

# NICK STRAYER

I have made visualizations viewed by hundreds of thousands of people<sup>1</sup>, sped up query times for 25 terabytes of data by an average of 4,800 times<sup>2</sup>, and built packages for R<sup>3</sup> that let you do magic<sup>4</sup>.

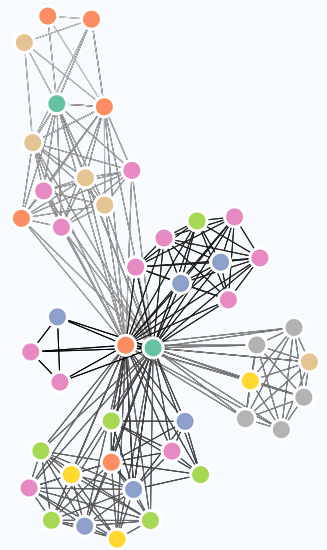
Currently searching for a position that allows me to build tools leveraging a combination of visualization, machine learning, and software engineering to help people explore and understand their data in new and useful ways.

## EDUCATION

- Current  
|  
2015
- **PhD. Candidate, Biostatistics**  
Vanderbilt University 📍 Nashville, TN
    - Working on Bayesian network models & interactive visualization platforms
    - University Graduate Fellow
  - **B.S., Mathematics, Statistics (minor C.S.)**  
University of Vermont 📍 Burlington, VT
    - Thesis: An agent based model of Diel Vertical Migration patterns of *Mysis diluviana*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Current  
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2015
- **Graduate Research Assistant**  
TBILab (Yaomin Xu's Lab) 📍 Vanderbilt University
    - Primarily working with large EHR and Biobank datasets.
    - Developing network-based methods to investigate and visualize clinically relevant patterns in data.
  - **Data Science Researcher**  
Data Science Lab 📍 Johns Hopkins University
    - Building R Shiny applications in the contexts of wearables and statistics education.
    - Work primarily done in R Shiny and Javascript (node and d3.js).
  - **Undergraduate Researcher**  
Rubenstein Ecosystems Science Laboratory 📍 University of Vermont
    - Analyzed and visualized data for CATOS fish tracking project.
    - Head of data mining project to establish temporal trends in population densities of *Mysis diluviana* (Mysis).
    - Ran project to mathematically model the migration patterns of Mysis (honors thesis project.)



View this CV online with links at [nickstrayer.me/cv/](http://nickstrayer.me/cv/)

## CONTACT

✉ [nick.strayer@gmail.com](mailto:nick.strayer@gmail.com)

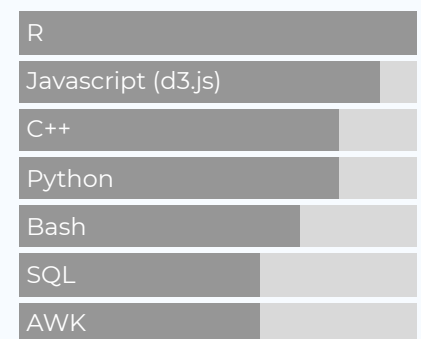
🐦 [NicholasStrayer](https://twitter.com/NicholasStrayer)

🐙 [github.com/nstrayer](https://github.com/nstrayer)

🌐 [nickstrayer.me](http://nickstrayer.me)

in [linkedin.com/in/nickstrayer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nickstrayer)




## LANGUAGE SKILLS



Made with the R package [page-down](https://github.com/nstrayer/page-down).






The source code is available on [github.com/nstrayer/cv](https://github.com/nstrayer/cv).

Last updated on 2020-05-19.

- 2015 ● **Human Computer Interaction Researcher**  
LabInTheWild (Reineke Lab)  University of Michigan
- Led development and implementation of interactive data visualizations to help users compare themselves to other demographics.
- 2014  
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2013 ● **Undergraduate Researcher**  
Bentil Laboratory  University of Vermont
- Developed mathematical model to predict the transport of sulfur through the environment with applications in waste cleanup.
- 2013  
|  
2012 ● **Research Assistant**  
Adair Laboratory  University of Vermont
- Independently analyzed and constructed statistical models for large data sets pertaining to carbon decomposition rates.



## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- 2016 ● **Data Journalist - Graphics Department**  
New York Times  New York, New York
- Reporter with the graphics desk covering topics in science, politics, and sport.
  - Work primarily done in R, Javascript, and Adobe Illustrator.
- 2015 ● **Engineering Intern - User Experience**  
Dealer.com  Burlington, VT
- Built internal tool to help analyze and visualize user interaction with back-end products.
- 2015 ● **Data Science Intern**  
Dealer.com  Burlington, VT
- Worked with the product analytics team to help parse and visualize large stores of data to drive business decisions.
- 2015  
|  
2014 ● **Data Artist In Residence**  
Conduce  Carpinteria, CA
- Envisioned, prototyped and implemented visualization framework in the course of one month.
  - Constructed training protocol for bringing third parties up to speed with new protocol.
- 2014 ● **Software Engineering Intern**  
Conduce  Carpinteria, CA
- Incorporated d3.js to the company's main software platform.

I have worked in a variety of roles ranging from journalist to software engineer to data scientist. I like collaborative environments where I can learn from my peers.



## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020 • **Javascript for Shiny Users**  
RStudio::conf 2020
- Served as TA for two day workshop on how to leverage Javascript in Shiny applications
  - Lectured on using R2D3 package to build interactive visualizations.<sup>5</sup>
- 2019 • **Data Visualization Best Practices**  
DataCamp
- Designed from bottom up course to teach best practices for scientific visualizations.
  - Uses R and ggplot2.
  - In top 10% on platform by popularity.
- 2019 • **Improving your visualization in Python**  
DataCamp
- Designed from bottom up course to teach advanced methods for enhancing visualization.
  - Uses python, matplotlib, and seaborn.
- 2018 | 2017 • **Advanced Statistical Learning and Inference**  
Vanderbilt Biostatistics Department  Nashville, TN
- TA and lectured
  - Topics covered from penalized regression to boosted trees and neural networks
  - Highest level course offered in department
- 2018 • **Advanced Statistical Computing**  
Vanderbilt Biostatistics Department  Nashville, TN
- TA and lectured
  - Covered modern statistical computing algorithms
  - 4th year PhD level class
- 2017 • **Statistical Computing in R**  
Vanderbilt Biostatistics Department  Nashville, TN
- TA and lectured
  - Covered introduction to R language for statistics applications
  - Graduate level class



## SELECTED DATA SCIENCE WRITING

- 2019 • **Using AWK and R to Parse 25tb<sup>7</sup>**  
LiveFreeOrDichotomize.com
- Story of parsing large amounts of genomics data.
  - Provided advice for dealing with data much larger than disk.
  - Reached top of HackerNews.

I am passionate about education. I believe that no topic is too complex if the teacher is empathetic and willing to think about new methods of approaching task.

I regularly blog about data science and visualization on my blog LiveFreeOrDichotomize.<sup>6</sup>

- 2018 ● **Classifying physical activity from smartphone data<sup>8</sup>**  
RStudio Tensorflow Blog
  - Walk through of training a convolutional neural network to achieve state of the art recognition of activities from accelerometer data.
  - Contracted article.
- 2018 ● **The United States of Seasons<sup>9</sup>**  
LiveFreeOrDichotomize.com
  - GIS analysis of weather data to find the most 'seasonal' locations in United States
  - Used Bayesian regression methods for smoothing sparse geospatial data.
- 2017 ● **A year as told by fitbit<sup>10</sup>**  
LiveFreeOrDichotomize.com
  - Analyzing a full years worth of second-level heart rate data from wearable device.
  - Demonstrated visualization-based inference for large data.
- 2017 ● **MCMC and the case of the spilled seeds<sup>11</sup>**  
LiveFreeOrDichotomize.com
  - Full Bayesian MCMC sampler running in your browser.
  - Coded from scratch in vanilla Javascript.
- 2017 ● **The Traveling Metallurgist<sup>12</sup>**  
LiveFreeOrDichotomize.com
  - Pure javascript implementation of traveling salesman solution using simulated annealing.
  - Allows reader to customize the number and location of cities to attempt to trick the algorithm.

## SELECTED PRESS (ABOUT)

- 2017 ● **Great paper? Swipe right on the new 'Tinder for preprints' app<sup>13</sup>**  
Science
  - Story of the app Papr<sup>14</sup> made with Jeff Leek and Lucy D'Agostino McGowan.
- 2017 ● **Swipe right for science: Papr app is 'Tinder for preprints'<sup>15</sup>**  
Nature News
  - Second press article for app Papr.
- 2016 ● **The Deeper Story in the Data<sup>16</sup>**  
University of Vermont Quarterly
  - Story on my path post graduation and the power of narrative.



## SELECTED PRESS (BY)

- 2016 ● **The Great Student Migration<sup>17</sup>**  
The New York Times
- Most shared and discussed article from the New York Times for August 2016.
- 2016 ● **Wildfires are Getting Worse, The New York Times<sup>18</sup>**  
The New York Times
- GIS analysis and modeling of fire patterns and trends
  - Data in collaboration with NASA and USGS
- 2016 ● **Who's Speaking at the Democratic National Convention?<sup>19</sup>**  
The New York Times
- Data scraped from CSPAN records to figure out who talked and past conventions.
- 2016 ● **Who's Speaking at the Republican National Convention?<sup>20</sup>**  
The New York Times
- Used same data scraping techniques as Who's Speaking at the Democratic National Convention?
- 2016 ● **A Trail of Terror in Nice, Block by Block<sup>21</sup>**  
The New York Times
- Led research effort to put together story of 2016 terrorist attack in Nice, France in less than 12 hours.
  - Work won Silver medal at Malofiej 2017, and gold at Society of News and Design.



## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, POSTERS, AND TALKS

- 2020 ● **Building a software package in tandem with machine learning methods research can result in both more rigorous code and more rigorous research**  
ENAR 2020
- Invited talk in Human Data Interaction section.
  - How and why building an R package can benefit methodological research
- 2020 ● **Stochastic Block Modeling in R, Statistically rigorous clustering with rigorous code<sup>22</sup>**  
RStudio::conf 2020
- Invited talk about new sbmR package<sup>23</sup>.
  - Focus on how software development and methodological research can improve both benefit when done in tandem.

- 2019 ● **Charge Reductions Associated with Shortening Time to Recovery in Septic Shock<sup>24</sup>**  
Chest  
• Authored with Wesley H. Self, MD MPH; Dandan Liu, PhD; Stephan Russ, MD, MPH; Michael J. Ward, MD, PhD, MBA; Nathan I. Shapiro, MD, MPH; Todd W. Rice, MD, MSc; Matthew W. Semler, MD, MSc.
- 2019 ● **Multimorbidity Explorer | A shiny app for exploring EHR and biobank data<sup>25</sup>**  
RStudio::conf 2019  
• Contributed Poster. Authored with Yaomin Xu.
- 2019 ● **Taking a network view of EHR and Biobank data to find explainable multivariate patterns<sup>26</sup>**  
Vanderbilt Biostatistics Seminar Series  
• University wide seminar series.
- 2019 ● **Patient-specific risk factors independently influence survival in Myelodysplastic Syndromes in an unbiased review of EHR records**  
Under-Review (copy available upon request.)  
• Bayesian network analysis used to find novel subgroups of patients with Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS).  
• Analysis done using method built for my dissertation.
- 2019 ● **Patient specific comorbidities impact overall survival in myelofibrosis**  
Under-Review (copy available upon request.)  
• Bayesian network analysis used to find robust novel subgroups of patients with given genetic mutations.  
• Analysis done using method built for my dissertation.
- 2018 ● **R timelineViz: Visualizing the distribution of study events in longitudinal studies**  
Under-Review (copy available upon request.)  
• Authored with Alex Sunderman of the Vanderbilt Department of Epidemiology.
- 2017 ● **Continuous Classification using Deep Neural Networks<sup>27</sup>**  
Vanderbilt Biostatistics Qualification Exam  
• Review of methods for classifying continuous data streams using neural networks  
• Successfully met qualifying examination standards
- 2015 ● **Asymmetric Linkage Disequilibrium: Tools for Dissecting Multiallelic LD**  
Journal of Human Immunology  
• Authored with Richard Single, Vanja Paunic, Mark Albrecht, and Martin Maier.

- 2015 ● **An Agent Based Model of Mysis Migration<sup>28</sup>**  
International Association of Great Lakes Research Conference  
• Authored with Brian O'Malley, Sture Hansson, and Jason Stockwell.
- 2015 ● **Declines of Mysis diluviana in the Great Lakes**  
Journal of Great Lakes Research  
• Authored with Peter Euclide and Jason Stockwell.

## LINKS

- 1: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/26/us/college-student-migration.html>
- 2: [https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2019/06/04/using\\_awk\\_and\\_r\\_to\\_parse\\_25tb/](https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2019/06/04/using_awk_and_r_to_parse_25tb/)
- 3: <https://github.com/nstrayer/shinysense>
- 4: <http://nickstrayer.me/dataDayTexas/>
- 5: [http://nickstrayer.me/js4shiny\\_r2d3/slides](http://nickstrayer.me/js4shiny_r2d3/slides)
- 6: <https://livefreeordichotomize.com/>
- 7: [https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2019/06/04/using\\_awk\\_and\\_r\\_to\\_parse\\_25tb/](https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2019/06/04/using_awk_and_r_to_parse_25tb/)
- 8: <https://blogs.rstudio.com/tensorflow/posts/2018-07-17-activity-detection/>
- 9: <https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2018/02/12/the-united-states-of-seasons/>
- 10: <https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2017/12/27/a-year-as-told-by-fitbit/>
- 11: <https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2017/10/14/mcmc-and-the-case-of-the-spilled-seeds/>
- 12: <https://livefreeordichotomize.com/2017/09/25/the-traveling-metallurgist/>
- 13: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/06/great-paper-swipe-right-new-tinder-preprints-app>
- 14: <https://jhubiostatistics.shinyapps.io/papr/>
- 15: <https://www.nature.com/news/swipe-right-for-science-papr-app-is-tinder-for-pre-prints-1.22163>
- 16: <https://www.uvm.edu/uvmnews/news/deeper-story-data>
- 17: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/26/us/college-student-migration.html?smid=pl-share>
- 18: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/07/25/us/wildfire-seasons-los-angeles.html>
- 19: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/26/upshot/democrats-may-not-be-unified-but-their-convention-speakers-are.html>
- 20: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/19/upshot/whos-not-speaking-how-this-republican-convention-differs.html?smid=pl-share>
- 21: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/07/14/world/europe/trail-of-terror-france.html>
- 22: [http://nickstrayer.me/rstudioconf\\_sbm](http://nickstrayer.me/rstudioconf_sbm)
- 23: <https://tbilab.github.io/sbmR/>
- 24: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30419234>
- 25: [http://nickstrayer.me/rstudioconf19\\_me-poster/](http://nickstrayer.me/rstudioconf19_me-poster/)
- 26: [http://nickstrayer.me/biostat\\_seminar/](http://nickstrayer.me/biostat_seminar/)
- 27: [http://nickstrayer.me/qualifying\\_exam/](http://nickstrayer.me/qualifying_exam/)
- 28: <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/An-Agent-Based-Model-of-the-Diel-Vertical-Migration-Strayer-Stockwell/40493c78e8ecf22bd882d17ec99fd913ec4b9820>