Amina A. Abdu

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Ann Arbor, MI

RESEARCH AREAS

technology law and policy | sociology of quantification | science and technology studies
algorithmic legitimacy

EDUCATION

University of Michigan   Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. in Information (in progress)   *2021–*
- Advised by Dr. Abigail Jacobs
- Science, Technology & Society Graduate Certificate

Pomona College   Claremont, CA
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics & Economics   *2014 – 2018*
- Thesis: *Optimal transport theory for selection of Nash equilibria in multiple-equilibria games*, advised by Dr. Adolfo Rumbos (**Distinction in Senior Exercise**)

RESEARCH

Selected Works in Progress

Amina A. Abdu & Abigail Z. Jacobs. Legitimacy and the Algorithmic Turn in the Administrative State. Presented at *Privacy Law Scholars Conference*. Washington, D.C. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Jeremy Seeman & Abigail Z. Jacobs. Ethical Closure Problems in Formalizing Technologies. Presented at *Privacy and Public Policy Conference*. Washington, D.C. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu & Abigail Z. Jacobs. AI Evaluations and the Standards Metaphor. Forthcoming at the *Governing Data Symposium*. New Haven, CT. 2025.

Publications

Irene V. Pasquetto, **Amina A. Abdu** & Natascha Chtena. Essential Work, Invisible Workers: The Role of Digital Curation in COVID-19 Open Science. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology.* 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Lauren M. Chambers, Abigail Z. Jacobs & Deirdre K. Mulligan. Algorithmic Transparency and Participation through the Handoff Lens: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Census Bureau's Adoption of Differential Privacy. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency* (FAccT). Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. 2024.

- Presented at *Privacy Law Scholars Conference*. Boulder, CO. 2023.
- Presented at *Data (Re)Makes the World Conference*, Information Society Project at Yale Law School. New Haven, CT. 2023.

Amina Abdu & Abigail Jacobs. Public Administration. In *Keywords on the Datafied State*. Data & Society. 2024.

Amina A. Abdu, Abigail Z. Jacobs & Irene V. Pasquetto. An Empirical Analysis of Racial Categories in the Algorithmic Fairness Literature. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency* (FAccT). Chicago, IL. 2023.

Awards and Honors

Distinction in Doctoral Pre-Candidacy Paper and Oral Defense (**top 10%**). University of Michigan School of Information, 2023.

Day One Project Racial Equity in Tech Policy Accelerator (**\$3,000**). Federation of American Scientists & Kapor Center, 2023.

Distinction in Mathematics Senior Exercise (Pomona College Thesis Award), 2018.

Invited Workshops, Panels, and Talks

→ Invited Discussant, Differential Privacy Beyond Algorithms. *OpenDP Community Meeting.* August 2024.

→ Panelist, Keywords on the Datafied State Roundtable. *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting.* June 2024.

→ Invited Discussant, Keywords and Frames. Public Technology Leadership Collaborative, Data and Society. April 2024.

→ Invited Talk, Upstream Assumptions in Responsible AI: An Empirical Assessment of Racial Categories in the Algorithmic Fairness Literature. Northeastern University Network Science Institute. February 2024.

→ Invited Participant, Sociotechnical Approaches to Measurement and Validation for Safety in AI. Northwestern Center for Advancing Safety of Machine Intelligence (CASMI). July 2023.

→ Invited Participant, Methods for Inclusivity in Data Collection. Partnership on AI. May 2023.

→ Selected Participant, Keywords on the Datafied State Workshop. Data and Society. March 2023.

→ Selected Participant, Who Has an Interest in "Public Interest Technology"? *ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing* (CSCW). November 2022.

→ Selected Participant, Doctoral Colloquium. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency* (FAccT). June 2022.

→ Invited Participant, Governing Everyday Misinformation. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. November 2021.

Teaching

SI 206: Data-Oriented Programming	Winter 2024
Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan	*Ann Arbor, MI*
SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies	Fall 2022
Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan	*Ann Arbor, MI*
MATH 060: Calculus I	Fall 2016, Fall 2017
Teaching Assistant & Curriculum Design, Pomona College	*Claremont, CA*

Professional Experience

Antitrust Advocacy Associate	April 2020 – August 2021
Consumer Federation of America	*Washington, D.C.*

- Specialized in digital platform governance including competition law, data collection and privacy, discrimination, content moderation, and intermediary liability
- Engaged in consumer protection advocacy through press outreach, public writing, comment submission, and engagement with lawmakers

Research Associate	July, 2018 – March, 2020
Harvard Kennedy School of Government & Harvard Business School	*Cambridge, MA*

- Full-time research assistant to Professors Leemore Dafny and Mark Shepard
- Data management, statistical analysis, and research for economic health policy projects regarding public insurance, hospital networks, and regulation of the pharmaceutical industry

Computational and Applied Mathematics Researcher	Summer 2017
University of California, Los Angeles	*Los Angeles, CA*

- 2017 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Computational and Applied Mathematics (NSF Award #1659676)
- Built descriptive and predictive mathematical models for research on homelessness and policing in Los Angeles

Service

Co-organizer, Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop on Science, Technology, and Society, AY 2024-2025

Reviewer, ACM AIES 2024

Reviewer, ACM FAccT 2023, 2024

Reviewer, UMSI Ph.D. Application Feedback Program, 2023-present

Peer mentor, UMSI Ph.D. Program, 2022-present