

HANNAH PULLEN-BLASNIK

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, Columbia University

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Education

- 2026 Columbia University, Ph.D., Sociology (expected)
“Places, Technologies, and Transitions: Contested Regulation in Urban Development and the Criminal Legal System”
Committee: Bruce Western, Gil Eyal, Joshua Whitford
- 2023 Columbia University, M.Phil., Sociology
“To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Wealthy Spaces in New York City”
Advisors: Bruce Western, Mario Small
- 2021 Columbia University, M.A., Sociology
- 2016 Brown University, Sc.B., Social Analysis and Research
magna cum laude, departmental honors
“Policing Gentrification: An Exploratory Analysis of Stop-and-Frisk and Income Disparity in Brooklyn, NYC”
Advisors: Jordan T. Camp, Rachel Franklin, Margot Jackson, Michael Kennedy

Research Interests

Criminal Legal System, Algorithms and Surveillance, Urban Space and Place, Political Economy, Social Movements, Computational Social Science

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2021-2026 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2019-2024 Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow
- 2023 American Sociological Association, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award
- 2020-2022 Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Workshop Grant
- 2020-2021 Columbia Justice Lab, Graduate Research Fellow
- 2020 Columbia Sociology Department, Research Support Grant
- 2016 Brown University, Alumni Award for Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Thesis
- 2016 Brown University, Sociological Methods Award
- 2014 Brown University, Peter G. and Paul G. Hanoian Memorial LINK Award for Work in Labor Relations and Social Justice Organizations
- 2012 City of Boston, John William Ward Public Service Fellowship

Publications *equal authorship

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah, Gil Eyal and Amy Weissenbach. 2024. “‘Is Your Accuser Me, or Is It the Software?’: Ambiguity and Contested Expertise in Probabilistic DNA Profiling.” *Social Studies of Science* 54(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127231186646>.

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah, Jessica T. Simes and Bruce Western. 2021. “The Population Prevalence of Solitary Confinement.” *Science Advances* 7(48). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abj1928>.
→ 25 academic citations in first 2 years and in Supreme Court case *Hope v. Harris* (2022)
→ Press coverage including [Daily Mail](#), [MSN](#), and [New Scientist](#)

Under Review

Habr, Katy* and Hannah Pullen-Blasnik.* “A Convergence of Crises: Sudden Employment Loss and Protest Attendance During the Covid-19 Pandemic.”
→ [2023](#) Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award

In Progress

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. “To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Wealthy Spaces in New York City.” (Working Paper)

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. “Development Permitting, Regulation, and Landlord Power in NYC.” (Analysis in Progress)

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. “Predictive Accuracy or Causal Impact? Carceral Risk Score Assignment and Impacts on Reentry.” (Analysis in Progress)

Other Publications

Hall, Rahsaan and Nasser Eledroos. 2019. “Facts Over Fear: The benefits of declining to prosecute misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses.” *ACLU of Massachusetts*.
https://www.aclum.org/sites/default/files/20180319_dtp-final.pdf (Non-Authored major contributor: Data Peer Reviewer).

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. 2016. “Policing Gentrification: An Exploratory Analysis of Stop-and-Frisk and Income Disparity in Brooklyn, NYC.” *Sociology Theses and Dissertations*, Brown Digital Repository, Brown University Library. <https://doi.org/10.26300/y5mw-7522> (PrePrint).
→ 2016 Alumni Award for Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Thesis

Talks, Conferences, Presentations

Conference Presentations

2024 “Carceral Algorithms and Contested Expertise: Comparisons in Probabilistic DNA Profiling and Facial Recognition Technology.” *Carceral AI and Human Decision-Makers Panel*. Prediction and Punishment: Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Carceral AI. Pittsburgh, PA: February 9. (Panelist).

2022 “Cumulative Risk of Solitary Confinement.” *By the Numbers: Who's in Solitary Panel*. Unfinished Business: Covering Solitary Confinement’s New Developments, Policies, Practices and Human Impacts. Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ), John Jay College of Criminal Justice. New York, NY: September 29. (Invited Panelist).

- 2022 “To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Public Space in New York City.” *Geographies of Legal Displacement: Spatial Analyses of the Criminal Legal System Thematic Session*. American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA: August 9. (Invited Panelist).
- 2021 “Is Your Accuser Me, or Is It the Software?: Ambiguity and Contested Expertise in Probabilistic DNA Profiling.” With Amy Weissenbach and Gil Eyal. *Forensic Devices*, Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference. Toronto, ON: October 6. (Panelist).
- 2020 *Predicting, Policing, Prescribing Criminality*. With Sarah Brayne, Angèle Christin, Andrew Ferguson, and Kristian Lum. Sociology of Algorithms Workshop, Columbia University. New York, NY: December 8. (Discussant).
- 2016 “Policing Gentrification: An Exploratory Analysis of Stop-and-Frisk and Income Disparity in Brooklyn, NYC.” *Innovation, Inequalities and Identity: Politics and Social Change in the University, in the City*. Brown University Department of Sociology, Providence, RI: May 6. (Panelist).

Guest Lectures and Additional Talks

- 2023 “What Data ‘Sees’: Public Data, Bias, and Surveillance in New York City.” *My Streetscape Summer Program*, CS3 & Trust Collaboratory, Columbia University. New York, NY: July 17. (Invited Guest Lecturer).
- 2021 “Data Weapons and Data Resistance: D4BL on Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination Techniques.” With Paul Watkins. *American Studies Junior Colloquium*, Barnard College. New York, NY: April 13. (Invited Guest Lecturer).
- 2019 “Implementing Preferencing Models with Association Rule Mining.” National Data Science Meeting, *Digitas*. (Presenter).
- 2018 “Word2Vec Applications for Non-Text Sequences.” With Neehar Mukne. National Data Science Meeting, *Digitas*. (Presenter).

Professional Employment

Industry Employment

- 2019 Senior Data Scientist, Digitas
Managed and led data science project teams for clients, research and development, and pro bono partners. Supervised junior team members. Developed long-term project goals and coordinated data science work across departments and national team.
- 2017-2019 Data Scientist, Digitas
Delivered 10 long-term data science projects for Fortune 500 clients, ad-hoc requests from clients and internal teams, and dozens of analyses for new business pitches. Employed exploratory data analysis, predictive modeling, statistical and machine learning techniques, data ingestion and transformation pipelines, and interactive visualizations using R, Python, SQL, and Apache Spark (PySpark).
Managed big data projects in distributed cloud computing environments including Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

Initiated internal team training documentation by building and maintaining team-wide Agile documentation hub and video training repository. Designed and taught introductory trainings for technical and non-technical audiences.

Advanced Research & Development efforts on natural language processing (NLP) and prediction bias and fairness. Led pro-bono projects for non-profits.

- 2015, 2016 Analyst, Digitas
Managed data projects in Excel and Tableau, presented insights and visualizations. Increased efficiency within first 4 months on job by building data pipeline in Python to clean, transform, and merge client data for monthly report.
Won junior staff client pitch, designed ad campaign and developed success metrics.
- 2014 Editorial Assistant, TechTarget

Research Employment

- 2023- Project Director, *Criminal Legal Algorithms, Technology and Expertise*, Trust Collaboratory
Supervisor for graduate and undergraduate research assistants.
- 2024- Graduate Researcher, *Data and Racial Inequality Project*, Incite
- 2023 Graduate Researcher, *Movements Against Mass Incarceration Lab*, Incite
- 2019-2022 Graduate Research Fellow, Columbia Justice Lab
Major contributor on the *Pennsylvania Solitary Study*.
Minor contributor on the *Rikers Island Longitudinal Study*.
- 2021-2022 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Boston University
- 2016 Research Assistant, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA)
- 2015 Data Consultant (Contract), TechTarget
- 2014 Research Assistant, Resilient Rhode Island Research Team
- 2013-2014 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Brown University

Teaching Experience

- 2022, 2023 Sociology Master's Thesis Seminar, Columbia University (Teaching Fellow)
- 2017-2019 Introduction to Data Science, Onboarding, Digitas (Recurring Session)
- 2018 Introduction to SQL, Digitas (Recurring Session)

Service

Academic

- 2024 Award Committee Member, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award, Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, American Sociological Association
- 2020-2022 Co-Coordinator, Sociology of Algorithms Workshop, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University

2020-2021 Coordinator, Racial Capitalism Working Group, Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD), Columbia University

Community and Public

2020- Volunteer Researcher, Office of Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani
2017-2022 Volunteer Researcher, Data for Black Lives (D4BL)
Major contributor on the No More Data Weapons campaign.
2018-2019 Volunteer Researcher, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts
2014-2015 Head of Production, Brown Motion Pictures
2014 Video Production Intern, Boston Neighborhood Network Television
2013-2014 Media Board Content Creator, Brown Political Review
2013 Environmental Intern, Greening Rozzie
2008-2012 Farmers' Market SNAP and EBT Facilitator, Roslindale Village Main Streets

Journalism and Media Credits

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. 2014. "Who Are the Top EHR Vendors in Your State?" *SearchHealthIT*.

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. 2014. *SearchBusinessAnalytics*.

"BI Data Storytelling Pegged as Key to Driving Executive Action."

"Linthicum: Cloud Analytics Apps Need Solid Data Architecture."

"Don't Let Data Visualization Projects Get Lost in Complexity."

"Self-Service BI Tools Can Aid CRM Efforts, with Some Effort."

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. 2014. "Data Modeling Techniques Explained: How to Get the Most from Your Data." *SearchDataManagement*.

Al-Eryani, Surya* Hannah Pullen-Blasnik* and Katrina Van Laan.* 2014. "Protests in Thailand | Political Update Series." *Brown Political Review*.

Infinitely Polar Bear. 2014. Dir. Maya Forbes. Paper Street Films, Bad Robot, KGB Media, Park Pictures. (Locations Intern).

Brown Motion Pictures. 2012-2015.

I Will Go Mad. 2014. Dir. Kent Smith. (Executive Producer).

Dead Body. 2014. Dir. Faiyad Ahmad. (Executive Producer).

Dream Girl. 2013. Dir. Hannah Pullen-Blasnik.

The Word to Trust. 2013. Dir. Faiyad Ahmad. (Assistant Director).

Rearview. 2012. Dir. Brendan Stone. (Assistant Director).

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah* and Alif Ibrahim.* 2013. *Brown Political Review*.

"Austerity Measures in Portugal | Political Update Series."

"Obamacare and Healthcare.gov | Political Update Series."

"International Spying and the NSA | Political Update Series."

"New Jersey Legalizes Same Sex Marriage | Political Update Series."

"U.S. Loses UNESCO Voting Rights | Political Update Series."

Ibrahim, Alif*, Hannah Pullen-Blasnik,* Benjamin Sadkowski,* and Shoshana Salzberg.* 2013. “Perspectives On Syria From Christian Syrians In Providence.” *Brown Political Review*.

Lulo, Eugenia,* Maria Paz,* Hannah Pullen-Blasnik,* Nina Roesner,* Benjamin Sadkowski,* and Shoshana Salzberg.* 2013. “Syrian Conflict | Political Update Series.” *Brown Political Review*.

Hotel Fortuna. 2013. Dir. Henry Chaisson. The Loop Group. (2nd Unit Director).

Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah. 2013. *GreeningRozzie Blog*.

“Colombian Village's Story Inspires Dreams of Sustainable Communities.”

“Harness the Sun to Power a Do-It-Yourself Space Heater.”

Skills

Coding R, Python (Pyspark, Pandas), SQL, Stata, SPSS, Javascript (D3)

Platform Arc/QGIS, Excel, Tableau, RShiny, AWS, GCP, Linux, LaTeX, JIRA, Git

Language Spanish (advanced)

Additional Training and Certifications

2019 Bayesian Statistics Specialization, *UC Santa Cruz*, Coursera.

2018 Spatial Data with R Track Certification, DataCamp.

→ Visualizing Geospatial Data in R, Spatial Analysis in R with sf and raster, Spatial Statistics in R, Interactive Maps with leaflet in R

2018 Advanced Modeling Courses, DataCamp.

→ ARIMA Modeling with R, Convolutional Neural Networks for Image Processing, Image Processing with Keras in Python, Deep Learning in Python, Network Analysis in Python, Building Recommendation Engines with Pyspark, Extreme Gradient Boosting with XGBoost

2018 Dashboards and Engineering Courses, DataCamp.

→ Building Dashboards with flexdashboard, Building Web Applications in R with Shiny, Introduction to Spark in R using SparklyR

2017 Machine Learning, *Stanford University*, Coursera.

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association (ASA)