

Lauren Gilbert

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Summary

Researcher and policy analyst specializing in global development, innovation and quantitative methods, with a track record of managing multi-million-dollar portfolios and leading cross-sector teams across academia, philanthropy, and technology.

Work Experience

Renaissance Philanthropy

London, UK

Programme Manager, Horizon Scanning Study Group

2025 -

- Founding programme manager of RenPhil's horizon scanning work
 - Launched and lead the UK Advanced Research and Invention Agency's horizon-scanning study group, innovating on the DARPA Information Science and Technology Study Group model to identify breakthrough opportunities in AI, robotics, and compute.
 - Coordinated a global network of leading scientists and technologists (e.g., Adam Marblestone, John Dabiri, Paul Freemont) to assess UK science and tech priorities.
- Strengthened UK science ecosystem by reviewing applicants for the Higgs community and Ember program, selecting early-stage innovators with high-potential ideas
- Secured \$200,000 in philanthropic funding (Arnold Ventures) to advance diagnostic innovation in blood lead testing, hiring a domain expert and developing a target product profile.
- Safeguarded and delivered UK retreats for Big If True Science Accelerator and Horizon Scanning Study Group, supporting 50+ scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs in transforming bold concepts into actionable program designs

Open Philanthropy

remote

Research Fellow

2021 - 2024

- Directed cross-cutting research across 26 cause areas, using quantitative modelling to shape Open Philanthropy's strategy
- Designed and ran \$6M RFP in social science research, resulting in high-impact grants across development and policy.
- Managed \$5.7M active portfolio, monitoring grantee performance and outcomes.
- Supervised and mentored PhD interns and consultants, building research capacity.
- Published policy reports on [telecommunications in LMICs](#) and [civil conflict reduction](#)

Quite Interesting

remote

Elf (Researcher)

2016 - 2024

- Wrote @qikipedia Twitter feed two days per week (1.3 million followers, 25 million views/week)
- Wrote QI Facebook content (400,000 followers, 3.5 million views/week)
- Contributed to 222 *QI Answers to Your Quite Ingenious Questions*, *1234 Facts To Leave You Speechless* and other Amazon.co.uk bestsellers
- Broadcast contributor on BBC Radio 2's The Breakfast Show With Zoe Ball (16x)

Ericsson

remote

Graduate Researcher

2020-2021

- Worked on the use of AI to support accessibility and privacy in VR/AR, using 5G technology
- Co-authored two patents in extended reality technology.

Consulting

Independent Consulting & Writing

remote

Freelance

2020 -

- Publications in The Washington Post (1, 2), The Economist, Foreign Policy, Works in Progress (1, 2), Asterisk Magazine (1, 2, 3)
- Built audience of 800+ subscribers for Lauren Policy, a grant-supported living literature review.

Centre for British Progress / UK Day One

remote

Fellow / Senior Researcher

2024 -

- Organizer of Women in UK Science and Technology Policy meetup
- Author (with Ed Hezlet) of [Air conditioning: Saving lives and accelerating net-zero](#)
- Additional research on lead exposure, science and technology policy, energy and immigration policy in the UK

Energy for Growth Hub

remote

Fellow

2024 -

- Produced research and policy briefs on energy policy in developing countries
- Published reports: [Cheap Electricity, Expensive Consequences](#), [To Drive Structural Transformation, Stop Counting Connections - Focus First on Ensuring Reliable Electricity](#)

University of Chicago Development Innovation Lab

remote

Contractor

2024 -

- Editing and revision of work on using AI for weather forecasting in Prof. Michael Kremer's research group

- Evaluation of social science projects for 2025 call for proposals

Education

University of California, San Diego

San Diego, California

MA in Political Science

2020

- ABD December 2021
- Subfields: political methodology and comparative politics
- Teaching responsibilities included PhD-level quantitative methods and causal inference classes
- Awarded grants from Gates Foundation COVID-19 Research Accelerator, University of Michigan COVID-19 Small Rapid Grant Program, UCSD International Institute, Sanford Lakoff Fund

University of California, San Diego

San Diego, California

MSc in Physics

2018

- San Diego Fellow
- Sloan Minority PhD Scholar

California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, California

BS in Physics

2016

Publications

LIVING LITERATURE REVIEW

Lauren Policy

Newsletter on migration, policy, and innovation.

Living literature review posts supported by \$45,000 grant from Open Philanthropy's Innovation Policy program

ACADEMIC WRITING

Power, Parity, Projection: How Distance and Uncertainty Condition the Balance of Power

Erik Gartzke, Alex Braithwaite, Michael Hulme, Lauren Gilbert

Accepted at Journal of Conflict Resolution

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on treatment for domestic violence injuries: evidence from medical claims.

Lauren Gilbert, Susan Parker, Lauren Schechter

Review of Economics of the Household pp. 535–562. 2024

PATENTS

Moderating a user's sensory experience with respect to an extended reality

Gregoire Phillips, Paul McLachlan, Lauren Ann Gilbert

December 2020

Methods and devices related to extended reality

Paul McLachlan, Lauren Ann Gilbert

December 2020

Skills and Awards

Appointments

Fellow at [Energy for Growth Hub](#), [Roots of Progress](#), [Centre for British Progress](#)

Fellowships

2023 [Tarbell Fellow](#), 2016-2018 San Diego Fellow, 2016-2018 Sloan Scholar

Grants Awarded

Emergent Ventures (2025), Arnold Ventures (2025), Open Philanthropy (2024), Gates Foundation (2021) Sanford Lakoff Award (2021), University of Michigan (2020), Sloan Foundation (2016)

Programming Languages

R, Python, C++, Java, Fortran 90/77, MATLAB

Data Science and Statistics

Stata, Stan

Software

SolidWorks, LabView, \LaTeX , Microsoft Office, Airtable, Google Docs/Sheets

Coursework Taught

Causal Inference, Quantitative Methods for Social Science

Miscellaneous

Stanford Linear Accelerator Center Qualified Laser Operator

References available upon request.