

Tomo Lazovich

Assistant Professor of the Practice (AI Governance and Policy) at Brown University Data Science Institute

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Pronouns: they/them/theirs

Experience

Assistant Professor of the Practice, AI Governance and Policy, Brown University Sep. 2025-Present

- Designing and teaching DSIO 2300, a **capstone project class** for the online master's program in Data Science Policy, Society, and Governance
- Policy Director for the CNTR AISLE program, an effort to **analyze AI legislation across the U.S.**
- PI of the PANDORA (Policy, Advocacy, and Novel Designs for the Oversight and Regulation of Algorithms) Lab, with research focusing on **measuring societal impacts** of algorithms and **proposing novel remedies** for algorithmic harms to individuals

Emerging Technology Fellow, xD, U.S. Census Bureau Jun. 2023-Aug. 2025

- Fellowship to explore combining **privacy-preserving technologies** and **algorithmic bias** techniques on government datasets; also advising on **legal** and **policy** aspects of machine learning governance for government
- Created the Census Bureau's first **household-level AI impacts survey questions**

Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Experiential AI, Northeastern University Jan. 2023-Apr. 2024

- Researcher on **responsible AI** team focusing on algorithmic audits and new metrics to quantify the real-world impact of algorithmic systems on people's lives
- Created new method for measurement of political bias in user-personalized large language models

Senior Machine Learning Researcher, Twitter Mar. 2021-Jan. 2023

- **Researcher and project lead** on Twitter's Machine learning Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability (META) team; mentored junior researchers and advised two research intern projects
- Adapted and operationalized **inequality metrics** for measurement of disparate outcomes of ML systems, leading to the definition and implementation of a new set of company-wide metrics that are now used in every A/B testing experiment
- Created Twitter's first **ML ethics 101** for machine learning engineers in collaboration with Twitter's internal education team. This course was deployed across all of Twitter's Cortex ML organization and completed by nearly 200 ML practitioners, with 90% of survey respondents indicating the course was helpful in improving their understanding of responsible ML

Machine Learning Scientist, Lightmatter Mar. 2018-Feb. 2021

- **Team lead** for the ML research team; first member of ML team and helped grow it to a team of 5 researchers, one research engineer, and two interns
- Designed new algorithms to **adapt training and inference in deep neural network architectures** to a novel photonics-based hardware accelerator, enabling speedups and energy savings of ~2-10x depending on workload
- Developed significant portions of the company's core machine learning **patents and intellectual property**, with six pending patent applications (including two sole author patents) and two accepted patents so far

Computational Modeling and Machine Intelligence Scientist, Draper June 2016-Feb. 2018

- Team lead, researcher, and developer for machine learning team in the DARPA MUSE program, applying **deep learning techniques to automatically identify and repair vulnerabilities in software**, achieving state-of-the-art accuracies using NLP-inspired techniques, including sequence-to-sequence neural network architectures

Education

J.D., Northeastern University School of Law

May 2026

Ph.D., Physics, Harvard University

May 2016

Dissertation title: Observation of the Higgs boson in the WW^* channel and search for Higgs boson pair production in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel with the ATLAS detector; Advisors: Prof. João Guimarães da Costa and Prof. Melissa Franklin

A.B., Physics, Harvard University

May 2011

Cum Laude with High Honors in Physics and secondary field in Computer Science

Selected Publications

Lazovich, T.; Williams, L.; Automation in Means-Tested Social Welfare Programs: Challenges and Opportunities, in preparation for Yale Law Journal Forum

Lazovich, T. and the CNTR AISLE team; Mapping the Landscape of AI-related Legislation in the U.S., accepted to APPAM 2026

Lazovich, T.; Borradaile, G.; Confronting the “Medopticon”: Interrogating the Privacy Risks of Pervasive Prescription Surveillance in the Context of Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care, in progress, presented at PLSC 2026

Korver, L.; **Lazovich, T.**; Reda, S.; Large Language Models in K-12 Education: Alignment with State Curriculum Standards and Student Personas, under review for AAAI 2027, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2606.04846>

Shiedlower, I.; **Lazovich, T.**; Suresh, H.; Booth, S.; Rethinking Robot Ownership: Comparing Public, Corporate, and Private Ownership Models, workshoped at WeRobot 2026, final version accepted to AIES 2026

Ramachandranpilai, R.; Tholeti, T.; **Lazovich, T.**; Baeza-Yates, R.; Position: Responsible Practices and Model Performance Are Not Competing Goals, ICML 2026, <https://icml.cc/virtual/2026/poster/67193/>.

Lazovich, T.; Filter Bubbles and Affective Polarization in User-Personalized Large Language Model Outputs; Proceedings of Machine Learning Research Vol. 239, NeurIPS 2023 “I Can’t Believe It’s Not Better” Workshop

Lum, K.; **Lazovich, T.**; The Myth of ‘The Algorithm’: A System-Level View of Algorithmic Amplification; Knight First Amendment Institute, Sep 2023, <https://knightcolumbia.org/content/the-myth-of-the-algorithm-a-system-level-view-of-algorithmic-amplification>

Bandy, J.; **Lazovich, T.**; Exposure to Marginally Abusive Content on Twitter, ICWSM 2023

Bower, A.; Lum, K.; **Lazovich, T.**; Yee, K.; Belli, L.; Random Isn’t Always Fair: Candidate Set Imbalance and Exposure Inequality in Recommender Systems, Sep 2022, FAccTRec Workshop on Responsible Recommendation, RecSys 2022

Lazovich, T.; Belli, L.; Gonzales, A.; Bower, A.; Tantipongpipat, U.; Lum, K.; Huszar, F.; Chowdhury, R.; Measuring Disparate Outcomes of Content Recommendation Algorithms with Distributional Inequality Metrics, Patterns, Aug 2022, DOI 10.1016/j.patter.2022.100568

Sloane, M.; Chowdhury, R.; Havens, J.C.; **Lazovich, T.**; Rincon Alba, L.; AI and Procurement – A Primer, June 2021
Lazovich, T.; Does Deep Learning Have Politics?, Resistance AI Workshop, NeurIPS 2020

Harer J.; Ozdemir, O.; **Lazovich, T.**; Reale, C.; Russell, R.; Kim, L.; Learning To Repair Software Vulnerabilities With Generative Adversarial Networks, NeurIPS 2018

ATLAS Collaboration, Observation of a new particle in the search for the Standard Model Higgs boson with the ATLAS detector at the LHC, Physics Letters B, Volume 716, Issue 1, 17 September 2012