

## Leah E. Horgan, PhD

Computing Innovation Fellow  
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology  
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## Education

2015–2022 Informatics PhD Program, University of California, Irvine;  
Dissertation: *Being Data Driven: Administering, Living, and Resisting in a Smart City*  
Committee: Dr. Paul Dourish (chair), Dr. Melissa Mazmanian, Dr. Roderic Crooks, Dr. Kavita Philip

2013–2015 Media Design Practices (MDP) MFA Program, Art Center College of Design, (Pasadena, CA and Kampala, Uganda) \*transferred to PhD program in 2015

2012 WGS.615 Feminist Inquiry, MIT

2007 Bachelor of Fine Art – Graphic Design, New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University 2007

## Research Summary

Broadly my work looks at what it means to be data-driven. Based on a two-year ethnography with the Los Angeles Mayoral Data Team, my dissertation examines the social consequences of the data-driven smart city. Research and practice interests include science and technology studies; design; feminist geography; participatory research; data visualization; spatial, disability, and housing justice; and narrative illustration.

## Professional Experience

2022–Current CI Fellow, Northeastern University

2016–2018 Design Fellow, Los Angeles City Mayoral Data Team

2014 Design Fellow, Ashoka Washington D.C. Office

2010–2013 Communications Associate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT

## Teaching and Mentorship

Fall 2022 Instructor of Record, SOCL2485 Environment, Technology, & Society (ETS)  
This interdisciplinary, critical making course draws on environmental history, anthropology, art/design, and science and technology studies to investigate the sources, experiences, and questions of present day environmental justice issues.

2019–current Guest Lecturer: Michigan State University, University of California Irvine, Penn State University; Topics: smart city, algorithmic bias, environmental data justice

2016–2018 Women in Information and Computer Sciences (WICS) Mentor

Fall 2018 Guest Critic for Master’s in Human Computer Interaction and Design, Design and Prototyping Course 282, University of California, Irvine

2016–2017 Teacher’s Assistant in Master’s in Human Computer Interaction and Design, Design and Prototyping Course 282, University of California, Irvine

Fall 2015

Guest Lecturer at Art Center College of Design on social design and Development

## Awards

2018–19	Rob Kling Endowed Memorial Fellowship in ICS
2017–2019	ARCS Foundation Scholar, 2017–2019
2017–18	Center for Technology, Society & Policy (CTSP) Fellow
2016	Bob & Barbara Kleist Endowed Graduate Fellowship in ICS
2014	Designmatters Fellowship, Art Center College of Design

## Publications

Horgan, Leah, Kira Mok, Eliza Boetsch, Sophie Kelly, Katherine Dickinson, Eric Nost, Roseann Bongiovanni, Sara Wylie. 2022. “What does Chelsea Creek Do For You? A Relational Approach to Environmental Justice Communication.” *Environmental Justice*, under final review.

Horgan, Leah. 2021. “The Everyday of Future-Avoiding: Data-drivenness in the Smart City.” *Information and Culture*, Special Issue, Summer 2022.

Horgan, Leah and Paul Dourish. 2018. Ambiguity, Ambivalence, and Activism: Data Organizing Inside the Institution. *Krisis*, Issue 1.

Ford, Colin, Daniel Gardner, Leah Elaine Horgan, Calvin Liu, A. M. Tsaasan, Bonnie A. Nardi, Jordan Rickman. 2017. “Chat Speed OP PogChamp: Practices of Coherence in Massive Twitch Chat.” In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 858-871. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3027063.3052765>

## Selected Talks

Leah Horgan, “Data as Deferral and Doing Data Otherwise,” Invited talk for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023, Ottawa University.

Leah Horgan, “Becoming Data-Driven: Designing, Administering, and Resisting the Smart City,” Invited talk for the *Humanistic Design Speaker Series*, February 6<sup>th</sup> 2023, Princeton University.

Leah Horgan, “Data as Deferral: Asserting Unknowing and Uncertainty,” *Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference*, Dec 7 - 11, 2022, Cholula.

Leah Horgan and Kavita Philip, “DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT: From Evidence-based to Data-driven,” on panel “Power in Relation: Digital Technologies Across Geography and Scale,” *Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference*, Oct 6 - 8, 2021, Toronto (Remote).

Leah Horgan, “Folding Horizons: a Conversation with Leah Horgan on Smart Cities, Surveillance, and Data-driven Governance,” Invited talk presented remotely to the soft/WALL/studs collective, Singapore, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Leah Horgan, “Smart Cities and Surveillance,” Invited talk presented remotely to the Labor Tech Research Network, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Leah Horgan, “From Evidence-based Policymaking to Data-Driven Governance,” Paper presented at AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, November 2019.

Horgan, Leah and Cindy Lin. “Look, But Don’t Touch: Bureaucratic Vision and Administering the Margins.” Paper presented at the 4S Meeting, New Orleans, September 2019 and the Data Power Conference, University of Bremen, Bremen Germany September 2019. *Full paper forthcoming.*

Leah Horgan, “The Everyday of Future-Avoiding: Data-drivenness in the Smart City,” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., April 2018.

Leah Horgan, “Experimentality in Data-Driven Governance.” *Data Justice Conference*, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales May 2018.

Okune, Angela and Leah Horgan, “Already Global Local”: Complicating Notions of Technological Innovation and Expertise in Africa,” Paper presented at Strategic Narratives of Technology and Africa Conference, M-ITI, Portugal, September 2017.

Horgan, Leah and Paul Dourish, “The Organizational Infrastructures of Urban Data,” Paper presented at the 5th Innovation in Information Infrastructures (III) Workshop, LUISS Rome, Italy, November 2017.

Horgan, Leah and Paul Dourish, “Making the Future of the City: The Future Perfect Smart City” Paper presented at 4S Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 2017.

## Workshops & Panels (Organizer)

Pine, Kathleen, Claus Bossen, Naja Holten Møller, Milagros Miceli, Alex Jiahong Lu, Yunan Chen, Leah Horgan, Zhaoyuan Su, Gina Neff, Melissa Mazmanian. Investigating Data Work Across Domains: New Perspectives on the Work of Creating Data. In Extended Abstracts of the *2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. April 2022.

Stojanov, Amanda and Leah Horgan. Workshop: Drawing with Objects, Words, & Code. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts 2019*, Irvine, California, United States.

Horgan, Leah, Margaret Jack and Cindy Lin. Becoming “Data-Driven”: Burgeoning Data Cultures and Liminality in Civil Service. Open panel at the *2019 Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science*, New Orleans, United States.

Co-organizer for 2016–2017 voidLab events: Decentralizing The Web PANEL 001, on machine intimacy, representation, and the ethics of live cam labor, and Decentralizing The Web PANEL 002 Screening “Come to me Paradise” by Stephanie Comilang, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA  
<https://projects.dma.ucla.edu/voidlab/>

## Service

- *Program Committee Member* / AC: DIS 2023 Critical Computing Track; FaccT 2022 Conference
- *Reviewer* / *Chair*: CHI 2018–2022 (ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems); Big Data & Society 2022; Journal of Organizational Ethnography 2020; DIS 2019 & 2023 (Designing Interactive Systems); CSCW 2018 (ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work); CACM 2018 (Communications of Association of Computing Machinery)
- *Affiliations*: Labor Tech Research Network; Steckler Center for Responsible, Ethical, and Accessible Technology (CREATE)

## Skills

Adobe Creative Suite; Processing; Python (Basic); MS Office Suite; data visualization; physical computing; user experience design; graphic and web design; illustration; Spanish language (intermediate)