

# HANNAH PULLEN-BLASNIK

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## EDUCATION

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- 2026 **Columbia University**, Ph.D., Sociology (expected)  
“Places, Technologies, & Transitions: Contested Regulation in Urban Development & the Criminal Legal System”  
Committee: Bruce Western, Gil Eyal, Joshua Whitford
- 2023 **Columbia University**, M.Phil., Sociology  
“To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing and Real Estate Development 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, Michael Kennedy, Margot Jackson

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Criminal Legal System – Urban Space and Place – Algorithms and Surveillance – Political Economy – Housing and Development – Social Movements – Computational Social Science

## PUBLICATIONS

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Peer Reviewed Publications:

- 2025 Rollins, Oliver, Julien Larregue, and **Hannah Pullen-Blasnik**. “Technologies of Criminalization.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 21. DOI: [10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-061824-073536](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-061824-073536)
- 2025 Habr, Katy\* and **Hannah Pullen-Blasnik\*** (Equal Authorship). “A Convergence of Crises: Sudden Employment Loss and Black Lives Matter Protest Attendance During the Covid-19 Pandemic.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 11: 1-18. DOI: [10.1177/23780231251328799](https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231251328799) [code]  
→ Winner, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award, ASA Collective Behavior & Social Movements section
- 2024 **Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah**, Gil Eyal and Amy Weissenbach. “‘Is Your Accuser Me, or is it the Software?’: Ambiguity and Contested Expertise in Probabilistic DNA Profiling.” *Social Studies of Science* 54(1): 30-58. DOI: [10.1177/03063127231186646](https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127231186646)  
→ Finalist, Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Science, Knowledge, & Technology section
- 2021 **Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah**, Jessica T. Simes and Bruce Western. “The Population Prevalence of Solitary Confinement.” *Science Advances* 7(48): 1-9. DOI: [10.1126/sciadv.abj1928](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abj1928) [code]  
→ Featured in [New Scientist](#), [Daily Mail](#), & [The Appeal](#), supreme court case *Hope v. Harris* (2022)

Under Review:

**Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah**. *R&R*. “To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Wealthy Spaces in New York City.”

## Work in Progress:

“Expertise and Legal Contestation in Carceral Technologies: Comparisons in Probabilistic DNA Profiling and Facial Recognition Technology.”

“Development Permitting, Regulation, and Landlord Power in NYC.”

“Access vs. Use: Urban Spatial Inequality in Financial Institutions.” With Taylor Alarcon and Mario Small.

“Predictive Accuracy or Causal Impact? Carceral Risk Score Assignment and its Impacts.”

## Public Reports & Preprints:

*forth.* Western Queens Public Safety Research Team (including **Hannah Pullen-Blasnik**). “Small Businesses and Relationships to Policing and Public Safety.” *Offices of Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani and Councilmember Tiffany Cabán.*

2024 Pruss, Dasha, **Hannah Pullen-Blasnik**, Nikki Stevens, et al. “Prediction and Punishment: Critical Report on Carceral AI.” November 1. Available at SSRN. DOI: [10.2139/ssrn.5017321](https://ssrn.com/abstract=5017321) [[website](#)]

→ Over 300 downloads in first month

2021 **Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah**. “Calls to Police in Assembly District 36: An Interactive Visualization.” [[website](#)] [[code](#)]

2019 Hall, Rahsaan and Nasser Eledroos. “Facts Over Fear: The benefits of declining to prosecute misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses.” *ACLU of Massachusetts*. [[PDF](#)] (Data Peer Review: **Hannah Pullen-Blasnik**).

2016 **Pullen-Blasnik, Hannah**. “Policing Gentrification: An Exploratory Analysis of Stop-and-Frisk and Income Disparity in Brooklyn, NYC.” *Brown Digital Repository*, Brown University. Available at SSRN. DOI: [10.2139/ssrn.5143599](https://ssrn.com/abstract=5143599) [[link](#)]

→ Winner, Alumni Award for Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Thesis, Brown University

## GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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2021-26 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program (\$159k)

2019-24 Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow (\$425k)

2023 American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements section, Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award

2020-22 Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Workshop Grant, Sociology of Algorithms (\$20k)

2020-21 Columbia Justice Lab, Graduate Research Fellow (\$25k)

2020 Columbia Sociology Department, Research Support Grant (\$1.5k)

2016 Brown University, Alumni Award for Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Thesis (\$300)

2016 Brown University, Sociological Methods Award (\$250)

2014 Brown University, Peter G. and Paul G. Hanoian Memorial LINK Award for Work in Labor Relations and Social Justice Organizations (\$3k)

2012 City of Boston, John William Ward Public Service Fellowship (\$3k)

## **TALKS, CONFERENCES, & PRESENTATIONS**

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### Invited Talks:

- 2025 “AI and the Criminal Legal System.” Ethics of AI panel. *Fair and Just Prosecution and Vera Institute of Justice*. New York, NY.
- 2025 “What Data ‘Sees’: Public Data, Bias, and Surveillance in New York City.” *Barnard Computational Science Center*. New York, NY (Invited Guest Lecture).
- 2024 “A Convergence of Crises: Sudden Employment Loss and Black Lives Matter Protest Attendance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” With Katy Habr. *American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements*. Remote.
- 2023 “What Data ‘Sees’: Public Data, Bias, and Surveillance in New York City.” *Columbia University, CS3 & The Trust Collaboratory*. New York, NY (Invited Guest Lecture).
- 2022 “To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Wealthy Spaces in New York City.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Geographies of Legal Displacement Thematic Session*. Los Angeles, CA. (Invited Panelist)
- 2022 “By the Numbers: Who’s In Solitary?” *Unfinished Business: Covering Solitary Confinement’s New Developments, Policies, Practices and Human Impacts*. John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY. (Invited Panelist)
- 2021 “Data Weapons and Data Resistance: D4BL on Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination Techniques.” With Paul Watkins. *Barnard College, American Studies Junior Colloquium*. New York, NY (Invited Guest Lecture).
- 2021 “Trends and Disparities in Order Maintenance Calls During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” With Jessica T. Simes and Jacqueline L. Jahn. *Columbia University, Justice Lab*. New York, NY.

### Conference Presentations:

- 2024 “To Protect and Serve Capital: Policing, Real Estate Development, and the Regulation of Wealthy Spaces in New York City.” *American Sociological Association Community and Urban Sociology Section Mini Conference*. Remote.
- 2024 “Carceral Algorithms and Contested Expertise: Comparisons in Probabilistic DNA Profiling and Facial Recognition Technology.” *Prediction and Punishment: A Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Carceral AI*. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2024 “A Convergence of Crises: Sudden Employment Loss and Black Lives Matter Protest Attendance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” With Katy Habr. *Crises, Contingencies, Possibilities: Futures of Sociology in an Uncertain Present*. The New School, New York, NY.
- 2021 “‘Is Your Accuser Me, or Is It the Software?’: Ambiguity and Contested Expertise in Probabilistic DNA Profiling.” With Amy Weissenbach and Gil Eyal. *Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference*. Toronto, ON.
- 2021 “The Cumulative Risk of Solitary Confinement.” *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Cultures, Practices and Populations in Penal Institutions Thematic Panel*. Chicago, IL (presented by coauthor).

- 2020 *Predicting, Policing, Prescribing Criminality*. Presenters Sarah Brayne, Angèle Christin, Andrew Ferguson, and Kristian Lum. *Columbia University, Sociology of Algorithms Workshop*. New York, NY. (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, Providence, RI.

#### Trainings and Workshops:

- 2025 “Text Processing and Criminal Charge Classifications in R.” *Vera Institute of Justice, Data Science Research Training*. New York, NY.
- 2025 “AI, Technology, and the Criminal Legal System.” *Vera Institute of Justice, Research Department Meeting*. New York, NY.
- 2019 “Implementing Preferencing Models with Association Rule Mining.” *Digitas, National Data Science Meeting*. Boston, MA.
- 2018 “Word2Vec Applications for Non-Text Sequences.” With Neehar Mukne. *Digitas, National Data Science Meeting*. Boston, MA.
- 2018 “Introduction to SQL.” *Digitas*. Boston, MA. (Recurring, 2018-19)
- 2017 “Introduction to Data Science.” *Digitas, Onboarding*. Boston, MA. (Recurring, 2017-19)

## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2024- **Vera Institute of Justice**. Senior Data Scientist, Central Research.  
→ Conceptualize and implement data-driven projects that cut across issue areas throughout the criminal legal system. Build data standardization processes and develop best practices to centralize research data.
- 2023- **Incite Institute**, Columbia University. Project Director; Supervisor; Graduate Researcher.  
→ Criminal Legal Algorithms, Technology, and Expertise (Dr. Gil Eyal). Data and Racial Inequality Project (Dr. Mario Small). Movements Against Mass Incarceration Lab (Dr. David J. Knight).
- 2019-22 **The Justice Lab**, Columbia University. Graduate Research Fellow, Dr. Bruce Western.
- 2021-22 **Boston University**, Department of Sociology. Graduate Researcher, Dr. Jessica T. Simes.
- 2015-19 **Digitas**. Senior Data Scientist; Data Scientist; Analyst.  
→ Managed and led data science project teams for clients, research and development, and pro bono partners. Supervised junior team members. Developed long-term team goals with senior leadership.  
→ Delivered 10 long-term projects for Fortune 500 clients, dozens of ad-hoc requests and new business pitches. Employed statistical and machine learning techniques, data ingestion/transformation pipelines in AWS and GCP, and interactive visualizations in R, Python, SQL, and Spark (PySpark). Advanced R&D on NLP and prediction bias and fairness. Led pro-bono projects for non-profit partners.
- 2013-16 **Brown University**, Research Assistant.  
→ Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Dr. Tricia Rose (2016). Resilient Rhode Island Research Team, Dr. J. Timmons Roberts (2014). Department of Sociology, Dr. David Lindstrom (2014). Department of Sociology, Dr. Gregory Elliott (2013).

## TEACHING

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- 2023 **Columbia University**. Teaching Fellow, Sociology Master’s Thesis Seminar II. (Graduate)

2022 **Columbia University.** Teaching Fellow, Sociology Master's Thesis Seminar I. (Graduate)

## SERVICE

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### Academic:

- 2024 **Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM)**, Award Committee Member, American Sociological Association.
- 2020-22 **Sociology of Algorithms Workshop**, Co-Coordinator. Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University.
- 2020-21 **Racial Capitalism Working Group**, Coordinator. Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD), Columbia University.

### Community & Public:

- 2025 **Zohran for NYC**, Volunteer Researcher.
- 2020- **Western Queens Public Safety Research Team**, Volunteer Researcher.
- 2017-22 **Data for Black Lives (D4BL)**, Volunteer Researcher.
- 2018-19 **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts**, Data Scientist (Pro Bono).
- 2014 **Boston Neighborhood Network Television**, Video Production Intern.
- 2012-15 **Brown Motion Pictures**, Executive Producer.
- 2008-12 **Farmers' Market**, SNAP and EBT Facilitator, Roslindale Village Main Streets.

## JOURNALISM & MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

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- 2014 "Who are the Top EHR Vendors in Your State?" *searchHealthIT*.  
"BI Data Storytelling Pegged as Key to Driving Executive Action." *searchBusinessAnalytics*.  
"Linthicum: Cloud Analytics Apps Need Solid Data Architecture." *searchBusinessAnalytics*.  
"Don't Let Data Visualization Projects Get Lost in Complexity." *searchBusinessAnalytics*.  
"Self-Service BI Tools Can Aid CRM Efforts, with Some Effort." *searchBusinessAnalytics*.  
"Data Modeling Techniques Explained: How to Get the Most from Your Data." *searchDataManagement*.  
"Protests in Thailand." With Surya Al-Eryani and Katrina Van Laan. *Brown Political Review*.
- 2013 "Perspectives on Syria from Christian Syrians in Providence." With Alif Ibrahim, Benjamin Sadkowski, and Shoshana Salzberg. *Brown Political Review*.  
"Austerity Measures in Portugal." With Alif Ibrahim. *Brown Political Review*.  
"Obamacare and Healthcare.gov." With Alif Ibrahim. *Brown Political Review*.  
"International Spying and the NSA." With Alif Ibrahim. *Brown Political Review*.  
"New Jersey Legalizes Same Sex Marriage." With Alif Ibrahim. *Brown Political Review*.  
"U.S. Loses UNESCO Voting Rights." With Alif Ibrahim. *Brown Political Review*.  
"Colombian Village's Story Inspires Dreams of Sustainable Communities." *GreeningRozzie*.

## SKILLS

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R, Python, SQL, Arc/QGIS, Excel, Stata, Pyspark, D3.js, Tableau, Shiny, AWS, GCP, Git, NVivo