

CURRICULUM VITAE

Katya Abazajian

2100 Woodhead St | Houston, TX 77062 | (832) 622-5879

katya.abazajian@gmail.com

CORE QUALIFICATION AREAS

- Project and people management
- Data science (SAS, STATA, R)
- Public speaking, writing, content strategy
- Network learning and management
- Subnational government reforms
- Community engagement and training
- Open government policy analysis
- Technology and data governance

EDUCATION

2014 BA (Economics, Mathematics), Claremont McKenna College, *Claremont, California*
Relevant Coursework: Econometrics, Bayesian Statistics, Adv. Macroeconomics, Labor Economics
Thesis: "Can Cities Manage Growth Through Taxation?"

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan 2020 – Present Independent Consultant

Working with public policy organizations to conduct qualitative research, facilitate community engagement, and advise on data and technology governance and reforms. Producing reports such as Leveraging Data for Economic Recovery: A Roadmap for States, a resource for State Chief Data Officers to apply state government data for specific policy issues facing state governments during the COVID-19 crisis. Engagements included consulting work with Development Gateway, an international development nonprofit working with governments to implement data and technology best practices; January Advisors, a data science for public policy consulting firm conducting state and local policy analysis; and the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation at Georgetown University, an applied research institute supporting practitioners using public interest technology to affect social change.

Dec 2016 – Sept 2019 Sunlight Foundation, *Open Cities Director; Washington, DC*

As Open Cities Director, fundraised for and launched a new project with the Open Contracting Partnership to help two pilot cities, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, begin publishing standardized open contracting data and implement transparent e-procurement technology and governance to support community needs for information. Led the Open Cities team in launching two new suites of public resources, the Open Data Policy Hub and the Roadmap to Informed Communities, to support advocates, practitioners, and city governments in replicating successful policies and strategies for transparency and open government for community empowerment. Led foundational team research on smart tech policy and co-hosted an Open Smart Cities Summit prior to the International Open Data Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, gathering international civil society partners to establish values and best practices for the future of urban tech in public spaces. As a senior policy analyst, developed an original strategic framework for community-centered problem-solving with open data called Tactical Data Engagement, and implemented four pilot projects with city governments to refine and update the final framework.

July 2014 – Dec 2016 Urban Institute, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, *Research Assistant; Washington, DC*

Supported day-to-day management of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a national learning network of local data intermediaries to support the implementation of best practices in sharing neighborhood indicators and open data. Supported the local partner of NNIP, NeighborhoodInfo DC, in submitting FOIA requests to District of Columbia city government agencies, processing and synthesizing raw public data, publishing completed neighborhood indicators online, and helped create an open data tool for the DC Preservation Network, a local housing advocates and tenant organizers who were fighting wrongful evictions and loss of permanent affordable housing across the city. Helped to launch the Civic Tech and Data Collaborative with partners at NNIP, Code for America, and Living Cities, and contributed to the DC local collaborative in scoping the original Housing Insights tool. Contributed to first drafts of a civic tech and data collaborative framework to share strategies for developing effective ecosystems of open data and civic tech in communities around the country. Co-authored and conducted rigorous statistical data analysis for published reports on community development policy, with a focus on affordable housing.

Sept 2011 – June 2014

Rose Institute of State and Local Government, *Research Assistant*; Claremont, CA

Researched and documented redistricting changes based on the 2010 Census on a state-by-state level, and published findings and documented demographic shifts on the Rose Institute's [Redistricting in America](#) interactive map. Conducted economic analysis of financial and social trends across the Inland Empire and Coachella Valley region to support the publication of a semi-annual Inland Empire Outlook report for local businesses and decision-makers. Collaborated with the National Demographics Corporation to monitor elections in the cities of Glendale and Pasadena to synthesize and publish election administration best practices. Processed and entered voting results data into a custom data platform to publish election results with the public and media outlets in real-time through an online open data tool. Led independent economic research analyzing the effect of income inequality on political polarization to support the publication of a final report in the Rose Institute's annual review and reports to the Board.

AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Berkman Klein Center of Internet and Society, Harvard University, *Affiliate, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*
- Artistic Research Residency at Het HEM, *Shock Forest Group Member, Fall 2019*
- Internet of Things Expert Roundtable, Aspen Institute Center for Urban Innovation, *Winter 2019*
- YCSummit, YCombinator, *Subject Matter Expert/Attendee, Winter 2019*

SPEAKING

[Co-creating a \(Simple\) Evaluation for Civic Tech](#), OGP Summit, Ottawa, Canada, May 2019

[Can Open Contracting Hold Smart Cities Accountable?](#) NYC School of Data, New York, NY, March 2019

[Human-centered Tech and Data](#), Emerging Issues Forum, Asheville, NC, December 2018

[Research and Design for Open Data Users](#), Open Data Research Symposium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2018

[Smart Cities and Open Data](#), International Open Data Conf., Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2018

[Roles as Changemakers in Smart Cities](#), Open Cities Summit, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2018 (facilitator)

[Accelerating the Pace of Innovation in Cities](#), Global Cities Tech Jam, Portland, OR, June 2018

Keynote Address, Youth Council Transparency Camp, Asuncion, Paraguay, May 2018 [Spanish]

[Informed Citizens Make Informed Laws](#), Personal Democracy Forum CEE, Gdansk, Poland, May 2018

[Making Open Data Work for Communities](#), What Works Cities: On Tour, Downey, California, March 2018

[Open Government: The Subnational Perspective](#), OGP Regional Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2017

[Open Data as a Gateway to Engagement](#), Data-Smart Cities Summit, Cambridge, MA, November 2017

[Tactical Data Engagement: A tool for you and your city](#), NNIP Partnership Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017

[Open Cities and the Future of Open Data](#), Sunshine Week, Washington, DC, March 2017

[Presentation on Riverside Open Data Proclamation](#), City Council Meeting, Riverside, CA, March 2017

[State of Civic Tech and Data](#), Civic Tech and Data Collaborative Convening, Chicago, IL, October 2016

[A Framework for Civic Tech and Data Ecosystems](#), NNIP Partnership Meeting, Cleveland, OH, September 2016

PUBLICATIONS

[Leveraging Data for Recovery: A Roadmap for States](#), *Beeck Center for Social Impact & Innovation*, September 2020

[Open Contracting Reform in U.S. Cities](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, June 2019

[A Guide to Tactical Data Engagement](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, September 2017

[The Housing Affordability Gap for Extremely Low-Income Renters](#), *Urban Institute*, April 2017

WRITING

[Is there a good way to evaluate the impact of civic tech?](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, August 2019

[An open data maturity scale for cities to find right-sized solutions](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, August 2019

[Open contracting in practice: opening decisions in the social services ecosystem](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, August 2019

[Digital rights in the era of data collection and smart city technology](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, October 2018

[Beyond open data policy](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, October 2018

[Government transparency is the key to valuable community partnerships](#), *Meeting of the Minds*, August 2018

[Cities should be smart about smart cities agreements](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, May 2018

[How Seattle, WA is balancing openness with privacy in an age of online data threats](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, April 2018

[Cities across the Americas discuss data for social impact](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, December 2018

[How Houston is using open data to handle Hurricane Harvey](#), *Sunlight Foundation*, August 2017

[Connecting open data to residents' lives](#), *Data-Smart Cities*, March 2017

[Boston organizations develop advanced algorithm to address city challenges](#), *Urban Wire*, November 2016

[Using data to make a difference for Boston-area students at risk of homelessness](#), *Urban Wire*, November 2016

[The housing affordability gap for extremely low-income renters](#), *Urban Institute*, June 2015