

William T. Adler, Ph.D.

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POLICY EXPERIENCE

Senior Technologist, Elections & Democracy (2020 – present)

[Center for Democracy & Technology](#); Washington, DC

AAAS Congressional Science & Engineering Fellow (2019 – 2020)

[Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren](#); Washington, DC

- **Conducted oversight investigations** of the federal government and private sector, leading dozens of projects on privacy, cybersecurity, internet architecture, COVID-19 response, and corruption. Most investigations received coverage from major news outlets.
- **Supported the Senator's legislative priorities** by researching, reviewing, and drafting legislation related to privacy and disaster preparedness.
- **Drafted and edited communications material** related to the above, including press releases, statements, and tweets to the Senator's millions of followers.

Computational Research Specialist (2018 – 2019)

[Princeton Gerrymandering Project](#); Princeton University; Princeton, NJ

- **Authored popular press pieces**, including: an interactive piece in the [New York Times](#) the day after Election Day 2018 explaining the role that gerrymandering played in the results; an interactive piece in [FiveThirtyEight](#) explaining a metric used in a 2019 Supreme Court case about NC's congressional districts.
- **Helped draft legislation** (the [Voting Precinct Transparency Act](#)) requiring NJ State to share election data on a publicly available website. (Bill was enacted after passing the NJ Legislature unanimously.)
- **Authored a peer-reviewed paper** (in [Physica A](#)) clarifying a controversy about methods for detecting outlier district maps. (Paper was cited in plaintiffs' [expert report](#) in *Common Cause v. Lewis*, the successful 2019 challenge to NC's state legislative districts.)
- **Provided public testimony** before the NJ Legislature about a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the state legislative redistricting process. Provided interviews to press outlets on this topic.

Founder (founded 2016, personally active 2016 – 2019)

[Scientist Action and Advocacy Network \(ScAAN\)](#); New York University; New York, NY

- **Launched a group of scientists who partner with policy organizations**, providing pro bono scientific consulting including analysis and brief, targeted literature reviews.
- **Produced brief reports intended to promote policy change** with scientific evidence, on topics including the [age of criminal responsibility](#), [solitary confinement](#), and [plastic bag fees](#).
- **Promoted the group and its model** of scientific policy engagement by authoring a piece in [Scientific American](#), giving talks.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Neuroscience (2013 – 2018); New York University; New York, NY. Published first-author papers in [Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences](#), [PLOS Computational Biology](#), [Neural Computation](#).

B.A., Psychology (2006 – 2010); Carleton College; Northfield, MN. Graduated *magna cum laude*.

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2015 – 2018), a grant providing tuition and stipend for the majority of my graduate training.

NYU President's Service Award (2018), awarded for commitment to civic engagement and service.

New York Academy of Sciences Science Alliance Leadership Training Fellow (2017)

Society for Neuroscience Early Career Policy Ambassador (2017)

NYU Dean's Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award in the Sciences (2016), awarded to one graduate student teaching assistant each year.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

See [Google Scholar](#) for full publication list.

Adler, W.T., Koeze, E. (2019). [One way to spot a partisan gerrymander](#). *FiveThirtyEight*.

Adler, W.T., Thompson, S.A. (2018). [The 'blue wave' wasn't enough to overcome Republican gerrymanders](#). *The New York Times*.

Williams, B., **Adler, W.T.**, Wang, S.S.-H. (2018). [Lawmakers should fix inequitable district lines](#). *The Virginian-Pilot*.

Adler, W.T. (2018). [Here's how scientists can become more politically engaged](#). *Scientific American*.

Adler, W.T., Wang, S.S.-H. (2019). [Response to Cho and Liu, "Sampling from complicated and unknown distributions: Monte Carlo and Markov chain Monte Carlo methods for redistricting."](#) *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*.

Adler, W.T., Wheelen, H. (2019). OpenPrecincts: A collaborative resource for redistricting reform. Invited talk presented at the Southern California Linux Expo, Pasadena, CA.

Adler, W.T. (2018). An open-source approach to advancing redistricting reform: Virginia as case study. Invited talk presented at the Quantifying Redistricting workshop, Duke University, Durham, NC.