

# Data&Society

## Call for Faculty Fellows

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**Deadline for applications: December 17, 2018**

Apply here: <http://datasociety.submittable.com>

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Data & Society is now accepting **Faculty Fellows** applications for our 2019-20 Class of Fellows. In addition to Faculty Fellows, the 2019-20 class will include Organizational Bridge and Arts & Culture Fellows. We will open a separate call for Organizational Bridge and Arts & Culture Fellows in January 2019.

**The deadline for Faculty Fellows applications is December 17, 2018**

Please direct inquiries about the fellows program or application process to [fellowapp@datasociety.net](mailto:fellowapp@datasociety.net).

Questions will not reflect negatively on your application. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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## 2019-2020 Data & Society Faculty Fellows Call

Data & Society is seeking two to three Faculty Fellows whose research projects will advance our mission and complement our [work](#) by:

- Contributing to existing research initiatives at Data & Society ([Health, Equity, & Data](#); [Media Manipulation and Disinformation](#); [Social Impacts of AI](#); and [Social Instabilities in Labor Futures](#));
- Exploring one of our [three cross-cutting themes](#) (vulnerabilities in socio-technical systems; systems of rights, equity, and governance in a networked world; and intersections of humans and intelligent systems); or
- Stretching Data & Society in new directions with novel topics and questions.

We invite applications from faculty of any rank and discipline who are at least two years beyond receipt of their Ph.D. by the start of the fellowship.

We are looking for Faculty Fellows who come from any discipline (including, but not limited to computer science, law, business, critical social sciences, history, media studies, etc.). Successful applicants should have a track record of engaging in research at the intersection of technology and society and should be committed to working in highly interdisciplinary environments. Appreciation for different methodological approaches and ways of knowing is valued at Data & Society.

While at Data & Society, Faculty Fellows will conduct original research, publish findings in both scholarly and public-facing venues, and engage with broader constituencies across numerous disciplines and perspectives. Faculty Fellows are expected to be active members of the Data & Society community – participating in seminars, research exchange, and events; supporting and mentoring peers in research development; and helping translate scholarly knowledge for a wide range of stakeholders.

### Projects & Themes

Data & Society prioritizes ambitious empirical research projects that address complex sociotechnical questions. We are looking for Faculty Fellows who have strong analytic, methodological, and theoretical foundations who are passionate about working alongside and with empirical researchers. Faculty Fellows may be looking to advance technical work, design policy interventions, bring historical insights into current conversations, or do new fieldwork.

Potential fellows are invited to imagine a specific project or set of activities that they will execute to help society's understanding of a world permeated by data. Successful fellowship projects inform, convene, intervene, or provoke – with an eye to broader impact.

We are open to a wide range of potential outputs, from scholarly articles to op-eds, events to code. We are also particularly interested in creating connections and exchange between our in-house research and Faculty Fellows' projects. Furthermore, we love it when our fellows experiment with new ideas or stretch our work and network in unexpected directions.

## Participation & Cohort

This is not a fellowship for those who want to spend a year head-down on an independent project. Rather, this is a program for people who are looking for ways to create impact both within and beyond their field as well as collaborate with researchers and practitioners. Successful candidates will see the value of their work within an interdisciplinary community and recognize the opportunities for growth from working in a dynamic environment. Faculty fellow candidates should enjoy working on collaborative teams, mentoring junior researchers, and engaging broad audiences with research.

Fellows commit to being in residence at the Data & Society loft in New York City for two days each week, although many Faculty Fellows benefit from deeper engagement. Each fellow, over the course of their fellowship, will pursue a project or set of activities of their own design.

Fellows are also asked to engage with Data & Society – both at the organizational level and with the broader community. This engagement can take a number of different forms, from organizing small group sessions with visitors, to developing workshops, to working on inhouse publications, and much, much more. We ask that all fellows either participate in or lead a monthly reading group, as well as participate in a lightweight round of regular Data & Society activities designed to strengthen community and research connections. Beyond that, the choice of where and how to participate is part of the fellowship design process between the fellow and Data & Society staff.

Together with our in-house research team and postdocs, fellows form the annual Data & Society cohort – a group of approximately 50 colleagues who come together as the core of Data & Society's research and field-building efforts. Beyond the in-house cohort, Data & Society fellows are also connected to past fellows, our affiliates, and a broad

field of actors both in New York City and beyond who regularly pass through Data & Society for workshops, seminars, social gatherings, and talks.

## Term

Residency typically runs from September 1 through June 30 of the following year. If you would like to apply for a fellowship but cannot commit to a full term, **please flag that in your application**, as we are open to consider and accommodate some variations on terms.

## Funding

Fellows commit to two days a week in residence for the full term and are offered a stipend of \$25,000 with additional, approved project costs up to \$5,000 available to them. If we are able to accommodate a fellowship period shorter than ten months, the stipend will be prorated on a monthly basis.

All fellows will have access to desks/workspaces, meeting rooms, email addresses, etc., and programmatic and organizational support to advance their work.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we support fellows in applying for both federal and philanthropic grants and we work with fellows currently holding grants to craft an appropriate fellowship that allows them to honor commitments to grantors.

While we welcome applications from outside the United States, we are currently unable to support the acquisition of visas. If you are applying from outside the United States and are accepted, you will need to secure your own visa and, depending on your situation, work permit.

## Application Process

To apply for a Data & Society fellowship, we'll ask you to complete an application at Submittable. You'll be submitting information about yourself and your work to date, including:

- Cover letter;
- Resume or CV;
- Two sample scholarly publications;
- Project summary and brief (1000 word) proposal;
- Names and email addresses of three references.

Note that references will automatically receive an email from Submittable, the application platform, prompting them to submit a letter of reference to Data & Society. Please make sure your references whitelist [submittable.com](http://submittable.com).

Applications are due **December 17, 2018**. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview with D&S staff, fellows, and/or advisors, and may be asked for additional information such as project budgets as they move through the review process.

Successful applicants will be notified in the spring, with a public announcement to follow.

If you are interested in applying to be a Data & Society Faculty Fellow, please complete the application form at <http://datasociety.submittable.com> by **December 17, 2018**.

To view this call for fellows online, as well as an FAQ, visit [here](#).

The work and well-being of Data & Society is strengthened by the diversity of our network and our differences in background, culture, experience, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, and much more. We welcome applications from people of color, women, the LGBTQIA community, and persons with disabilities.

## FAQs

### **Can I apply from outside the United States?**

Currently, we do not have formal infrastructure or processes in place to support visas. If you would like to apply and are accepted, we can write you a letter saying that you are offered a fellowship, but you will need to secure your own visa and, if seeking funding, work permit.

### **Can I be a part-time fellow?**

Yes, all of our fellows are part-time, committing to two days a week for 10 months to the fellowship. Some of our current fellows are running businesses, writing professionally, teaching, or holding two appointments.

### **Do I have to live in New York City?**

This is an active fellowship that requires time spent in person with the Data & Society cohort. While you don't need to live in New York City, you will need to live within reasonable travel distance to New York. Fellows are asked, as a condition of the fellowship, to be physically present in the Data & Society loft in Manhattan at least two days a week. We encourage fellows to engage more broadly in Data & Society's programming and events, which span the week. What we've found is that living further

away tends to preclude many of the interactions that are key to taking full advantage of the fellowship.

### **What is the stipend?**

Assuming a 10-month commitment, the stipend is \$25,000. Data & Society supplies up to \$5,000 in project costs and provides organizational support around logistics, communications, and other areas.

### **What kinds of interactions or collaborations can I expect?**

The Data & Society annual cohort (fellows and Data & Society researchers) is a rich and diverse group. You will be asked to participate or lead regular programming that brings the cohort together along different thematic and topical lines, facilitating both meaningful discussion and project collaborations. Beyond the cohort, you will be a part of Data & Society's wider community of affiliates, friends, collaborators, and supporters. While Data & Society programming is set up to put you in contact with many different people from many different disciplines and professional backgrounds, it will be up to you to turn those interactions into meaningful collaborations. Over the course of our past three fellowship years, we've seen this happen more and more and are happy to support those collaborations as much as we can from an organizational perspective.

### **Can I work on my thesis/dissertation/book?**

The goal of the fellowship program is to support research that is public-facing and focused on making an impact in a broad sense. We are not looking to support academics whose projects are intended solely to speak to academic audiences. Should your thesis/dissertation/book project lend itself to spending a year collaborating with others and working on public-facing outputs, embrace the synergies! But if you're looking to hunker down and work in isolation to produce academic content, this is probably not the fellowship for you.

### **I applied last year. May I apply again?**

Yes. But please do not submit the same project proposal without meaningful rethinking and revision.

### **When do I hear from you? What is the timeframe for decisions?**

The deadline to apply is December 17, 2018. We will begin looking at applications in early December. We will begin setting up interviews with candidates in January 2019 and aim to make fellowship decisions by the end of March 2019.

### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

Inquiries about the fellowship should be directed to [fellowsapp@datasociety.net](mailto:fellowsapp@datasociety.net). Questions about the opportunity or process will not reflect negatively on an application.

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## About Data & Society

Data & Society is an NYC-based non-profit research institute that advances public understanding of the social and cultural implications of data-centric technologies and automation. We conduct interdisciplinary research and build a field of actors to ensure that knowledge guides development and governance of technology. We work to ensure a future in which the values that shape technology are visible and intentionally chosen with respect for human dignity.

### Fellows Program at Data & Society

Data & Society is assembling its sixth class of fellows to join us for 10 months starting from September 1, 2019. Our annual fellows program helps ensure that new connections and perspectives deepen and expand our community's understanding of the challenges and opportunities society faces in a data-centric world.

(Please meet our current and past fellows classes [here](#).)

Data & Society fellows have pursued academic research, written code, created art, brought together communities of activists and practice, run workshops and hosted convenings, worked closely with Data & Society's in-house research team across research initiatives and each other, and much more.

Current and past fellows are academics and computer scientists, researchers and technologists, artists and activists, journalists, lawyers, and community organizers concerned with the implications of data-centric technology's role in reconfiguring society. We are engaged, individually and together, in interrogating and articulating those implications and developing frames that can help society address emergent tensions. As we build the 2019-20 class, we're continuing to embrace breadth and diversity in our selection process.