

Yikai Zhao

2200 Cottage Ln
Apt D302 TX-77845
979-264-1086
zdwzhaoyikai@gmail.com
yikaizhao.com

To whom it may concern,

My name is Yikai Zhao, and I am a Ph.D./MS dual degree candidate in Communications and Statistics at Texas A&M University.

During the graduate school, I work closely with my advisor Dr. Kirby Goidel and interned at Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) under his supervision. I participated in survey projects from questionnaire designing to communicating final data products. The works I collaborated with colleagues at PPRI were turned into two papers and 3 conference presentations including AAPOR. Along this process, I have improved skills of using diverse computational tools to facilitate better data analysis and communication, such as Google Colab, Shiny and remark.js. My dissertation is on experimenting with diverse state-of-art NLP frameworks to conduct textual analysis. Moreover, I have taken fast.ai courses for three years and am comfortable in applying deep learning to computer vision and NLP datasets.

As graduation is approaching, I am currently actively looking for jobs that I could utilize my skills from both Social Science and Statistics backgrounds. When I found out the position offered at NORC at the University of Chicago from Dr. Jang, it is like putting together two pieces of a puzzle that fit perfectly. The position offers me an unprecedented opportunity to contribute all I have learned from my graduate study as well as my internship experience at the PPRI. I am aspired to work as a data scientist at NORC.

I have heard great testimonies about NORC from my advisor and my colleagues at Texas A&M. It would be an honor to work at an institute where I can contribute my whole heart to things that I am passionate about. Additionally, I am excited to learn and grow from a well-known institute like NORC where it has so much to offer.

Sincerely,

November 5, 2019

Yikai Zhao