

# Alexander Campolo

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## EDUCATION

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- PhD, New York University, Media, Culture, and Communication 2019  
Dissertation: “Steering by Sight: Data, Visualization, and the Birth of an Informational Worldview,” advised by Erica Robles-Anderson, Alexander Galloway, and Stephen J. Collier (U.C. Berkeley)
- MA, The New School, Media Studies, advised by Shannon Mattern 2012
- BA with Highest Distinction, University of Virginia, Comparative Literature 2009

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- Postdoctoral Research Associate, “Algorithmic Societies: Ethical Life in the Machine Learning Age,” Department of Geography, Durham University 2021–Present
- Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, The University of Chicago 2019–2021
- Research Assistant, The AI Now Institute, New York University 2017–2019

## PUBLICATIONS

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- “Loss: A Notion of Error in Machine Learning,” manuscript in preparation for *The Journal of the History of Knowledge*.
- “A World Model: On the Political Logics of Generative AI,” with Louise Amoore, Benjamin Jacobsen, and Ludovico Rella, *Political Geography* (under review).
- “From Rules to Examples: Machine Learning’s Type of Authority,” with Katia Schwerzmann, *Big Data & Society* 10(2), September 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517231188725>.
- “Machine Learning, Meaning Making: On Reading Computer Science Texts,” with Louise Amoore, Benjamin Jacobsen, and Ludovico Rella, *Big Data & Society* 10(1), January 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517231166887>.
- “Thinking, Judging, Noticing, Feeling: John W. Tukey Against the Mechanization of Inferential Knowledge.” *Know: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge* 5(1), Spring 2021, 83–111. <https://doi.org/10.1086/713021>.
- “Signs and Sight: Jacques Bertin and the Visual Language of Structuralism,” *Grey Room* 78, Winter 2020, 34–65. [https://doi.org/10.1162/grey\\_a\\_00286](https://doi.org/10.1162/grey_a_00286).
- “Enchanted Determinism: Power without Control in Artificial Intelligence,” with Kate Crawford, *Engaging Science Technology, and Society* 6, 2020, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.17351/ests2020.277>.

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 SELECTED TRANSLATION AND OTHER WRITING
 

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Patrice Maniglier, “Structure in Modern French Philosophy” trans. Alexander Campolo in *Oxford Handbook of Modern French Philosophy*, Mark Sinclair & Daniel Whistler, eds. (forthcoming 2024).

“AI Now 2017 Report,” with Madelyn Sanfilippo, Meredith Whittaker, and Kate Crawford. The AI Now Institute, October 2017. [https://ainowinstitute.org/AI\\_Now\\_2017\\_Report.pdf](https://ainowinstitute.org/AI_Now_2017_Report.pdf).

Michel Foucault and Gilles Deleuze, “General Introduction to Nietzsche’s Complete Works,” trans. Alexander Campolo, *Nietzsche 13/13*, November 2016.  
<http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/nietzsche1313/alex-campolo-translation-of-deleuze-and-foucaults-general-introduction-to-nietzsches-complete-works/>.

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 HONORS AND AWARDS
 

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Media, Culture, and Communication Dissertation Distinction Award, New York University	2020
Distinguished Thesis Award, Best M.A. Thesis, Media Studies, The New School	2012
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Virginia	2009
Distinguished Thesis Award, Best B.A. Thesis, Comparative Literature, University of Virginia	2009

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 GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS
 

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Development grant, “Conversations on Machine learning and Conceptual Change, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University	2022
Associate Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University	2022
New York University Global Dissertation Fellowship (Declined)	2018
Leon and Joanne V. C. Knopoff Library Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society	2017
LeBoff Dissertation Research Grant, New York University	2017
Media, Culture, and Communication Lecture Series Grant, New York University	2014
Intel Science and Technology Center for Social Computing Graduate Fellowship, New York University	2013
Phyllis and Gerald LeBoff Doctoral Fellowship, New York University	2013
Top Merit Scholarship, The New School	2010

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 SELECTED CONFERENCES AND TALKS
 

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“Loss: A Notion of Error in Machine Learning,” *The Politics of Machine Learning Evaluation*, Institute of Advanced Study, University of Amsterdam, 16–17 November 2023.

- “Desired Behaviors: Alignment and the Emergence of a Machine Learning Ethics,” *Interacting with Intelligent Systems: Decisions, Affects, and Trust*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 10-11 November 2023.
- “Affect as Paradigm: The Structure of Machine Learning Problems” (invited talk), *Ethics of Emotion Computing*, Digital Society Initiative, University of Zurich, 19 September 2023.
- “Making Examples: From Particulars to Generalization” (with Katia Schwerzmann), *Nordic STS Conference*, TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Culture, University of Oslo, 8 June 2023.
- “From is to Ought: Data as Example in Machine Learning,” (with Katia Schwerzmann) *Data (Re)Makes the World*, Information Society Project, Yale Law School, 31 March 2023.
- “Facing Up to Uncertainty: An Expert’s Critique of Statistical Expertise” (invited talk), *The Design Turn: Recasting Expertise*, Matters of Activity. Image Space Material, Humboldt University of Berlin, 2 June 2022.
- “Error and Determinism in Early Statistics and Machine Learning” (invited talk), *On Future-Making: Undoing Predictive Algorithms*, Graduiertenkolleg Media Anthropology, Bauhaus-University Weimar, 10 December, 2021.
- “Visualization: Concept and Technique” (invited talk), Experimental Design and Media Cultures (IXDM), FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel, 21 April 2021.
- “Visualization: How We Came to See the World as Data” (invited talk), Visualization Group, MIT Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Lab, 13 April 2021.
- “How *Not* to Analyze Data: John Tukey’s “Badmandments” and an Exploratory Ethos for Data Analysis,” *Evidence: The Use and Misuse of Data*, American Philosophical Society, 5 June 2020.
- “Enchanted AI and Techno-Optimism,” *Conference on Techno-Optimism*, University of California, Berkeley, 19 October, 2018.
- “Computing and Human Behavior: Allen Newell and Applied Information Processing at Xerox PARC,” *Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology*, St. Louis, MO, 13 October 2018.
- “Data Genesis: Practices and Epistemologies of Dataset Construction,” for “The Cultural Life of Machine Learning” workshop, *Association of Internet Researchers 2018 Meeting*, Montreal, October 10, 2018.
- “Graphics, Semiotics, and Governance: Jacques Bertin and Early Data Visualization,” *Command Lines: Software, Power, Performance*, Society for the History of Technology Special Interest Group for Computers, Information, and Society, Mountain View, CA, March 18, 2017.

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

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- “Conversations on Machine Learning and Conceptual Change” (series of 5 talks), Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, Epiphany Term 2023.
- “Gaston Bachelard Colloquium,” *La Maison Française*, New York University, 19-20 September 2022, Speaker: Elie During.

“Canguilhem in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: COVID-19 and the Normal,” Twentieth and Twenty-First Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, virtual conference, 11-13 March 2021, Speakers: Catherine Malabou and Stefanos Geroulanos.

“Media of Exchange: A Symposium on Cryptographic Currencies,” *Media Culture, and Communication Lecture Series*, New York University, 4 March 2015. Speakers: Bill Maurer, Finn Brunton, and Quinn Dupont.

## TEACHING

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“Data and Politics” (part of “Politics and Space”) Undergraduate survey, Durham University	Spring 2024
“Classification as Worldmaking” Graduate seminar, University of Chicago	Spring 2021
“Data: History and Literature” (co-taught with Anastasia Klimchynskaya) Graduate seminar, University of Chicago	Fall 2020
“Seeing and Knowing” Graduate seminar, University of Chicago	Spring 2020
“Self, Culture, and Society” Undergraduate social sciences core seminar, University of Chicago	Winter 2019
“Media and Cultural Analysis” Undergraduate core seminar, New York University	Spring 2017
“Introduction to Digital Media,” Undergraduate seminar, New York University	Fall 2016
“History of Media and Communication” Undergraduate core section, teaching assistant for Mara Mills, New York University	Spring 2015
“Introduction to Media Studies” Undergraduate core section, teaching assistant for Finn Brunton, New York University	Fall 2015

## SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

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Member: Society for the History of Technology, Association of Internet Researchers, Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Reviewer: *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAccT)*, *Big Data & Society*, *Science as Culture*, *New Media and Society*, *Social Studies of Science*, Swiss National Science Foundation, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

## LANGUAGES

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French: fluent (speaking, reading, writing)