Akitaka Matsuo

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Appointments

University of Essex

Lecturer, Department of Government	May 2023 –Current
Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Analytics and Data Science (IADS)	May 2019 – May 2023

London School of Economics and Political Science

Research Fellow in Data Science, Department of Methodology	March 2018 - May 2019
Postdoctoral Research Officer, Department of Methodology	September 2016 - February 2018

Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Postdoctoral Research Officer, The Centre for Experimental Social Sciences	December 2012-August 2016

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Rice University, 2012

M.A. Political Science, Michigan State University, 2005

M.A. Political Science, Kyoto University, 2002

B.A. Law, Kyoto University, 2000

Research and Teaching Interests

Quantitative Methodology (Natural Langugage Processing, Bayesian Methods, Scaling, Experimental Methods)

Comparative Politics (Political Institutions, Parties and Elections, Political Economy, Asian Politics, Japanese Politics)

Peer-reviewed Publications

"Legislators' Sentiment Analysis Supervised by Legislators." Online First, *Political Science Research and Methods*, with Kentaro Fukumoto.

"The Social Media Audience of Diplomatic Events." 2024, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 26 (3), 922–939, with Oul Han and Naoko Matsumura.

"Ideas for Macroeconomic Surveillance: A Comparative Text Analysis of Country Reports by Global and Regional Financial Institutions." 2023, *Review of International Political Economy*, 30(6), 2357–2381, with Motoshi Suzuki and Azusa Uji.

"quanteda: An R package for the quantitative analysis of textual data." 2018, *Journal of Open Source Software*, 3(30), 774, with Kenneth Benoit, Kohei Watanabe, Haiyan Wang, Paul Nulty, Adam Obeng, and Stefan Müller.

"Multi-dimensional Policy Preferences in the 2015 British General Election: A Conjoint Analysis." 2018, *Electoral Studies*, 55, 89-98, with Seonghui Lee.

"Decomposing Political Knowledge: What Is Confidence in Knowledge and Why It Matters" 2018, *Electoral Studies*, 51, 1-13, with Seonghui Lee.

"Predicting the Brexit Vote by Tracking and Classifying Public Opinion Using Twitter Data." 2017, *Statistics, Politics and Policy*, 8(1), 85-104, with Julio Amador, Sofia Collignon-Delmar, and Kenneth Benoit.

"The Effects of Election Proximity on Participatory Shirking: The Staggered-Term Chamber as a Laboratory." 2015, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 40(4), 599-625, with Kentaro Fukumoto.

"Kokkai Giin Ha Naze Iinkai De Hatugen Suru No Ka? Seitou, Rieki, Senkyo Seido [*Why Do Diet Members Speak in Committees? Political Parties, Legislators, and Electoral Systems*]." 2010, *Japanese Journal of Electoral Studies,* 26(2), 84-103, with Shunta Matsumoto [in Japanese].

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

"Findings from the Hackathon on Understanding Euroscepticism Through the Lens of Textual Data." 2018, *ParlaCLARIN at the 11th edition of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC2018)*, with Federico Nanni, Gran Glavas, Simone Paolo Ponzetto, [and 19 others].

Non Peer-reviewed Publication

"Text Analysis of International Financial Institutions." in Motoshi Suzuki and Keisuke Iida (Eds.), *Methods of International Relations Research*, 2021, Tokyo University Press (with Motoshi Suzuki and Azusa Uji [in Japanese]).

Work in Progress

"Women Use More Positive Language than Men: Candidates' Strategic Use of Emotive Language in Election Campaigns" (with Tiffany Barnes, Charles Crabtree, and Yoshikuni Ono, *Revise and Resubmit*)

"A Text Analysis of Global Plastic Treaty Negotiations: Mapping the Divide and Finding Common Ground" (with Azusa Uji, *Under Review*)

"Divergent Paths from Electoral Institutions to Campaign Strategies: Analyzing Candidate Manifestos in Japan and Taiwan" (with Nick Lin and Naofumi Fujimura)

"Introducing a Geoparsing Technique for Political Science Research: Impact of Violence on National Identity through Spatial-Temporal Analysis of Diaries of Japanese Returnees from Manchuria" (with Motoshi Suzuki, Kenji Yano, Hiroki Ouchi, and Gaku Ito).

"Paths to False Beliefs: Political Ignorance, Partisan Motivation, and Conspiracy Mentality." (with Seonghui Lee and David Hendry)

"Gender Priming and Legislative Speech Perceptions." (with Yoshikuni Ono)

"Language Choice and Career Advancement in the European Parliament" (with Nils Ringe and Yoshikuni Ono)

Software

R packages:

Packages of `Quanteda`: `spacyr`, `readtext`, `quanteda`

`kaigiroku`: Programmatic Access to the API for Japanese Diet Proceedings

`wordshoal`: a package for computing the wordshoal text model (with Kenneth Benoit and Benjamin Lauderdale)

Interactive Online Experiment:

`altruisticVoting`, `taxCompliance` (in `nodegame`)

Scholarships and Awards

Innovate UK, Knowledge Transfer Partnership (with TIAA Ltd, Role: Support Academic), October 2023 - Current

KEEP+ Grant, European Regional Developmental Fund (with InvictIQ, Role: Support Academic), March-June 2022

Statistical Software Award, Society for Political Methodology, with Kenneth Benoit, Kohei Watanabe, Haiyan Wang, Paul Nulty, Adam Obeng, and Stefan Müller, June 2020

Innovate UK, Knowledge Transfer Partnership (with Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP, Role: Support Academic), October 2019 - December 2022

British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grants, £9,850, April 2015 - December 2016

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (SES 0819527), $10,670, August 2008 - July 2009

Dissertation Fellowship, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Taiwan, $4,070, November 2008 - January 2009

Research Support Grant for Taiwan Study, Interchange Society, Japan, $7,081, May 2008 - July 2008

Research Grant, Matsushita International Foundation, Panasonic, Japan, $4,768, October 2008

International Ambassadorial Scholarship, Rotary Foundation, Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

Invited Talks and Workshops

"Language Choice and Career Advancement in the European Parliament," the 15th International Conference on Parliamentary Studies, Soochow University, June 2023.

"Legislators' Sentiment Analysis Supervised by Legislators," the 14th International Conference on Parliamentary Studies, Soochow University (online), June 2022.

"Women Candidates Use More Positive Language than Men Candidates in Political Campaigns," Exeter Q-Step/NCRM Summer Research Methods Seminar Series, University of Exeter, June 2021.

"Development of Text Analysis in Political Science," Kobe University, September 2019.

Text Analytics Workshop, Faculty of Law, Kyoto University, September 2019.

"Quantitative Text Analysis Using R" (with Ken Benoit), The annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science, University of Tokyo, January 2018.

"Text Analysis using R", "Are Pivotal Players Blamed?" CROP-IT Seminar, Kobe University, June 2014.

"Are Veto Players Blamed: Experimental and Observational Evidences." Seminar Series, Political Economy of Reforms, University of Mannheim, March 2014.

"Determinants of Committee Assignments in the Legislative Yuan." Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Taipei Taiwan, January 2009.

Conference Presentations (Selected)

"Language Choice and Career Advancement in the European Parliament," Presented at the annual meeting of the European Political Science Association, Glasgow, June 2023.

"Women Candidates Use More Positive Language than Men Candidates in Political Campaigns," Presented at the annual meeting of the European Political Science Association, Prague, June 2022.

"Legislators' Sentiment Analysis Supervised by Legislators." Presented at the annual meeting of the European Political Science Association, Online, June 2021.

"Gender classification of parliamentary speeches in the Japanese House of Representatives." Presented at POL-TEXT 2019, Tokyo, September 2019.

"Paths to False Beliefs: Political Ignorance, Partisan Motivation, and Conspiracy Mentality." Presented at the annual meeting of the European Political Science Association, Vienna, June 2018.

"Brexit Debate through Social Media." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2017.

"Altruistic Motivations for Election Participation." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, September 2016, and Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2017.

"Multi-dimensional Policy Preferences in 2015 UK General Election." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016.

"Tax Cheating in Synchronic Online Experiments." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Advanced Quantitative Methods, GV300, University of Essex, 2025.

Instructor, Text analysis for Social Science Research: Techniques for Data Collection, Analysis, and Causal Inference, Waseda-Essex, Summer Research Course, 2024.

Instructor, Quantitative Methods, GV903, Department of Government, University of Essex, 2023, 2024.

Instructor, Data for Social Data Science, GV918, Department of Government, University of Essex, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Instructor, VB/MB21, Machine Learning with Big Data for Social Scientists, ECPR Virtual Methods School, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Instructor, Introduction to Programming and Machine Learning with Big Data for Social Scientists, Waseda-Essex, Summer Research Course, 2022.

Instructor, Introduction to Programming in Python for Social Scientists, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2022.

Instructor, Data for Data Scientists, MY472, Department of Methodology, LSE, 2018.

Instructor, AWS Academy Cloud Foundation, LSE, 2018.

Instructor, Santiago Summer School on Experimental Methods, University of Santiago, 2016.

Instructor, Summer School on Experimental Social Sciences, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, 2014, 2015.

Instructor, Essex Summer School on Experimental Methods, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLI 212, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2012.

Instructor, East Asian Democracies, POLI 353, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Fall 2011.

Instructor, Math Camp for Political Science Ph.D. Students, Rice University, Summer 2007 and 2006.

Teaching Assistant, Regression Analysis (Graduate Level), Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2008, Fall 2006, and Fall 2005.

Teaching Assistant, Maximum Likelihood Models (Graduate Level), Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2007 and 2006.

University Service

Ph.D Committees:

James Rice, 2024-

Paula Szewach, 2019-2022

Yen-Chieh Liao, 2019-2022

Academic Supervisor for Knowledge Transfer Partnership Project:

Mudita Sharma, Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP, 2019-2021

Administrative Duties:

Academic Integrity Officer (Chief), Department of Government, University of Essex, 2023–current

Undergraduate Recruitment Officer, Department of Government, University of Essex, 2021–2023

Member, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Working Group, LSE, 2018

Professional Service

Journal Reviewer:

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Annuals of Japanese Political Science Association, Asian Survey, British Journal of Political Science, Contemporary Japan, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, EPJ Data Science, International Relations of the Asia-Pacific, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Journal of Legislative Studies, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Medical Internet Research, Journal of Open Source Software, Journal of Politics, Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, New Media and Society, Party Politics, Political Analysis, Political Studies, Politics, Research and Politics, SAGE Open, Social Media and Society, Social Science Japan Journal

Academic Conference Panel Discussant:

International Conference on Parliamentary Studies, Soochow University, 2024

Midwest Political Science Association, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016

European Political Science Association, 2013, 2016, 2021

Japanese Political Science Association 2021, 2022

Conference Program Committee Member:

PolMeth Europe, 2025

Annual Workshop on Crowdsourcing and Online Behavioral Experiments (COBE), 2015, 2016

Workshop Organizer at Nuffield CESS:

Innovations in Online Experiments, April 2015

Field Experiments and Election Campaigns, May 2014

Experiments with Crowd Sourced Subjects, February 2013

Project Manager:

CESS-Oxera project on Retirement Income Market Study in UK (funded by Financial Conduct Authority), June - December 2015

Conference Manager:

International Meeting on on Experimental and Behavioral Sciences, 2014, 2015, 2016

Development and Management of Online Panel for Experimental Subjects

Manager of Experimental Laboratory, Nuffield Centre for Experimental Social Sciences, September 2013 - December 2013

Certificate

Fellow, The Higher Education Academy (HEA), July 2021

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Computer Languages and Platforms

Proficient: R, Python, SQL databases, JavaScript, Qualtrics, PHP, Perl

Familiar: AWS, noSQL databases, C++, STATA, z-Tree

Languages

Japanese: native

Mandarin Chinese: intermediate level for reading, elementary level for written and spoken

Additional Education and Training

EITM Summer Institute, University of Washington St. Louis, 2009

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan, 2007, 2004

Academy Cloud Foundation, Architecting on AWS, AWS Academy, 2018

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

European Political Science Association

Japanese Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

References

Available upon request