Jacob Carlson

CONTACT
INFORMATION

jacob_carlson@g.harvard.edu
https://jscarlson.github.io

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ph.D. Economics, August 2022 – Present

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
B.A. Statistics and Data Science, August 2016 – May 2020
B.A. Ethics, Politics, and Economics, August 2016 – May 2020
Summa cum laude with distinction in both subjects

HONORS AND
AWARDS

Presidential Scholar (Harvard University)
Phi Beta Kappa (Yale University)
Forethought Foundation for Global Priorities Research Undergraduate Thesis Prize Winner
    for undergraduate thesis titled "Culture and Growth: An Empirical Investigation" (2020)

PEER-
REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

Shen, Zejiang, Ruochen Zhang, Melissa Dell, Benjamin Lee, **Jacob Carlson**, and
    Weining Li. "LayoutParser: A Unified Toolkit for Deep Learning Based Document
    Image Analysis." In International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition –
    ICDAR 2021 (pp. 131–146). Springer International Publishing, 2021. *Oral presentation.*

WORKING
PAPERS

Carlson, Jacob, Tom Bryan, and Melissa Dell. "Efficient OCR for Building a Diverse
    Digital History." arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.02737 (2023).

Carlson, Jacob, Trevor Incerti, and P. M. Aronow. "Dyadic Clustering in International
    Relations." arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.03774 (2021). *Conditionally accepted at Political
    Analysis.*

ACADEMIC
RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Research Assistant   May 2023 – Present
• Assisting Isaiah Andrews and Davide Viviano, respectively, with various projects on
  topics in theoretical and applied econometrics

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Data Science Fellow in Deep Learning   September 2020 – May 2022
• Worked with Melissa Dell to develop deep learning methods and tools for social science
  data curation, e.g.,
    • Engineered and deployed a deep learning pipeline that converted tens of millions of
      American newspaper document images into a structured text database
    • Built information retrieval models trained for natural language inference to facilitate
      better zero-shot search of a multi-terabyte corpus of text
    • Designed and implemented a new sample efficient deep learning architecture for
      optical character recognition (OCR) in order to accurately digitize firm-level
      financial reports in low-resource languages

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Research Assistant   September 2018 – August 2018
• Worked with Yusuke Narita on an applied microeconomics project aimed at better
  understanding the effectiveness of "evidence-based" policies across the United States

- Web-scraped data, estimated causal effects, and performed sensitivity analyses to support an evaluation of Obama-era public policies that reached 2,500+ U.S. counties

Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut
Research Assistant   May 2017 – May 2019
- Collaborated with Kate Stith and a small team of law students on a quantitative research project investigating mandatory minimum sentencing trends across DOJ administrations
- Authored web-scraping and text analysis code that was used to assemble a novel database that tracked the filings of "section 851" sentencing enhancements in every U.S. district court over the past two decades

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Unleashing Novel Data at Scale (ECON 2355)
- Sole teaching assistant for this graduate course in the department of economics instructed by Melissa Dell
- Received an average overall section leader rating of 5.00 ("excellent") and a Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- Selected student comments: "Deeply knowledgeable and good at communicating complex technical concepts"; "Jacob is an incredible TF who was always accessible outside of class, eager to help, and very knowledgeable. One of the best I've had"

PRIVATE
SECTOR
EXPERIENCE

Cornerstone Research, New York, New York
Summer Analyst   May 2019 – July 2019
- Performed financial and economic analyses for Fortune 500 clients undergoing complex commercial litigation
- Coded market simulations that were produced as evidence in court for a multi-million dollar class action lawsuit
- Evaluated and replicated conjoint analyses using national survey data

PUBLIC
SECTOR
EXPERIENCE

Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, Hartford, Connecticut
Intern   June 2016 – July 2016
- Managed healthcare and immigration casework for about a half dozen residents of Connecticut
- Researched United States federal immigration law on behalf of assigned constituents

PRESENTATIONS

Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting
- Presented "LayoutParser: A Unified Toolkit for Deep Learning Based Document Image Analysis" at the "Nonstandard Data Sources" paper session on January 8, 2022

LEADERSHIP

Yale Policy Lab Working Group on Infrastructure Policy in Connecticut
Founder   September 2019 – May 2020
- Headed undergraduate policy research group with support from the Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies
- Partnered with former Connecticut State Senator Alex Kasser to provide qualitative and quantitative insights into the likely impacts of her pending state infrastructure bank bill

LAST UPDATED   June 7, 2023