

# Aleksandr Fisher

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## Education

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### George Washington University

Ph.D. in Political Science

Washington, DC

2019

### George Washington University

M.A in Political Science

Washington, DC

2017

### Temple University

B.A. in History and Political Science

Philadelphia, PA

2014

## Experience

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### The College Board

Data Analyst

Newtown, PA

Jan. 2020 - Present

- Developed SAS and Python code that increased productivity and accuracy of the quality management processes related to the SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9
- Built a web application in Python/Flask to automate the creation of excel spreadsheets that tracks how College Board products align with state standards, reduced process time by dozens of hours every month
- Created new archives or archive features that added significant value to psychometric work

### George Washington University

Ph.D. Candidate

Washington, DC

Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2019

- Designed, implemented, and analyzed five survey experiments in the U.S. and Russia to identify the causal effect of exposure to foreign disinformation; results published in academic journal
- Aggregated and cleaned cross-national survey data in 50 countries from 2012 to 2017 using R and Stata to compare changes in countries' international influence; results published in academic journal
- Conducted a large-scale (N~2,000) survey experiment in the United States to test how presidents can talk themselves out of foreign policy escalations, results published in an academic journal and the *Washington Post*

### Insight Data Science

Data Science Fellow

New York, NY

Sept. 2019 - Nov 2019

- Built an end-to-end product in Python/Flask for an early-stage startup in three weeks that predicts respondents' severity of depression from text inputs using a random forest model
- Cleaned unstructured text data using Pandas and NLTK, created predictive features using tf-idf and sentiment analysis, and compared machine learning models using scikit-learn
- Predicted people's level of depression within 2 points on a 16-point clinically verified scale, doubling the accuracy of a baseline model

## Academic Positions

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### Haverford College

Assistant Professor

Haverford, PA

Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2020

- Designed and instructed *Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Political Science* which included lessons on causal inference, regression, and data manipulation/visualization in **R** (Undergraduate students)

### Jefferson University

Instructor

Philadelphia, PA

Jan. 2019 - May 2019

- Designed and instructed two sections of *Debating Global Issues*, which included lessons on economic globalization, development, and regime change (Undergraduate students)

### George Washington University

Instructor

Washington, DC

Sept. 2018 - August. 2018

- Designed and instructed a summer course *Science, Technology, and Politics*, which explored the influence of AI on political processes (Undergraduate students)
- Led a 4-day course reviewing fundamental math principles including probability and hypothesis tests; instruction in basic **R** (Doctoral students)
- Teaching assistant for *Introduction to Empirical Political Analysis* (Doctoral students)
- Teaching assistant for *Nonlinear Models* (Doctoral students)
- Led discussion sections for *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Undergraduate students)

## Peer Reviewed Publications

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- Fisher, Aleksandr. "Demonizing the enemy: the influence of Russian state-sponsored media on American audiences." *Post-Soviet Affairs* (2020): 1-16. [Link]
- Fisher, Aleksandr. "Trickle Down Soft Power: Do Russia's Ties to European Parties Influence Public Opinion?." *Foreign Policy Analysis* (2020). [Link]
- Fisher, Aleksandr. "A New Cold War? International Public Opinion of Russia and the United States." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 32.1 (2020): 143-152. [Link]
- Evers, Miles M., Aleksandr Fisher, and Steven D. Schaaf. "Is There a Trump Effect? An Experiment on Political Polarization and Audience Costs." *Perspectives on Politics* 17.2 (2019): 433-452. [Link]

## Policy Publications

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- If Trump backs down from his latest Iran threat, will he lose support? We checked. *Washington Post, Monkey Cage*, 2019, with Miles M. Evers and Steven Schaaf. [Link]
- Perceptions of Russian Interference in U.S. Elections Matters as Much as Actual Involvement. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2019. [Link]
- Moldova and Ukraine: Diverging Neighbors? *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2017. [Link]
- Ukraine's Struggle for Democracy: Severe Challenges Ahead. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015, with Amb. Adrian Basora. [Link]
- Putin's Greater Novorossiia: The Dismemberment of Ukraine. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015, with Amb. Adrian Basora. [Link]
- Home-Grown Terrorism: Russia's Ticking Bomb. *ISN, Center for Security Studies (CSS)*, 2015, with Maia Otarashvili. [Link]
- Ukraine Crisis Timeline as of January 30, 2015. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015. [Link]

## Invited Workshops

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- American Political Science Association, *Washington, DC* 2019
- Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, *Chicago, IL* 2017-2019
- 5th Student Conference for Trajectories of Change, *Berlin, Germany* 2019
- Annual DC Area Comparative Workshop, *George Washington University* 2019
- Junior Scholar's Symposium, *Cato Institute* 2018
- Comparative Politics Workshop, *George Washington University* 2018
- Annual DC Area Comparative Workshop, *Georgetown University* 2018
- ASN Convention, *Columbia University* 2018
- Regime Evolution, Institutional Change, and Social Transformation in Russia, *Yale University* 2018
- Post-Communist Workshop, *George Washington University* 2017
- Rethinking Russian Media Strategy and Influence, *George Washington University* 2017

## Awards

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- Summer Dissertation Fellowship, *George Washington University* 2019
- Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, *George Washington University* 2019
- Trajectories of Change' Fieldwork Grant, *ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius* 2019
- Bradley Fellowship, *The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation* 2018
- Hoffman Dissertation Fellowship, *Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies* 2018
- Shirley H. and Robert L. Richards Endowment Scholarship, *George Washington University* 2017
- Rumsfeld Foundation Graduate Fellow, *Rumsfeld Foundation* 2017
- Humane Studies Fellowship, *Institute for Humane Studies* 2017
- Graduate Research Fund, *George Washington University* 2016
- Michael Hoffman Fund, *Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies* 2016
- Professor Edward R. and Essie Baron Memorial, *Temple University* 2014
- Ronald C. Schwarzkopf Endowed Award in Political Science, *Temple University* 2014

## Technical Skills

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**Languages:** Python, R, Stata, SAS, SQL, Latex,

**Tools:** Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, Spacy, BeautifulSoup, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Flask

**Quantitative Methods:** Survey experiments, natural experiments, machine learning, decision trees, random forest, natural language processing, cluster analysis, various time-series cross-sectional models, causal mediation analysis, multinomial logistic regression, factor analysis, web scraping