

CURRICULUM VITAE

James Abbott

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POSITIONS:

2019 – Present

Research Scientist, Social Research & Public Policy, New York University Abu Dhabi, with Professor Hannah Brückner
Programming and big data analysis for project studying inequality of representation on Wikipedia

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Yale University 2019 (Sociology)

Dissertation:

*Blockmodeling Organized Crime and Espionage Networks:
An Assessment of the Technique and its Ability to
Uncover Hidden Social Structures*

M.Phil. Yale University 2016 (Sociology)

M.A. Yale University 2015 (Sociology)

B.A. Swarthmore College 2010 (Sociology & Anthropology)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

Yale University:

Graduate support

Alling Fellowship (2017 – 2018)

Healy Fellowship (2016 – 2017)

Ryerson Fellowship (2014 – 2016)

Minnis Fellowship (2012 – 2014)

Sterling Prize Fellowship (2012 – 2014)

(Awarded to 30 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences applicants each year)

Swarthmore College:

Eugene M. Lang Summer Research Grant (2009)

PUBLICATIONS AND SOFTWARE:

Book Manuscripts:

Waiting for a Call - complete manuscript, currently under revision

An ethnography of volunteer firefighting, which uses the experiences of firefighters to examine the relationship between aging and masculinity

Understanding Social Structure With Blockmodels - in progress
Methodological book on blockmodeling social networks

Article Manuscripts:

“Risk and Declining Sexual Debut Among White U.S. High Schoolers, 1991-2017” - under revision

“Who’s the Boss? Power and Structure in the Prohibition-era Chicago Outfit” with Andrew V. Papachristos - under revision

“Daily Experience and the Chicago Schools” with Andrew Abbott - in progress

“Closing the Skills Gap: Wikipedia’s Gender Gap and Computer Science Biographies” with Hannah Brückner and Julia Adams - in progress

Software Projects:

wikiSearcher

A command line tool written in Perl that automates checking lists of individuals to see if they have Wikipedia pages.

blockmodelR

A suite of R functions for blockmodeling social network data using the CONCOR and MCSCO algorithms, currently being reformatted for inclusion in CRAN. Predecessor to bloCkmodel.

bloCkmodel

A suite of blockmodeling tools running on a C engine with Python and R APIs, and a Java GUI. Designed to increase the

speed of analysis and allow for larger datasets than blockmodelR, and also to allow for easy testing of new combinatorial optimization blockmodeling algorithms.

PRESENTATIONS:

“Daily Experience and the Chicago Schools” with Andrew Abbott, Social Science History Association 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Risk and Declining Sexual Debut Among White U.S. High Schoolers, 1991-2015” presented at the American Sociological Association, 13 August 2018.

“Who’s the Boss? Power and Structure in the Prohibition-era Chicago Outfit” with Andrew V. Papachristos, presented at the American Sociological Association, 15 August 2017

TEACHING FELLOW EXPERIENCE:

Introduction to Social Policy Analysis (Spring 2018)

Computers, Networks, and Society (Fall 2017)

Introduction to Social Policy Analysis (Spring 2016)

Computers, Networks, and Society (Fall 2015)

The Urban Street Gang (Spring 2015)

Graded assignments and exams for 10-15 students

Methods in Quantitative Sociology (Fall 2014)

Graded weekly assignments and two exams for 31 graduate and undergraduate students (approx. 2400 pages overall); taught one-hour-long sections twice per week.

PUBLIC SERVICE¹:

Foxville Township Fire Department (2006 - 2010)

Volunteer Firefighter / EMT (average 20 hours per week)

¹ Fire department names are pseudonyms to protect the anonymity of the sources in my book.

Responded to approximately 500 fire calls and 100 ambulance calls

Jericho Fire Company (2007 - 2010)
Volunteer Firefighter / EMT (average 20 hours per week)
Responded to approximately 400 fire calls

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

Fire Fighter I (28 August 2007)
National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

Hazardous Materials Awareness (12 July 2007)
National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

Pennsylvania State Emergency Medical Technician
(1 September 2007 - 1 September 2010)
Pennsylvania State Department of Health

OTHER EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago Physics Department Research
Experiences for Undergraduates Program (2006)
Heinrich Jaeger lab
Developed a practical technique for gating
colloidal monolayers in order to make possible
nano-scale transistors.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

English (Native)
French (Non-native fluent)
German (Professional working proficiency)
Italian (Intermediate)
Japanese (Intermediate)

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Preferred:
C, R, Perl, Python

Also worked with:
C++, Haskell, HTML/CSS, Java, JavaScript, MySQL, X86
Assembly

OTHER COMPUTER SKILLS:

Linux, GCC toolchain, MS Visual Studio, Stata, MS Office