

Madeline Avram Blount

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TEACHING

City College of New York, CUNY: part-time faculty, Computer Science (2022-present)

- Undergraduate Courses: Intermediate Programming (C++), Senior Design I/II
- Graduate Courses: Data Visualization, Scalable Computation

EDUCATION

Yale University: B.A. *cum laude* Literature, Anthropology (2008); Concentration in Physics

Santa Fe Institute: Non-Linear Dynamics; Foundations of Complexity; Agent-Based Modeling (2014, 2024)

School for Poetic Computation, student ("Human Scale Natural Language Processing," 2024)

DESIGN/CODE/PRODUCTION WORK

Unlock NYC: co-founder and founding engineer, developing tech tools for housing justice; created a mobile phone tool that allows tenants to record their calls to combat housing discrimination; project chosen as part of the 2019-2020 Catalyst cohort, \$50k accelerator funded by the Robin Hood Foundation; coding in Node.js (Twilio/Airtable/Landbot/DigitalOcean/FaunaDB APIs; also website in Netlify/Github/11ty); strong focus on co-design, user research, SMS and voice chatbot writing, and security/privacy, encryption (2019-2022; Technical Advisor role 2022-present)

Creative Technologist: freelance, full-stack engineer and designer, from consultation to design to code and deliverable backend system or frontend site; clients include Center for Neighborhood Knowledge (UCLA), Development Research Initiative (NYU), Center for Advanced Defense Studies, Africa House (NYU), Financial Access Initiative (NYU), Pratt Design Corps, MASS Design Group, Right to Counsel Coalition, as well as law firms, nonprofits, start-ups, small businesses, and artists, internationally; tools include HTML/CSS/Javascript/Node.js/APIs with Airtable, Squarespace, Webflow, Mapbox, Netlify, Glitch, Digital Ocean, Github; focus on data visualization, cartography, and video; work featured in *WIRED*, *Atlantic City Lab*, *Hyperallergic*, *Fast Company*, and at the Center for Architecture (2012-present)

DIGITAL/POLITICAL ORGANIZING WORK

Crown Heights Mutual Aid: founding member, COVID-19 local response; Tech Working Group, Intake Working Group, and Pod Organizing Group; developed organization from 30 members to over 2,000; organized and trained members entirely through digital and remote organizing; collaboratively built phonebanking system (Twilio, Github, Airtable, Slack, Node.js/JS) that facilitated grocery delivery to over 3,000 families during height of pandemic in NYC (2020-2021)

Digital Early Vote Organizer, Organizing for America: Obama campaign in Chapel Hill, NC; created social media feeds for city's youth office, including original photography used state-wide; trained + organized hundreds of university students; implemented national digital strategy; reported canvass data nightly to headquarters (2012)

Field Organizer, Obama for America: in Portland, OR; responsible for votes in the highest-density precincts in the state; recruited + trained hundreds of volunteers; organized + reported data on voter registration/contact nightly to headquarters; cut turf for canvasses using GoogleMaps/GIS/VAN; OR = 86% voter turnout in general election (2008)

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

Antarctic Artists and Writers Fellow: deployment on Southern Ocean research vessel *Nathaniel B. Palmer*, Polar STEAM/NSF (2024-2025 field season, 55 days at sea)

Awesome Foundation Grant: awarded collaboratively for Unlock NYC digital housing rights project (2020)

Blue Ridge Labs Fellowship: Collaborative research and design+build incubator, for technologists looking to create digital tools that improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers, with a focus on housing justice. Funded by the Robin Hood Foundation. (2019)

NYU Tisch, Interactive Telecommunications Program Camp - Instigator Fellowship: skill-sharing and community organizing; tuition-free scholarship to month-long "un-conference" camp program (2019)

Creative Time Amanda Weil Lecture: performed lecture with slideshow of original photography and film at Creative Time Summit, on the theme “Art, Place, and Dislocation in the 21st Century City,” based on artistic/ethnographic research conducted in Cyprus; chosen from international open call <https://bit.ly/1KUI1kF> (2013)

MIT Hacking Arts: hackathon team collaborated in 24 hours, won in Motion Capture category for re:Gesture, exploration of fractal geometry and dance with generated art; danced in motion capture suit, built prototype for data analysis (2017)

Hannah Arendt Prize in Critical Theory: from Pacific Northwest College of Art, 2nd prize, wrote essay on surveillance and politics (2012)

Charles P. Howland Fellowship: awarded 1-year arts, service, and research grant, investigating border sites, conflict zones, urban and geopolitical space, and the role of the arts in conflict resolution in Nicosia, Cyprus (2009)

National Geographic Glimpse Correspondent: international open call, wrote features and published photography on new media platform, working remotely with editor from National Geographic while living in Nicosia, Cyprus (2009)

Calabresi Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis in Literature, for “Writing on the City: Graffiti, Urban Texts, and the Politics of Taking Space.” Yale College (2008)

Sapir Prize for Undergraduate Work in Anthropology, Yale College (2008)

Stavros Niarchos Research Fellowship: grant for independent field work in contemporary Greek politics (2007)

Rensselaer Medal: national award, given to students distinguished in math and science, scholarship worth \$100,000 (2003)

SELECTED PROJECTS: CODE, RESEARCH, PERFORMANCE

C-Shanties: with livecode.nyc: live code performance, Wonderville, Brooklyn, NY (2025)

Complexity and the Leafcutters: code/sound installation, presented in Gamboa, Panama [[documentation](#)] (2019)

Networks Beyond Borders: immersive web documentary, collaboration with Dr. William Easterly + Development Research Institute, NYU <http://migration.nyudri.org> (2016)

Large Mammal Confessional: a performance/lecture for city ghosts, writing, performance, sound and projection design; collaboration with Raphael Soifer, Pangurbot Studios, New York (2015)

Dancing & Droney: performance, dance with drone; at *Barbora*, curated by Agnes Borinsky, New Ohio Theatre, New York (2015)

First Volcano/Last Glacier: (a voyage to the last glacier on earth before it melts): performance with sound, video, dance, piano; collaboration with Treya Lam, Bowery Arts & Science, New York, NY (2014)

The Greene Street Project: immersive web documentary, collaboration with Dr. William Easterly + Development Research Institute, NYU <https://greenestreet.nyc> (2014)

Crime Scene, dance video and sound design, collaboration with Karl Paquemar, shown at Athens Video Dance Festival, Athens, Greece (2010)

*Systems & Sh*t*: photography, installation, and community organizing, Utopia Space, Nicosia, Cyprus (2009)

Why don't you let me vanish from your site, sound design and asst. choreographer to Arianna Economou, Platforma Festival, Limassol, Cyprus (2009)

SPEAKING/RESIDENCIES:

Artist Process Talk, as part of Sur Collective, LaMaMa Experimental Theatre: panel discussion on women in Antarctica (2025)

Practitioner-In-Residence Corps, City University of New York (CUNY): selected to join a pool of technology professionals who teach upper-level computer science courses in the CUNY system to support the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline (2019-present)

Digital Naturalism Conference (Dinacon) Residency: jungle prototyping studio, created works in code and video; collaborated with other artists, scientists, and technologists studying the intersection of nature and computation; Gamboa, Panama (2019)

NYU Tisch ITP: as part of ITP Camp, taught graduate students, professors, and industry professionals, “Subversive Chatbots,” “Browser as Theatre: jQuery and Immersion” and “Archaeology of the Ancient Internets” (2019, 2021); invited critic for Prof. Allison Parrish’s class “Computation Approaches to Narrative” (2022)

Princeton Graduate Student Union: “No-Code Tools and Pandemic Organizing” (2020)

Pratt Design Corps., critic for student web designers working pro-bono for non-profits (2015)

Connecticut College, Prof. Marie Ostby’s class, “The Revolution Will Not be Tweeted: Literary Activism and Social Media,” guest lectures on intersection of online and physical “IRL” activism (2016-2020)

PUBLICATIONS:

“Unlock NYC: Designing Feminist Technology for Housing Justice” in *Feminist Designer*, co-written with Unlock NYC team; forthcoming (MIT Press, 2023)

Rehearsing Solidarity: Learning from Mutual Aid, interviews and art featured in zine-book compiled by Mark Anthony Hernandez Motaghy, (Thick Press, 2022)

“Writing on the City” *Arteri*, Cyprus, Issue #10, June 2009

PRESS + REVIEWS:

Fast Company, *World Changing Ideas*: “This chatbot helps New Yorkers report housing discrimination” 2021

Hyperallergic, “Brothels, Artists, and Exorbitant Real Estate on One NYC Block” 2015

Wired “From Brothels to Luxury, Mapping 400 Years on One NYC Block” 2015

Urban Omnibus, “Counter-narratives of Place: A Recap of the Creative Time Summit” 2013

SELECTED FORMAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, research assistant at Yale University, Egyptology laboratory (2006-2008)

Aegean Institute, Paros, Greece, collaborative research on underwater archaeology, PADI certified scuba (2006)

Nuclear Research Reactor, Reed College (2003-2004)

TRAINING: DANCE/PERFORMANCE, SELECTED WORKSHOPS

Gaga.Dancers, Saar Hariri and other teachers, Mark Morris NY (2014-present)

Sidra Bell, Advanced Contemporary Dance Workshop, Mark Morris NY (2018)

Yoann Bourgeois, Movement Master Class, Brooklyn Academy of Music NY (2016)

Anne Bogart, Interpreting Myth and Drama, BAM Humanities NY (2015)

Bobbi Jene Smith, Batsheva Dancers Master Class, Brooklyn Academy of Music NY (2014)

Keith Hennessy, Composition Workshop, PICA Portland, OR (2012)

Kyle Abraham, Abraham.In.Motion Dance Workshop, PICA Portland, OR (2012)

Jay Scheib and Natalie Thomas, SIT Company Master Class NY (2011)

Kenji Takagi of Pina Bausch Tanztheater, Movement Research NY (2011)

Marcello Magni, Performing Myth, Athens Festival Greece (2007)

Yale Theatre Studies (David Krasner, Elinor Renfield, Connie Grappo) (2004-2008)

OTHER ARTS WORK:

S.E.M. Ensemble, Producer/Assistant to Conductor, Petr Kotik: built new media for NY-based international contemporary music ensemble; edited archival films for media campaigns; coordinated production and press releases from NY office during Ostrava Days festival in Czech Republic; included in Best of 2013, *ArtForum* (2013)

Portland Institute of Contemporary Art: Press Corps, TBA Festival; performance and event photography; images published in *Willamette Week*, *Mercury* (2011+2012)

Sounds of Brazil, lighting designer at music venue in W. Village, New York (2011)

Control Group, Yale Experimental Theatre Ensemble, devised theatre, co-director in 2007/2008 (member 2004-2008)

OTHER COMMUNITY WORK:

KISA The Movement for Equality, Support, Anti-Racism, Cyprus: NGO; wrote Cyprus report for EU-FRA project "Separated asylum-seeking children in EU Member States," conducted narrative field interviews with social workers and translators (Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish); advocated asylum for Kurds from Turkey and Syria at Cyprus Migration Authority (2008+2009)

Common Ground Relief: direct action, mutual aid, community organizing, construction labor, roofing, gutting, truck driving, urban gardening, wetland restoration, and cooking; working and living in Lower 9th Ward, New Orleans; organizing with returning residents to get their FEMA grants (2010)

LANGUAGES:

advanced French; advanced Modern Greek; intermediate Portuguese, basic Turkish, basic Spanish
Javascript, C++, Python, CSS, HTML, Pascal

And I've cooked on the line and tended bar - jobs I'm grateful for that required urgency, dexterity, and patience.