

Alex C. Engler

Civic Data Scientist
& Educator

Education

Northwestern University
M.S. in Data Science
2015, Online

Georgetown University
Master of Public Policy
2013, Washington D.C.

American University
B.A. in Economics
2010, Washington D.C.

Recognition

President's Award for Technology Innovation in Research / Data Science for "DYNASIM: Visualizing Older Americans' Future Well-Being", The Urban Institute, 2017

President's Award for Technology Innovation in Research / Data Science for "Spark for Social Science", The Urban Institute, 2016

CRS Assistant Directors' Report Of Note, Congressional Research Service, 2013

Conferences and Talks: Associate Directors of the US Census Bureau, the Amazon Web Services Public Sector Conference, the Data for Policy Conference, Chapin Hall, the Brookings Institution, FEMA, AAAS, New American Foundation, Mathematica Policy Research, Pew Research Center.

News Coverage: My work has been covered in the Associated Press, Reuters, The New Yorker, Politico, GovTech and other publications.

Experience

- **The Brookings Institution** // September 2019 - 2021
Rubenstein Fellow in Artificial Intelligence and Governance
- **The University of Chicago** // July 2017 - June 2019
Lecturer, Department of Computer Science
Program Director, Harris School of Public Policy
 - Teach advanced courses in the overlap of data science and social science, such as Large Scale Data Methods and Data Visualization for Policy Analysis.
 - Run the M.S. in Computational Analysis and Public Policy, doubling the cohort size while meaningfully improving the academic curriculum.
 - Hire and supervise non-tenure faculty and staff to expand coursework in computational economics, civic technology and governmental data science.
- **MDRC Center for Data Insights** // January 2019 - July 2019
Senior Consulting Data Scientist
 - Six-month contract to establish and expand the institutional data science capacity and services of MDRC's new Center for Data Insights.
- **The Urban Institute** // January 2015 - December 2018
Data Scientist
 - Principal investigator on a grant (\$616,926) to parallelize, dockerize, version-control, and cloud-deploy the Tax Policy Center microsimulation model, allowing for a dramatically improved exploration of tax systems.
 - Principal investigator on a grant (\$263,000) to develop and expand access to open-source and large-scale data analysis systems for social science researchers, with tests cases on administrative housing finance data.
 - As its first data scientist, first grant winner, the founder of the R-users and Python-users groups, and early writer on data science methods, I played a critical role in IT's transition to the Center for Technology and Data Science.
 - Acted as statistical and programming lead for an Arnold Fdn. grant to create synthetic version of IRS administrative data usable for policy research.
- **Georgetown U. and Johns Hopkins U.** // May 2014 - June 2017
Adjunct Professor and Curriculum Developer
 - Proposed, designed, and helped to launch the new M.S. in Data Science for Public Policy at Georgetown University that began in the fall of 2018.
 - Developed and delivered two new courses: Advanced Data Visualization - Interactive Web Graphics; and Data Science for Public Policy.
 - Taught eleven graduate courses over three years, receiving excellent student reviews for the developed courses and Data Visualization for Policy Analysis.
- D.C. Superintendent of Education, Data Analyst, 2013-2014
- Congressional Research Service, Data & Research Associate, 2013
- The Sunlight Foundation, Sunlight Labs Intern, 2012