

David Azizi

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Education

University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; Minor in Survey Research & Data Analytics

Philadelphia, PA

Aug 2014 - May 2020

Relevant Coursework: Causal Inference; Business Stat.; Political Polling; Mgmt. Info. Systems (Temple University)

Work Study:

- Undergraduate Research Assistant for Prof. Guy Grossman and Prof. Daniel Gillion
- Information Technology Adviser Manager for College Houses & Academic Services

Experience

The Context

Remote

- A pre-seed-funded technology startup seeking to provide the best answers to the most important questions using the highest-quality information, building research tools and a social knowledge platform to transform academic work into accessible wisdom.

Data Scientist & Associate Product Manager

Dec 2020 - Dec 2021

- Hired to ideate, design, and develop a product to make data used in academic research more easy to find and extract information from, and to meet day-to-day research data needs. Role transformed when the data product concept matured and was incorporated into the core research tools.
- Co-created a research tools web app with two colleagues; developed the roadmap, timeline, specifications, and design while interfacing with a contracted engineering team
- Identified objectives & key results for the data product and drafted product requirements documents for internal conversations on strategy; also pitched product & feature concepts to meet business needs and goals
- Conducted design, concept, and policy reviews of existing internet platform companies and services to identify processes and policies for inspiration and instruction

Research Assistant

Jun 2019 - Sep 2019

- Developed web-hosted data pipeline for interactive dashboard exploring different measures of polarization

Change Research

Remote

- A seed-funded technology startup providing fast, affordable and accurate polling to forward-thinking campaigns and causes, leveraging large online samples and automated recruiting, and delivering results quickly.

Junior Survey Data Analyst

Aug 2020 - Nov 2020

- Hired to provide general coverage on the polling team during the peak season of political activity leading up to the 2020 elections. Additionally contributed to data science team and other research efforts.
- Worked with a senior pollster to conduct polling & impact strategy for over 40 campaigns in less than 3 months; collaborated with campaign stakeholders to develop, draft, program, and field surveys with rapid turnaround
- Independently developed a dashboard to allow efficient querying of demographic targets modeled by the data science team for all possible geographies; the dashboard also allowed for comparison between voter file values and modeled values which revealed discrepancies in the education models
- Led investigation into the connection between COVID-19 and survey results, revealing small boost for Democratic candidates in heavily affected regions; demonstrated with election results that this result was not robust outside of surveys; aided in drafting press release documenting this result

Research Lab of Professor Daniel J. Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

- A prominent political scientist whose research centers on American politics, with a special emphasis on racial and ethnic politics, state/local politics, political behavior, and research methods; a FiveThirtyEight contributor.

Research Coordinator

Sep 2019 - Aug 2020

- Hired as the first full-time employee of the lab to provide project management, process documentation, data science capability, technology policy acumen, and other research assistance.
- Co-authored research paper measuring and documenting the extent of political polarization with NLP analysis of political party platforms; developed soup-to-nuts pipeline for the large text corpus and visualized the results
- Enabled novel survey research medium for professors and students at six universities across Pennsylvania by managing statewide exit polling project, including coordinating timeline and process with project stakeholders
- Implemented project & task management system to track progress and assignments to research assistants

Penn Program on Opinion Research and Election Studies

Philadelphia, PA

- An undergraduate research program committed to conducting high-quality social research in the public interest on issues of national and international importance; frequently collaborates with the NBC Elections Unit.

Fox Research and Service Fellow

May 2018 - May 2019

- Designed weighting scheme used by the National Election Pool exit poll in all elections since 2016; developed scripts to evaluate alternatives based on historical data and presented the results in an interactive website
- Evaluated campaign contact techniques; constructed neural net to predict votes; rendered interactive maps

Interests

Right to repair, digital privacy, travel

Languages

Python, R, SQL, HTML/CSS, French ¾, Arabic ½

Skills

Agile product management, Data science, Project management, Process analysis, Research, Communication