

Laura K. Nelson

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442 Stephens Hall
University of California, Berkeley
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016-Present **Assistant Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University** (on leave 2016-2017)
- 2016-Present **Postdoctoral Fellow, Digital Humanities @ Berkeley and Berkeley Institute for Data Science, University of California, Berkeley**
- 2014-2016 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University**
- Research Affiliate, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems
 - PI: Brayden King

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Substantive Areas: • Collective Behavior/Social Movements • Gender • Culture • Organizations and Institutions • Theory • Computational Social Science

Methods: • Computational Text Analysis • Natural Language Processing • Machine Learning • Comparative Historical Sociology • Quantitative Methods

EDUCATION

- 2014 **PhD - Department of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley**
- Dissertation: “The Power of Place: Structure, Culture, and Continuities in U.S. Women's Movements”
 - Committee: Kim Voss (chair), Raka Ray, Robin Einhorn
- 2009 **MA - Department of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley**
- Master’s Thesis: “The Old Left and the Rise of the Second Wave Women's Movement: Continuity and Discontinuity in Struggle”

- 2006 **BA - Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- Concentration in Analysis and Research
 - Phi Beta Kappa
 - Senior Honors Thesis: "Enumeration and Needs-Assessment Survey of the Homeless Population in Madison, WI"
 - Concentration in Analysis and Research Senior Thesis: "Self-Perception, Expectations, and the Racial Achievement Gap in NELS"

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Nelson, Laura K. "Political Logics as Cultural Memory: Cognitive Structures, Local Continuities, and Women's Organizations in Chicago and New York City." R&R, *American Sociological Review*.
- Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Student Paper, Sociology of Culture Section Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association, 2014 • Leo Lowenthal Memorial Prize, University of California, Berkeley, 2014.
- Nelson, Laura K. *Durable Feminist Fields: How Culture, Communities, and Continuities Shaped the Women's Movement*. Under review, Princeton University Press, Studies in Cultural Sociology.
- Nelson, Laura K. "Computational Grounded Theory: A Methodological Framework." R&R, *Sociological Methods and Research*.
- Nelson, Laura K., Derek Burk, Marcel Knudsen, and Leslie McCall. "The Future of Coding: A Comprehensive Comparison of Hand-Coding and Computer-Assisted Text Analysis Methods." Under review, *Sociological Methodology*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Nelson, Laura K. Forthcoming. "Feminism Means More Than a Changed World...It Means the Creation of a New Consciousness in Women': Feminism, Consciousness-Raising, and Continuity Between the Waves." *100 Year of the Nineteenth Amendment: An Appraisal of Women's Political Activism*, edited by Holly J. McCammon and Lee Ann Banasak. Oxford University Press.
- Nelson, Laura K. 2014. "Book Review: *Everywhere & Nowhere: Contemporary Feminism in The United States*." *Social Forces*. <http://sf.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/03/31/sf.sou034.extract>
- Emery, Hannah, Maggie Frye, Kristen Grey, Laura K. Nelson, and Hana Brown. 2011. "Instructor's Guide to Writing for Sociology." Published by the University of California-Berkeley Department of Sociology with a grant from the Teagle Foundation.

Burawoy, Michael (ed). 2011. *Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Sociology*. Published by the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan and the Council for National Associations, International Sociological Association. Laura K. Nelson, Abigail Andrews, and Fidan Elcioglu, associate editors.

WEB-BASED PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2016 "Developing a Feel It, Smell It, Touch It Analytics," *Orgtheory.net*, June 14. <https://orgtheory.wordpress.com/2016/06/14/forum-on-data-analytics-and-inclusivity-part-1/>
- 2015 "Text as Data: A Call to Standardize Access and Training," *Mobilizing Ideas Essay Dialogue*, March 9. <https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2015/03/09/text-as-data-a-call-to-standardize-access-and-training/>
- 2015 "Feminism, Culture, and Computational Sociology," *Mobilizing Ideas Essay Dialogue*, October 3. <https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2014/10/03/feminism-culture-and-computational-sociology/>
- 2014 "Computer-Assisted Content Analysis and Sociology: What You Should Know," *BadHessian*, January 24. <http://badhessian.org/2014/01/computer-assisted-content-analysis-and-sociology-what-you-should-know/>
- 2013 "A Quick and Easy Way to Turn Your Stata Knowledge into R Knowledge," *D-Lab Blog*, November 11. <http://dlab.berkeley.edu/blog/quick-and-easy-way-turn-your-stata-knowledge-r-knowledge>

WORKING PAPERS

- Gorbatai, Andreea and Laura K. Nelson. "Narrative Advantage: Why Women Succeed in Crowdfunding." In preparation for submission to *Academy of Management Journal*.
- King, Brayden and Laura K. Nelson. "Moving Targets: An Analysis of Tactics and Target Selection in the Environmental Movement."
- Nelson, Laura K. and Brayden King. "From Online to Offline: How the SlutWalk Movement Organized Offline Actions Online."

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2015 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Computational Social Science Summit, with Brian Uzzi and Laura Noren (\$15,000)

- 2015 Facebook, Computational Social Science Summit, with Brian Uzzi and Laura Noren (\$10,000)
- 2014 Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley (\$10,000)
- 2013 Conference Travel Grant, University of California, Berkeley (\$500)
- 2012 Department of Sociology Small Research Grant, University of California, Berkeley (\$2,000)
- 2010 Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley (\$28,950)
- 2009 Teagle/Spenser Teaching Fellowship (\$4,000), to produce an instructor's guide on how to teach sociological writing to undergraduates
- 2008 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, "The Old Left and the Women's Movement: movement continuity through social change" (\$150,000 over three years)
- 2006 Regents Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley (\$26,695)
- 2006 Trewartha L&S Honors Research Grant, University of Wisconsin, Madison (\$2,600)
- 2006 United Way Research Grant, Madison, WI (\$1,500)
- 2006 City of Madison, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, WI (\$1,900)
- 2004 Summer Sophomore Research Apprenticeship Grant, University of Wisconsin, Madison (\$1,500)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2014 Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Student Paper, Sociology of Culture Section Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association
- 2014 Leo Lowenthal Memorial Prize, University of California, Berkeley (award: \$500)
- 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley (award: \$250)
- 2008-11 NSF Graduate Research Fellow
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Wisconsin, Madison

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher: Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

January 2014-August 2014

- Analyzed data scraped from the crowdfunding site Indiegogo. My role included using Python and R to quantify campaign description text, campaign updates, and user comments for use in quantitative analysis.
- Working paper: Gorbatai, Andreea and Laura K. Nelson. "Narrative Advantage: Why Women Succeed in Crowdfunding."

D-Lab Graduate Student Affiliate: University of California, Berkeley

January 2014-August 2014

- D-Lab is an institution that supports researchers doing data intensive social science. I work with other affiliates to conceptualize how data science can contribute to social science and develop the technical skills and the research design knowledge to apply data science techniques to social science.
- Director: Cathryn Carson

D-Lab Operations Consultant: University of California, Berkeley
June 2013-December 2013

- Build tech infrastructure to help students and faculty do data-intensive social science research, provide consultation for graduate students doing computational research.
- Director: Cathryn Carson

Graduate Student Researcher: University of California, Berkeley
January 2012-August 2013

- I extracted analyzable variables from messy raw text using the programming language Python. The constructed dataset is now being used for various econometric analyses.
- PI: Professor Heather Haveman, Haas School of Business and Department of Sociology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Workshop Instructor: “Computational Text Analysis.” Digital Humanities @ Berkeley Summer Institute: August 15-19. Materials here: <https://github.com/lknelson/text-analysis-2016>

Workshop Instructor: “Automated Text Analysis using R.” D-Lab, University of California, Berkeley: June 4 and 5, 2014.

Focus Session Leader: “Effective and Efficient Grading.” Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Conference. University of California, Berkeley: August 23, 2013.

Principle Instructor: University of California, Berkeley: Fall 2013
Course: Comparative Historical Sociologies of Women's Movements in the United States

Graduate Student Instructor: University of California, Berkeley: Fall 2012
Course: Classical Sociological Theory, upper division undergraduate.
Professor: John Lie

- Awarded Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, \$250.

Graduate Student Instructor: University of California, Berkeley: Fall/Spring 2007-8.
Courses: Classical Sociological Theory and Contemporary Sociological Theory, upper division undergraduate.
Professor: Dylan Riley

INVITED TALKS

2016 “Computers, Cognition, and Machine Learning: Toward a Human-Centered (Big) Data-Driven History,” Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Invited Session. *Digitized (Big) Data and Comparative Historical Sociology*. American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 22

- 2016 Critic for Theory Section Author Meets Critics Session. *Big Data/Big Theory*. American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 23
- 2016 “The Future of Coding,” Computational Research Day, Northwestern University, April 19
- 2016 “Measuring Collective Cognitive Structures via Collectively Produced Text,” Text as Data Speakers Series, Center for Data Science, New York University, March 10
- 2015 “Enduring Feminist Fields: The Persistence of Structure and Culture in New York City and Chicago”
- The Culture Workshop at the University of Notre Dame, November 6
 - Northwestern Department of Sociology Weekly Colloquia, October 22
 - Wednesdays@NICO, Northwestern University, October 14
 - Brown Bag Seminar Series, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, September 23

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2016 “How we Talk about Organizations and the Discursive Configuration of an Organizational Field” (with Brayden King)
European Group for Organizational Studies, Naples, Italy, July 7-9
- 2015 “Gender and the Language of Crowdfunding” (with Andreea Gorbatai)
- West Coast Research Symposium on Technology Entrepreneurship, Foster School of Business, September 10, Seattle, WA
 - Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Vancouver, BC, Canada
 - American Sociological Association's Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
 - European Group for Organizational Studies, Athens, Greece
- 2015 Panel Discussant, “Big Data and Social Movements,” with Chris Bail, Brayden King, and John MacArthur, organized by Edwin Amenta
American Sociological Association's Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Bohemia, Feminism, Socialism, and Class: The Geographical and Historical Determinants of Second-Wave Feminist Politics”
Session on History and Social Movements, American Sociological Association's Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Computer-Assisted Text Analysis in Python: Applications for Organization Studies”
Content Analysis PDW. Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Vancouver, BC, Canada

- 2015 “On Tactics and Targets: The Transformation of the U.S. Environmental Movement Between 1998 and 2014” (with Brayden King)
- *Protesters and their Targets*, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Mini-Conference, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
 - Computational Social Science Summit, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2014 “Enduring Cultural/Cognitive Structures: Political Logics as Cultural Memory”
Session on Computational Social Science and Studying Social Behavior. American Sociological Association's Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Co-Organizer, International Conference on Computational Social Science, Northwestern University, June 23-26 2016.

Budget: \$75,000

Maintained social media presence, @IC2S2

<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/news-events/conference/ic2s2/2016.aspx>

Co-Organizer, Computational Social Science Summit, Northwestern University, May 15-17 2015.

Budget: \$65,000

<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/news-events/conference/csss/2015.aspx>

Co-Organizer, “Big cities, big data: Big opportunity for computational social science,” ASA pre-conference Datathon. D-Lab, University of California, Berkeley, August 15 - 16, 2014.

<http://asa-datathon.github.io/>

Workshop Leader: “Social Movements and Social Enterprise,” Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, August 2015 - May 2016.

Workshop Leader: “Social Science Research Methods and Data-Intensive Research,” a D-Lab workshop. University of California, Berkeley, January 2014 - May 2014.

Workshop Leader: “Python and Text Analysis,” a D-Lab workshop. University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2013.

Graduate Student Representative, Personnel Committee. Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2013.

Contributing Editor, *Mobilizing Ideas* blog

Occasional reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Organization Science*, *Network Science*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, and *Mobilization: An International Journal*

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES/COMPUTER SKILLS

Python: BeautifulSoup • Pandas • scikit-learn • scipy • numpy • NLTK • TextBlob • matplotlib
R: stm • topicmodels • tm • RTextTools • sna • igraph
Other: bash, Git, Linux/UNIX, Zotero, Stata, SAS
Find samples of my code on GitHub: <https://github.com/lknelson>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association • Academy of Management • Social Science History Association • Sociologists for Women in Society

REFERENCES

Kim Voss, Professor
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Leslie McCall, Professor of sociology and political science, Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research
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