

Megan K. Ayers

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Causal inference, environmental impact evaluation, experimental design, remote sensing, machine learning, text as data, computational social science, social and environmental applications of statistics

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor of Statistics, Reed College

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Statistics & Data Science, Yale University, 2025

M.A. in Statistics & Data Science, Yale University, 2023

B.A. in Mathematics, B.A. in Physics, Lewis & Clark College, 2019

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Ayers, M., Marlon, J. R., Ballew, M. T., Maibach, E. W., Rosenthal, S. A., Roser-Renouf, C., & Leiserowitz, A. (2024). Changes in Global Warming's Six Americas: An analysis of repeat respondents. *Climatic Change*, 177(6), 96. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-024-03754-x>

Liu, T., Gezari, S., Ayers, M., Burgett, W., Chambers, K., Hodapp, K., Huber, M. E., Kudritzki, R.-P., Metcalfe, N., Tonry, J., Wainscoat, R., & Waters, C. (2019). Supermassive Black Hole Binary Candidates from the Pan-STARRS1 Medium Deep Survey. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 884(1), 36. <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab40cb>

Foord, A., Gültekin, K., Reynolds, M., Ayers, M., Liu, T., Gezari, S., & Runnoe, J. (2017). A Multi-wavelength Analysis of Binary-AGN Candidate PSO J334.2028+01.4075. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 851(2), 106. <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa9a39>

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

Ayers, M.^{*}, Sanford, L.^{*}, Roberts, M. E., & Yang, E. (2024). Discovering influential text using convolutional neural networks. *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 12002–12027, Bangkok, Thailand and virtual meeting.

**Equal contribution*

Gordon, M., Ayers, M., Stone, E., & Sanford, L. (2023). Remote Control: Debiasing Remote Sensing Predictions for Causal Inference. *Proc. Int. Conf. Learn. Represent. Workshops*, Kigali, Rwanda and virtual meeting.

PREPRINTS

Ayers, M.^{*}, Sanford, L.^{*}, Gardner, W., & Kuebbing, S. (2025). Causal Carbon: Baselines and Additivity with Potential Outcomes. https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/5pcuh_v2

**Equal contribution*

Sanford, L.^{*}, Ayers, M.^{*}, Gordon, M.^{*}, & Stone, E. (2025). Adversarial Debiasing for Unbiased Parameter Recovery. <https://www.arxiv.org/abs/2502.12323>

**Equal contribution*

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TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Yale University, 2021-2024

- Statistical Case Studies (Fall 2022, Fall 2024)
- Data Analysis (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)
- Statistical Computing (Fall 2022)
- Linear Models (Fall 2021)

Grader without Contact, Yale University, 2023-2025

- Statistical Consulting (Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023-2024 Planetary Solutions Project seed grant from the Climate Impact Innovation Fund and the Gordon Data and Environmental Sciences Research Grant (research assistant funding recipient), **Yale University**

2023 Graduate Student Assembly Conference Travel Fellowship, **Yale University**

2020 Sterling Prize Fellowship, **Yale University**

2018 Shannon T. O’Leary Award, **Lewis & Clark College**

PRESENTATIONS

2024 “Discovering influential text using convolutional neural networks,” **Association for Computational Linguistics**, August 12-14 and August 22, Bangkok, Thailand and virtual meeting. (Virtual poster)

“A New Perspective for Forest Carbon Offsetting through the Potential Outcomes Framework,” **American Causal Inference Conference Annual Meeting**, May 14-17, Seattle, WA. (Poster)

“Site Matching Baselines with Real and Synthetic Controls,” **Workshop on Increasing Consensus on Best Practices for Additionality & Baselines in Forest Carbon Crediting Accounting**, April 11-12, Yale University. (Oral)

2023 “Assessing Leakage from Carbon Offset Projects,” **Google Geo for Good Summit**, October 10-12, Mountain View, CA. (Oral)

“Remote Control: Debiasing Remote Sensing Predictions for Causal Inference,” **The Workshop in Environmental Economics and Data Science**, September 15-16, Portland, OR. (Oral, presented by a colleague for health reasons)

“Remote Control: Debiasing Remote Sensing Predictions for Causal Inference,” **ICLR Workshop on Machine Learning for Remote Sensing**, May 5, Kigali, Rwanda and Virtual meeting. (Virtual oral)

“Remote Control: Debiasing Remote Sensing Predictions for Causal Inference,” **ICLR Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning**, May 4, Kigali, Rwanda and virtual meeting. (Virtual poster)

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy
Summer Research Assistant

New Haven, CT
June-August 2022

Yale Law School Legal Services Organization

New Haven, CT

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Statistical/Data Analyst

November 2020-March 2021

Cascade Data Labs

Data Analyst

Portland, OR

June 2019-May 2020

SERVICE

Ad-hoc reviewer, *Climatic Change*, 2024

Workshop organizer, Workshop on Increasing Consensus on Best Practices for Additionality & Baselines in Forest Carbon Crediting Accounting, 2024

Undergraduate Learning Assistant hiring coordinator, Yale University Department of Statistics & Data Science, 2021-2022