





Katya Abazajian

Strategic thinker, design researcher, and leader passionate about data and technology that enable more equitable and open democracies.

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EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant

January 2020 to Present – Houston, TX

Developing human-centered research and recommendations for community organizations and governments to share and apply data for public good.

Engagements with: January Advisors, Development Gateway, and the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation.

Sunlight Foundation *Open Cities Director*

December 2016 to September 2019 – Washington, DC

Managed the Open Cities team's projects on open government reform in 65+ US cities through open data and open contracting.

Developed technical assistance and scaled best practices in low-tech environments through learning networks, cohort development, and training.

Built partnerships around emerging issues like digital rights through pilot research, thought leadership, and public speaking.

Urban Institute, Metropolitan Center *Research Assistant*

July 2014 to December 2016 – Washington, DC

Developed best practices and produced web resources for a national learning network of neighborhood data intermediaries.

Analyzed local data in partnership with DC community organizations for place-based policy analysis on affordable housing and collective impact.

Rose Institute of State & Local Government *Research Assistant*

September 2011 to June 2014 – Claremont, CA

Led independent quantitative research on how income inequality affects local political polarization, and how taxation affects municipal growth.

Monitored elections at the City of Glendale and City of Pasadena to develop local election administration best practices using data.

EDUCATION

Claremont McKenna College *B.A. in Economics and Math*

2011 to 2014 – Claremont, CA

Senior thesis titled "Can Cities Manage Growth through Taxation."
Coursework focused on statistics, macroeconomics, and applied math.

SKILLS

Leadership, project management

Design research

Strategic planning

Public speaking, network-building

Data science (SAS, STATA, R)

Writing, editing, content strategy

Tech and data governance, policy analysis

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Co-creating a (Simple) Evaluation Tool for Civic Tech
Open Gov't Partnership Summit
Ottawa, Canada, May 2019

Can Open Contracting Hold Smart Cities Accountable?
NYC School of Data
New York, NY, March 2019

Human-centered Tech & Data
Emerging Issues Forum
Asheville, NC, December 2018

Smart Cities and Open Data
International Open Data Conf.
Buenos Aires, Argentina,
September 2018

Accelerating the Pace of Innovation in Cities
Global Cities Tech Jam
Portland, OR, June 2018

Informed Citizens Make Informed Laws
Personal Democracy Forum
Gdansk, Poland, May 2018