Helen Webley-Brown

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Education

M.S. in Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — Cambridge, MA / Expected Feb 2025
- **Thesis:** Democracy Under Surveillance: The Effect of Pretrial Electronic Monitoring on Voting Behavior
- **Fields:** American Politics, Quantitative Methods **[GPA: 4.9/5.0]**
- **Coursework:** Causal Inference, Regression, Design and Analysis of Survey Experiments, Text Analysis, Webscraping, Public Opinion, Policing, Algorithmic Fairness, Social Policy

B.A. in Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) — St. Louis, MO / May 2022
- **Honors:** Danforth Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, College Honors **[GPA: 3.97/4.0]**
- **Coursework:** Data Analytics in Python, GIS, Policy Analysis, Critical Data Studies

Publications

Gupta, A., Wu, V., **Webley-Brown, H.**, King, J., Ho, D. (2023). The Privacy-Bias Tradeoff: Data Minimization and Racial Disparity Assessments in U.S. Government ⧉. In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT).
- Best Paper Award ⧉ at FAccT, 2023
- Student Paper Award ⧉ from Future of Privacy Forum, 2023

Other Writing

Webley-Brown, H., Sipek, A., Buoymaster, K., Shivalkar, J., Owen, W., Manis, E. (2022). ShotSpotter and the Misfires of Gunshot Detection Technology ⧉. Surveillance Technology Oversight Project.

Loshkajian, N., Van Doran, S., Melendi, J., Saran, S., **Webley-Brown, H.**, Manis, E. (2022). Privatizing The Surveillance State: How Police Foundations Undermine Rule of Law ⧉. Surveillance Technology Oversight Project.

Works in Progress

We've Got Democracy at Home: Resident Council Emergence in Public Housing Developments

Don't Shoot The Messenger: Do Open Data Initiatives Moderate the Effect of Police Violence News on Trust in Police?

Why Watch The Watchers? Frame Utilization In Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) Legislation

Research Experience

Research Officer, LSE Phelan United States Center (Prof. Lauren Sukin) — London, England / Dec 2024 – Present
- Analyze and write-up project results on effect of political polarization on US foreign policy

Research Assistant, MIT Political Science (Prof. Ariel White) — Cambridge, MA / May 2023 – Aug 2023
- Used Sequential Monte Carlo algorithm to analyze ⧉ impact of prison gerrymandering reforms on legislative outcomes
- Presented at *Midwest Political Science Association* Conference, 2024

Summer Research Fellow, Stanford Regulation, Evaluation, and Governance Lab — Remote / June 2022 – Aug 2022
- Conducted content analysis of 25 federal agencies' equity action plans
- Analyzed privacy-related barriers to data collection, and its impact on bias assessments

Research Intern, Surveillance Technology Oversight Project — Remote / Jan 2022 – May 2022
- Wrote two reports on emerging surveillance technologies' impact on civil rights
- Created data visualisation of racial disparities in ShotSpotter technology deployment

Student Researcher, Modernist Prehistory of Facial Recognition Lab (Prof. Anca Parvulescu) — St. Louis, MO / Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
- Traced physiognomic roots of facial recognition using archival data and literary analysis

Data Analysis and Research Intern, The Bail Project
- Performed data fidelity checks on Salesforce reports with 900+ unique client records
- Surveyed 43 clients and conducted 3 interviews to write report ↗ on socio-economic impacts of pretrial electronic monitoring

St. Louis, MO
June 2021 – Aug 2021

Research Assistant, WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby)
- Analyzed sentiment in pre/post class survey data to track changes in protest attitudes

St. Louis, MO
Jan 2020 – June 2020

Teaching Assistant Experience

Making Public Policy (UG), MIT Political Science (Prof. Andrea Campbell) — Fall 2024

Quantitative Political Methodology (UG), WashU Political Science (Prof. Christopher Lucas) — Spring 2021

Social Movements (UG), WashU Sociology (Prof. Sarah Gaby) — Spring 2020

Pedagogical Training

MIT Teaching + Learning Lab Teaching Certificate — 2024
- **Course Design Track** (backward design, inclusive class policies, syllabus development)
- **Lesson Planning Track** (giving formative feedback, active learning)
- **Inclusive Teaching Track** (strategies to foster a welcoming, equitable classroom)
- **Microteaching Track** (lecture skills, facilitating discussions, teaching demos)

Service

Co-Chair, Graduate Student Works-in-Progress Workshop, MIT Political Science — Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Diversity Co-Chair, Graduate Student Council, MIT Political Science — Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Mentor, Political Science Application Mentorship Program (PSAMP), MIT Political Science — Fall 2022

Grants and Awards

MIT, Political Methodology Lab Research Grant ($1000) — 2023

WashU, Shepley Outstanding Senior Award — 2022

WashU, Harriet K. Switzer Leadership Award — 2022

WashU, Gephardt Institute Fox-Clark Civic Scholarship — 2020

WashU, William H. Danforth Scholarship (4-year full tuition award) — 2018

Non-Academic Experience

Legal Lark, Founder and Project Manager
- Managed team of 4 to create website ↗ on e-carceration and juvenile justice
- Built resource bank, designed infographics, and wrote articles on youth incarceration

St. Louis, MO
May 2021 – May 2022

Government Affairs Intern, Human Rights Campaign
- Coded 506 cities' LGBTQ+ police liaison policies for HRC's Municipal Equality Index ↗
- Tracked politicians' votes and bill sponsorships for HRC's Congressional Scorecard ↗

Remote
Jan 2021 – April 2021

Public Affairs and Communications Intern, Hanbury Strategy
- Drafted client op-eds, government consultation responses, and stakeholder maps

London, England
June 2020 – Sept 2020

Campaign Donations Researcher, Lavender for State Senate
- Researched past contributions of 300+ potential donors; out-raised incumbent by 106%

Remote
June 2020 – Aug 2020

Technical Skills

LaTeX, R and R Studio, ArcGIS, QGIS, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, Survey/Polling (Prolific, Lucid)