Sina Shaikh

sinashaikh.com ♦ 412-277-3899 ♦ sinas@sas.upenn.edu

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania   **Philadelphia, PA**
Bachelor of Science in Engineering *Summa Cum Laude,* major in Computer Science, minor in Political Science   May 2024
Skills/Interests: Java, R, C, Python, Bash, Datawrapper, JavaScript, LaTeX, HTML, Excel, SQL, MongoDB, Neo4j, SolidWorks, OCaml, Assembly (LC4), Spanish (Proficient), photography, mock trial

University of Melbourne   **Melbourne, Australia**
Exchange Student in the Faculty of Science   Feb 2023 – Jun 2023

EXPERIENCE

MIT Election Data + Science Lab (MEDSL)   **Cambridge, MA**
Senior Research Support Associate   July 2024 – Present
- Use Python, R, SQL, and Github for data collection, analysis, and visualization for Elections Performance Central, Precinct Project, Elections Performance Index
- Developed automated webscraping and plotting functionality for election data collection at: https://github.com/Sinas100/election_scraper
- Manage MEDSL's server and data storage design and maintenance for ~36,000,000 rows of precinct level election results
- Audited Introduction to Quantitative Methods I and II and American Political Behavior

NBCUniversal   **Philadelphia, PA**
Decision Desk Builder   Aug 2022 – May 2024
- Assisted Stephanie Perry and the NBC News Exit Poll team with coverage of 2022, 2023, and 2024 elections
- Drafted and tested exit poll survey used by the NBC Decision Desk
- Built graphics in English and Spanish using exit poll data for use on NBC, MSNBC, CNBC, and Telemundo

Penn Perry World House   **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant   Oct 2022 – May 2024
- Scraped, cleaned, and analyzed text data for the Leadership Responsibility Index under Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
- Utilized various natural language processing techniques including tf-idf, semantic and sentiment analysis

University of Pennsylvania   **Philadelphia, PA**
Teaching Assistant for CIS 110 and GAFL 5310, Tutor for CRIM 4012   Aug 2021 – May 2024
- Taught intro OCaml and Java in recitations and office hours in CIS 110
- Taught graduate students the R Shiny framework, statistics, and mapping in GAFL 5310
- Tutored private student in applying machine learning for social science in CRIM 4012

Daily Pennsylvanian   **Philadelphia, PA**
Data Desk Reporter   Aug 2023 – May 2024
- Wrote, conducted data analysis, and created visualizations primarily on data related stories
- Work at https://www.thedp.com/staff/sina-shaikh, cited in *The Atlantic* and *Philadelphia Magazine*

Penn's Development Research Initiative (PDRI)   **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant   Aug 2023 – May 2024
- Helped design baseline survey for the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS) Bangladesh for Dr. Guy Grossman
- Coded and analyzed data on acknowledgements in academic papers, paper under review: https://guygrossman.com/assets/pdf/2025_Informal_Connections_Outweigh_Co_authorship.pdf

University of Pennsylvania Department of Sociology   **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant   Feb 2024 – May 2024
- Assisted Dr. Jerry A. Jacobs in analysis of relative importance of books and articles in Sociology
- Designed and implemented Google Scholar scraper using SerpAPI to measure citation counts

Penn Program on Opinion Research and Election Studies   **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Fellow   Jan 2021 – Dec 2022
- Conducted quantitative public opinion research under Dr. Marc Trussler through the Fox Leadership Program
- Analyzed data and prepared visualizations using R, LaTeX, and R Markdown

Brookings Institution   **Washington, DC**
Governance Studies Intern   Jun 2022 – Aug 2022
- Worked in the Governance Studies department under Dr. Bill Galston and Dr. E. J. Dionne
- Researched for and fact-checked Washington Post and Wall Street Journal columns
- Analyzed data for books and reports on topics including social democracy, Trump's influence in the GOP, and firearm regulation

Computational Social Science Lab at Penn   **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Intern   May 2022 – Aug 2022
- Worked on PennMAP team under David Rothschild
- Coded TV programs and examined trends in consumption for over 82,000 hours of TV from 2012-present
- Assisted with "The diminishing state of shared reality on US television news" (**https://arxiv.org/pdf/2310.18863.pdf**)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Partisan Delinking of Survey Cooperation and Turnout in the 2020 Election
- Presented research project on behalf of Dr. Joshua Clinton, Dr. John Lapinski, and Dr. Marc Trussler at the 2022 AAPOR Conference in Chicago
- Studied the changing makeup of survey respondents and how that might have biased polls in 2020
- Paper later published at: **https://academic.oup.com/poq/article-abstract/86/2/247/6585580**

Why the Wait?
- Presented a poster at the 2025 Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference in Tallahassee
- Studied relationship between mail voting, preprocessing, and vote counting speed in the 2020 and 2024 elections
- Paper forthcoming

All Conferences Attended
- EAC 2025 Data Summit, ESRA 2025, MIT Ethics of Computing Research Symposium 2025, Caltech Information and Misinformation in Elections 2025, SPSA 2024, MIT American Politics Conference 2024, AAPOR 2022