

# Laura Jones Perovich

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MIT Media Lab, Cambridge MA

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## QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Researcher and educator in artistic technology-based approaches to creating awareness and action on environmental issues. Experience in community based technology development including design processes, software development, physical prototyping, and team management.

## EDUCATION

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Ph.D. 2019 exp

Cambridge, Massachusetts

*Media Arts and Sciences*

*Working Thesis: Alternative technologies for scientific engagement to create environmental awareness & action*

*Dissertation Committee: V. Michael Bove, Ethan Zuckerman, Glorianna Davenport*

*Exam Committee: V. Michael Bove, Natalie Jeremijenko, Ethan Zuckerman*

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

S.M. 2015

Cambridge, Massachusetts

*Media Arts and Sciences*

*Thesis: Data Experiences: novel interfaces for data engagement using environmental health data*

*Committee: V. Michael Bove, Hiroshi Ishii, Pattie Maes, Julia G. Brody*

### **Bowdoin College**

A.B. 2005

Brunswick, Maine

*Mathematics (Honors) & Religion; cumulative GPA: 3.867*

### **Copenhagen Institute of Interaction Design**

Coursework, 2011

Copenhagen, Denmark

*Physical Computing & Physical Prototyping*

### **Harvard University**

Coursework, 2008

Boston, Massachusetts

*Regression Analysis & Game Theory*

## PUBLICATIONS

Perovich, L.J. *Environmental Art: a path to civic progress in a time of policy retreat in the United States*. Cogent Arts & Humanities, 5:1, 1-18, 2018.

Perovich, L.J., S. Wylie, R. Bongiovanni. *Pokémon Go, pH, and projectors: applying transformation design and participatory action research to an environmental justice collaboration in Chelsea, MA*. Cogent Arts & Humanities, 5:1, 1-22, 2018.

Perovich, L.J., J.L. Ohayon, E.M. Cousins, R. Morello-Frosch, P. Brown, G. Adamkiewicz, J.G. Brody. *Reporting to parents on children's exposures to asthma triggers in low-income and public housing, an interview-based case study of ethics, environmental literacy, individual action, and public health benefits*. Environmental Health, 17:48, 2018.

Zarate, O., J.G. Brody, P. Brown, M.D. Ramirez-Andreotta, L. Perovich, J. Matz. *Balancing Benefits and Risks of Immortal Data: Participants' Views of Open Consent in the Personal Genome Project*. The Hastings Center Report, Vol 46, Issue 1, p. 36-45, January/February 2016.

- Perovich, L., P. Mothersill, J. Broutin-Farah. *Awakened Apparel: Embedded Soft Actuators for Expressive Fashion and Functional Garments*. TEI: International Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction, 2014; Germany.
- Dodson, R.E., N. Van den Eede, A. Covaci, L.J. Perovich, J.G. Brody, R.A. Rudel. *Urinary Biomonitoring of Phosphate Flame Retardants: Levels in California Adults and Recommendations for Future Studies*. Environ. Sci. Technol., 2014, 48 (23), pp 13625–13633
- Ervin, C., D. Dand, R. Hemsley, D. Nunez, L. Perovich. *What's Cookin?: A Platform for Remote Collaboration*. CHI 2013 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems: 2799-2800.
- Dodson, R.E., L.J. Perovich, A. Covaci, N. Van den Eede, A.C. Ionas, A.C. Dirtu, J.G. Brody, R.A. Rudel. *After the PBDE phase-out: A broad suite of flame retardants in repeat house dust samples from California*. Environmental Science & Technology, 2012; 46 (24).
- Rudel, R.A. and L.J. Perovich. *Accurate risk-based chemical screening relies on robust exposure estimates*. Toxicological Sciences, 2012; 128 (1): 295-296.
- Dodson, R.E., M. Nishioka, L.J. Standley, L.J. Perovich, J.G. Brody, R.A. Rudel. *Endocrine Disruptors and Asthma-Associated Chemicals in Consumer Products*. Environmental Health Perspectives, July 2012; 120(7): 935–943.
- Rudel R.A., R.E. Dodson, L.J. Perovich, R. Morello-Frosch, D.E. Camann, M.M Zuniga, A.Y. Yau, A. Just, J.G. Brody. *Semivolatile endocrine disrupting compounds in paired indoor and outdoor air in two northern California communities*. Environmental Science & Technology. 2010. 44 (17): 6583–6590.
- Rudel R.A., L.J. Perovich. *Endocrine disrupting chemicals in indoor and outdoor air*. Atmospheric Environment. 2009; 43: 170-181.
- Taylor S., E. Campbell, L. Perovich, J. Lever, J. Pennington. *Characteristics of Composition B particles from blow in-place detonations*. Chemosphere. 2006 Nov; 65(8):1405-13.
- Lever J.H., S. Taylor, L. Perovich, K. Bjella, B. Packer. *Dissolution of composition B detonation residuals*. Environmental Science & Technology. 2005 Nov, 15;39(22):8803-11.
- Taylor S, A. Hewitt, J. Lever, C. Hayes, L. Perovich, P. Thorne, C. Daghlian. *TNT particle size distributions from detonated 155-mm howitzer rounds*. Chemosphere. 2004 Apr; 55(3):357-67.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **MIT Media Lab Research Assistant**

*Cambridge, Massachusetts  
September 2012 - present*

Research artistic technology-based approaches to engaging new communities with environmental issues to create change. Develop and evaluate novel data physicalizations of indoor pollutants in Boston public housing communities. Launch participatory action research project on environmental justice and water quality in Chelsea, MA with GreenRoots and Northeastern University. Synthesize diverse disciplines, create prototypes, and mentor undergraduate students to create new research areas and partnerships.

### **Silent Spring Institute Research Assistant**

*Newton, Massachusetts  
September 2007 - September 2012*

Researched environmental health, including endocrine disruptors and emerging indoor containments connected to health issues including cancer. Contributed to community based participatory research and participant data reporting. Established research program on participant privacy in open source data and assisted in proposal writing and development. Managed data and conducted statistical analyses to publish research in partnership with Harvard University and Brown University.

### **Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratories (ERDC-CRREL) Research Assistant**

*Hanover, New Hampshire  
Summers 2002 - 2004*

Conducted experiments on the environmental impact of explosive residue on military training grounds. Assisted in refining experimental procedures and writing publications.

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

- Workshop leader, Dagstuhl Seminar (with Dr. Till Nagel & Dr. Dietmar Offenhuber) Fall 2018  
*Co-taught and designed materials for a hands-on workshop “Environmental Art as Physicalization Technique” as part of the Dagstuhl seminar on Data Physicalization.*
- Collaborating instructor, Microsoft High School Summer Research Program Summer 2018  
*Designed materials and scoped technical project related to SeeBoat research for Microsoft Cambridge’s first high school summer internship program. Collaborated with Microsoft employees to support student work.*
- Visiting lecturer & co-teacher, Northeastern University (with Dr. Sara Wylie) Fall 2017  
*Co-taught and designed materials for hands-on data explorations in sociology graduate methods course Community-Based Participatory Research. Led data physicalization and reporting discussions.*
- Instructor & organizer, Environmental Justice & Citizen Science Workshops 2016 - present  
*Designed and co-taught weekly summer workshops in Chelsea, MA based in a participatory action research framework and assisted with technology workshops at Northeastern University.*
- Instructor & organizer, “Fabrication from Fabric” Independent Activities Period Course 2014  
*Prepared curricula and co-taught project-based intensive course on clothing design and fabrication.*
- Undergraduate mentor & supervisor, MIT Media Lab 2014 - present
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|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Kristin Zimmerman</i>                                     | <i>Spring 2014</i>             |
| <i>Dayanna A Espinoza Silva</i>                              | <i>Summer 2014</i>             |
| <i>Phoebe Cai</i>  | <i>Fall 2015 - Spring 2016</i> |
| <i>Amber Guo</i>   | <i>Spring 2016</i>             |
| <i>Susan Seijo Mendez, University of Puerto Rico</i>         | <i>Summer 2016</i>             |
| <i>Katrina Hinojosa</i>                                      | <i>Fall 2016</i>               |
| <i>Jose Soto Rivera</i>                                      | <i>Fall 2016</i>               |
| <i>Robert Henning</i>  | <i>Fall 2016 - Spring 2017</i> |
| <i>Claudia Chen</i>  | <i>Fall 2016 - Spring 2017</i> |
| <i>Patricia Lu</i>   | <i>Spring 2017</i>             |
| <i>Sophia Struckman</i>                                      | <i>Summer 2017</i>             |
| <i>Katherine Paseman</i>                                     | <i>Summer 2017-Spring 2018</i> |
| <i>Rod Bayliss</i>   | <i>Fall 2017</i>               |
| <i>Emily Schachtele, Northeastern University (co-mentor)</i> | <i>Spring 2018</i>             |
| <i>Yaseen Alkhafaji</i>                                      | <i>Spring 2018</i>             |
| <i>Xavier Mojica, GreenRoots (co-mentor)</i>                 | <i>Summer 2018</i>             |
| <i>Shawn Sullivan, Northeastern University (co-mentor)</i>   | <i>Fall 2018</i>               |
| <i>Michael Still, Boston University (co-mentor)</i>          | <i>Fall 2018</i>               |
| <i>Maggie Zhang</i>  | <i>Fall 2018</i>               |
| <i>Gustavo Santiago Reyes</i>                                | <i>Fall 2018</i>               |
| <i>Jacqueline Chen</i>                                       | <i>Fall 2018</i>               |
- Math Teacher & Project Coordinator, Peace Corps Guinea 2005 - 2007  
*Prepared curricula and taught 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade math classes of 40 to 70 students. Developed curricula to conduct an 11-week teacher-training program and trained 29 Peace Corps trainees using participatory teaching methods.*
- Program Founder and Gymnastics Instructor, Austine School for the Deaf 2000 - 2001  
*Launched and coordinated a physical education gymnastics program, instructing ten Deaf students in a weekly 90-minute gymnastics class.*

## ACTIVITIES

Member, MIT Media Lab Diversity Committee	2013 - present
Arts Scholar, MIT	2016 - present
Reviewer, Students Offering Support Program, MIT Media Lab	2015 - present
Reviewer, MIT Summer Research Program, MIT	2018
Guest Critic, Environment, Technology and Society, Northeastern University	2016
Guide, Anita Borg Computer Science School Visit Day, MIT	2016
Participant, MIT Conflict Management Training, Tiers 1-3	2015
Reviewer, Maker Portfolios for Undergraduate Admissions, MIT	2015
Paper Reviewer, UbiComp Workshop Session	2015
Organizer, Media Lab PhD critique group	2015 - present
Dancer, MIT Ballroom Dance Team	2012 - present
Fiber Artist	1995 - present

## AWARDS & GRANTS

Recipient, CRESSH grant (with Dr. Sara Wylie & Roseann Bongiovanni) <i>\$15,000 9-month support of community based data physicalization research</i>	2018
Materials Grant, Council for the Arts at MIT	2017
2nd place winner, Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts at MIT	2016
Graduate Student RA Fellowship, MIT Media Lab <i>Elements Environmental Fellowship starting 2018</i>	2012 - present
Recipient, Knight Foundation Prototype grant <i>\$35,000 six-month support of data experience research</i>	2013
Semi-finalist, Knight Foundation News Challenge: Health grant	2013
Goldwater Scholar for Exceptional Work and Potential in the Sciences	2004 - 2005
Phi Beta Kappa, <i>magna cum laude</i> , Bowdoin College	2005
Varsity Softball Athlete, Bowdoin College <i>Co-Captain: 2003-2004 and 2004-2005</i>	2001 - 2005
Varsity Indoor Track & Field Pole Vaulter and Thrower, Bowdoin College, <i>School Record Holder &amp; DIII National Championship Competitor, 20-pound weight</i>	2002 - 2005