

Ben Berners-Lee
Curriculum Vitae

Wellesley Centers for Women
Wellesley College
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Education

Ph.D., Communication and Cognitive Science 2018 – 2023
University of California San Diego, La Jolla CA

Dissertation: *Coping with Broken Data and Environmental Contingencies in Interaction: An Observational Study of a Digital Mental Health Trial*

B.S., Politics of Representation (Valedictorian) 2014 – 2017
Emerson College, Boston MA

Professional appointments

Associate Research Scientist September 2025 –
Wellesley Centers for Women
Wellesley College, Wellesley MA

Postdoctoral Research Scientist July 2024 – September 2025
Wellesley Centers for Women
Wellesley College, Wellesley MA

Research

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Berners-Lee, B. (Under Review). When Calculation and Interpretation Escape Their Domains: Observations from a Machine Learning Based Psychiatry Intervention. *Big Data & Society*.

Sjogren, A., Meldrum, M., Griffith, A., Zabek, F., **Berners-Lee, B.**, Wolfe, J., Hazel, W., Deutsch, N., Lyons, M. **(Under Review).** Integrating School-based and Out-of-School Supports

for Youth Mental Health: A Liberatory Design Thinking Approach. *Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy*.

Berners-Lee, B. (2025). Training Humans to Supplement a Machine Learning System: The Role of Guides in a Digital Mental Health Intervention. *Social Science & Medicine*. 365, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117586>.

Berners-Lee, B. (2024) In the absence of meaning: care practices and environmental factors behind the multiple selves of the digital psychiatry participant. *Social Theory & Health*, 22, 248-268. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41285-024-00206-5>.

Berners-Lee, B. (2023). Reconciling healthism and techno-solutionism: An observational study of a digital mental health trial. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 46(1), <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13683>.

Berners-Lee, B. (2023). The semiotics of digital cartography at the Geoguessr interface: A practice-oriented case study. *New Media & Society*, 26(12). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448231160132>.

Berners-Lee, B. (2022). Accommodating representation in the neuroscience of memory: a conceptual blending analysis of replay and preplay in hippocampal place cell research. *Cognitive Semiotics*, 15(2), 175-196. <https://doi.org/10.1515/cogsem-2022-2015>.

Selected presentations

Berners-Lee, B. (November 16, 2023) Conversational resources for modeling digital phenotyping guidance as a supplement to machine learning based technologies for mental health. NCA 109th Annual Convention, National Harbor, MD.

Berners-Lee, B. (November 9, 2023) The Temporalities of Behavioral Data for Mental Health (panel: “Cognitive Assemblages: Persons, Sensors, Networks”). Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) 2023 Conference, Honolulu, HI.

Berners-Lee, B. (October 13, 2023) The interplay of embodied experiences and data flows: reconciling participant self-reports and sensor data in a digital mental health trial. Union for Democratic Communications 2023 conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Berners-Lee, B. (October 6, 2023) Cultural Responsiveness, Self-image and Career Planning: An Intern Interviewing Study. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE). 2023 Kick-off Meeting, Devens, MA.

Berners-Lee, B. (2022, December 7–10) Digitizing, Translating and Explaining Activity: Ethnographic Insights on a Machine Learning Based Psychiatric Intervention (Panel: Artificial Intelligence, Health and Knowledge: Data Infrastructures for Life Itself). Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) 2022 Conference, Cholula, Mexico.

Berners-Lee, B. (2022, August 30–September 3) Digital Cartography as a Multimodal Semiotic Achievement. World Congress of Semiotics (IASS/AIS), Thessaloniki, Greece.

Berners-Lee, B. (2021, October 6–9) Instructions and Instructed Actions in Training Data Production for Machine Learning. Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) 2021 Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Funding

External Grants

Overdeck Family Foundation Grant 2024 – 2026

Overdeck Family Foundation

STEM OST: Training, recruiting, and retaining a high-quality STEM workforce in out-of-school time.

Role: Research analyst

Spencer Vision Grant 2023 – 2025

Spencer Foundation

Coordinating mental health support to advance equity goals within in- and after- school settings.

Role: Research expert

21ST Century Community Learning Centers Technical Assistance Grant 2023 –

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Role: Methodologist

Internal Awards

Nominated Scholar, 2025 Celebration of Scholarship

Wagner Centers for Wellesley in the World

Harold Benenson Memorial Research Fund Award (2025)

Pilot Study to Develop a Novel Participatory Video Ethnography Method

Role: Principal Investigator

Herbert I. Schiller Communication Dissertation Fellowship (2022-2023)

Excel Academy Teaching Fellowship (2018)

Emerson College Honors Thesis Award: “With Distinction” (2017)

Emerson College Gold Key Scholarship (2015-17)

Emerson College Trustees Scholarship (2015-17)

Research Training

Emotional Well-Being & Physical Health Summer Short Course June 2025

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health & University College London

Teaching

Instructor of record	2022
UC San Diego Department of Communication Advanced topics in interaction and mediation (new course)	
Teaching assistant	2019–2022
UC San Diego Department of Communication Introduction to Communication (3) Communication, the Person and Everyday Life Communication, Culture and Representation Communication, Institutions and Power (2) Propaganda and Persuasion (2) Interaction and Technology	
Teaching fellow	2018
Excel Academy Public Charter High School	

Pedagogy trainings & seminars

Mental Health First-Aid. 2024. Wellesley College Office of Student Wellness. Wellesley MA.

Creating A Culture of Care: Supporting Students in Distress Training. 2022. UCSD Teaching and Learning Commons. La Jolla, CA.

Incorporating insights from CAPE evaluations. 2021. UCSD Teaching and Learning Commons. La Jolla, CA.

Students In Distress. 2020. Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC). La Jolla, CA.

Universities and the Prison Industrial Complex. 2020. Boston College. Boston MA.

Enhancing Resilience in Youth Through Culture Identity and Trauma. 2017. Enroot Education. Cambridge MA.

Service

Representative to the Academic Council	2025-2026
Wellesley College Administrative Council	
Qualifying Examination Mentor	2023-24
UCSD Dept. of Communication	
Committee Member	2019–2020
Graduate Enrichment Committee, UCSD Dept. of Communication	
Convener	2020–2021
Ad-hoc Committee for TA Support, UCSD Dept. of Communication	
Secretary	2016–2017
Emerson College Gold Key Society	

Peer Reviewer

Digital Health

Technology in Society

Social Theory & Health

Big Data & Society

Sociology of Health & Illness

Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy

Professional associations

Society for Digital Mental Health

Society for the Social Studies of Science

National Communication Association

Union for Democratic Communication

International Association for Semiotic Studies