

# Ari Decter-Frain

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**Citizenship:** Canada

**Research Interests** Computational demography, applied Bayesian statistics, elections and voting, political polarization, economic insecurity

**Education** **Cornell University** Ithaca, NY, US  
PhD in Policy Analysis and Management Aug 2019 – Present  
Committee: D. Miller, M. Macy, M. Hall

**London School of Economics** London, UK  
MSc in Inequalities and Social Science Aug 2016 – Dec 2017  
Advisor: A. Reeves. *Rank: Distinction*

**University of Winnipeg** Winnipeg, MB, CA  
BA in Psychology Sep 2012 – May 2016  
2016 Valedictorian; *GPA: 4.42 / 4.50*

**Honors and Awards**

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	2021-2024
DSSG Fellowship (U. of Washington eScience Institute)	2020
First Year Graduate Fellowship (Cornell University)	2019
Hobhouse Memorial Prize for best overall performance (LSE)	2017
Undergraduate Research Award (U. of Winnipeg)	2014

**Academic Papers** **Comparing ecological inference approaches to measuring racially polarized**  
L. Collingwood, J. Burke, A. Decter-Frain, H. Murayama, P. Sachdeva, M. Barreto  
*Under review.*

**Small area population estimates from consumer data**  
A. Acolin, M. Hall, A. Decter-Frain.  
*In preparation.*

**Millions of co-purchases and reviews reveal the spread of polarization and lifestyle politics across online markets**  
A. Ruch, A. Decter-Frain, R. Batra, M. Macy.  
*In preparation.*

**Why and how do moralistic groups create heroes?**  
A. Decter-Frain, R. Vanstone, J. Frimer.  
*In Handbook of Heroism and Heroic Leadership, 2017*

**Impressive words: Linguistic predictors of public approval of U.S. Congress**

A. Dechter-Frain, J. Frimer.

*Frontiers in Psychology: Personality and Social Psychology, 2016*

Research  
Experience

**Data Science for Social Good Fellow**

May 2020 – Aug 2020

University of Washington eScience Institute

Developed [eiCompare 3.0](#), an R package for quantifying minority vote dilution in US elections, incorporating feedback from stakeholders at the ACLU, National Democratic Redistricting Committee, and the UCLA Voting Rights Project.

**Research Assistant**

May 2020 – Sept 2020

Matthew Hall, Cornell University

Cleaned and analyzed a large digital trace dataset containing over 1 billion records. Developed Bayesian statistical models for calibration and nowcasting in Stan.

**Research Assistant**

Oct 2014 – May 2016

University of Winnipeg Moral Psychology Lab

Teaching  
Experience

**Teaching assistant, PAM (Cornell University)**

Spring 2021

PAM 2070: Big Data for Big Policy Problems

Lead and prepare materials for weekly tutorials teaching introduction to R for statistics and data science. Hold weekly office hours.

**Teaching assistant, PAM (Cornell University)**

Fall 2020

PAM 2060: Statistics for PAM Majors

Led and prepared materials weekly hands-on tutorials teaching introduction to Stata for statistics. Held weekly office hours.

*Average student rating: 4.5/5.*

Industry  
Experience

**Graphika Technologies, Inc.**

New York, NY, US

Machine Learning Engineer

May 2021 - Nov 2021

Developed and modularized a stance detection model for use on Twitter, including cross-validated feature selection and explainability. Developed a deep learning pipeline for clustering heterogeneous data from multiple social media platforms.

**Center for Migration Studies**

New York, NY, US

Shiny Developer

Sept 2020 - Dec 2020

Developed a [Shiny application](#) for users to quickly access and download data on population levels of vulnerable migrants across the US.

**Multi-Health Systems** Technology R&D

Toronto, ON, CA

Product Manager

Oct 2018 - May 2019

Assumed ownership of a workplace mental health screening product. Supervised a team of two software developers and a data scientist to support distributors' API integration. Achieved a five-fold increase in unit sales.

**Multi-Health Systems** Innovation Hub Toronto, ON, CA  
Research Analyst Summer 2020

Developed R-based products including: Minimum viable product of a custom assessment-building application, an algorithm to isolate the most predictive items in assessments, and a dynamic, automated PDF reporting system.

**Presentations and Posters** **Who moves during recessions?** March 2022  
Presenting at the 2021 APPAM Fall Research Conference session *Housing Shocks, Exposure, and Implications*

**Small area population estimates from consumer data** May 2021  
*with A. Acolin and M. Hall*  
Poster at the 2021 Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting

**eiCompare: Comparing BISG to CVAP Estimates in Racially Polarized Voting Analyses** Nov 2020  
*with J. Burke, H. Murayama, and P. Sachdeva*  
Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium Nov 2020 Meeting

**Agentic and communal rhetoric in the quest for political popularity** June 2017  
*with J. Frimer*  
European Association of Social Psychology Annual Conference

**Skills** **Programming**  
Proficient in: R, Python, SQL, Stan  
Familiar with: Stata, HTML, CSS

**Languages**  
English (fluent), French (Conversational)