSCW '25, Bergen, Norway. [DOI: 10.1145/3757559](#) (one-page [infographic](#))
- 🏆 CSCW impact recognition
  - also presented as workshop at 2024 Data for Black Lives Conference
- 2024 A. Abdu, **Lauren M. Chambers,** D. Mulligan, and A. Jacobs. *Algorithmic Transparency and Participation through the Handoff Lens: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Census Bureau's Adoption of Differential Privacy.* ACM FAcCT '24, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. [DOI: 10.1145/3630106.3658962](#)
- workshopped at PLSC 2023
  - presented at Yale *ISP Data (Re)Makes the World* Workshop 2023
- C. Doyle, M. Alvarez, P. Tracey, G. Grill, C. Whitney, **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Reparations of the Horse? Algorithmic Reparation and Overspecialized Remedies.* Big Data & Society, [DOI: 10.1177/20539517241270670](#)

Workshop Papers & Preprints

- 2025 **Lauren M. Chambers,** Dan Bateyko, Jared Katzman. *Mapping Funding Landscapes Of Civil Society And Public Interest Technologies: Voids, Trends, And Stakes.* Privacy Law Scholars Conference, Los Angeles, CA (May 2025)
- Mallory Knodel, Mallika Balakrishnan, **Lauren M. Chambers.** *Shaping a Profession, Building a Community: Integrating Public Interest Technologists into Civil Society.* (May 2025) ([arXiv](#))
- 2024 Roderic Crooks, Uriel Serrano, ... **Lauren M. Chambers,** et al. *Critical Connections: Datafication and Community Activism.* Datafication and Community Activism Workshop, Irvine, CA (April 2024) ([essay](#))

mentorship & community (selected)



- 2024 – pres. **Berkeley Algorithmic Fairness & Opacity Working Group (AFOG),** Co-organizer
- 2023 – pres. **Berkeley International & Area Studies (ORIAS) Speakers Bureau,** K-12 & College Guest Speaker
- 2020 – pres. **Mentor,** Coding it Forward Civic Digital Fellowship
- 2022 – 2024 **Berkeley I School Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice Working Group,** Student Rep
- 2023 – 2024 **Berkeley I School Dean Search Committee,** Student Representative
- 2021 – 2022 **"Effective Data Visualization" Workshop Organizer,** Boston University Spark! Lab ([slides](#))
- 2021 – 2024 **Program Organizer,** Berkeley I School PhD Underrepresented Applicant Feedback Program
- nov. 2019 **Algorithmic Justice League "Drag v. AI" Workshop Organizer,** Boston Public Library

additional skills



Software & Data Analysis:

- Python (pandas, matplotlib, astropy, scipy, pyqt, django, scikit-learn, Jupyter notebooks)
  - R (dplyr, ggplot, leaflet, shiny, plotly)
  - git (GitHub & GitLab) and CI (Travis/Jenkins/GitLab)
  - Unix/Bash, Apache; HTML, CSS, Javascript
- Language:** Intermediate Spanish, Intermediate French
- Hobbies:** yoga (200-hour teacher certification), ballet, pilates, board games, concerts, disc golf, puzzles, writing & editing Wikipedia articles