Aleksandr Fisher

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Education ─────────────────────────────────

George Washington University   *Washington, DC*
Ph.D. in Political Science   *2019*

George Washington University   *Washington, DC*
M.A in Political Science   *2017*

Temple University   *Philadelphia, PA*
B.A. in History and Political Science   *2014*

Academic Positions ───────────────────────

Haverford College   *Haverford, PA*
Assistant Professor   *Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2020*

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

Jefferson University   *Philadelphia, PA*
Instructor   *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   *Washington, DC*
Instructor   *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)

Non-Academic Experience ────────────────────

The College Board   *Newtown, PA*
Data Analyst   *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

Insight Data Science   *New York, NY*
Data Science Fellow   *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

Peer Reviewed Publications ─────────────────

- 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

- 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 Novorossiya: 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

- 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*
- Post-Communist Workshop, *George Washington University*   *2016*

Awards

- 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

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