

How to cover 11,250 elections at once: Here's how The Washington Post's new computational journalism lab will tackle 2020 | Nieman Journalism Lab

By Christine Schmidt

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Hold onto your robots: The future of journalism is exceedingly computational. (At least part of it.) And the 2020 U.S. election is a great place to start.

Newsrooms worldwide are trying to infuse their reporting with more data and computational analysis (see: [The New York Times' data training](#)). The engineering-heavy Washington Post newsroom [has used bots, automation, and large-scale data in its reporting before](#), perhaps notably with its Heliograf tool to automatically write stories from data.

But now The Washington Post is going a step further, creating a [computational political journalism lab](#) — we'll unpack what that term means in a sec — just in time for the 2020 political campaigns. The R&D lab, orchestrated by director of engineering [Jeremy Bowers](#), will work with Northwestern assistant professor and algorithmic reporting expert [Nick Diakopoulos](#) and have between three to six contributors.

[...]

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