Jacob (Jake) Carlson

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

EDUCATION	**Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ph.D. Economics, August 2022 – May 2027 (expected)

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

PUBLICATIONS

- Carlson, Jacob, Tom Bryan, and Melissa Dell. "Efficient OCR for Building a Diverse Digital History." *ACL* (2024). Oral presentation.
- Dell, Melissa, Jacob Carlson, Tom Bryan, Emily Silcock, Abhishek Arora, Zejiang Shen, Luca D'Amico-Wong, Quan Le, Pablo Querubin, Leander Heldring. "American Stories: A Large-Scale Structured Text Dataset of Historical U.S. Newspapers." *NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks Track* (2023).
- Bryan, Tom, Jacob Carlson, Abhishek Arora, Melissa Dell. "EfficientOCR: An Extensible, Open-Source Package for Efficiently Digitizing World Knowledge." *EMNLP System Demonstrations* (2023).
- Carlson, Jacob, Trevor Incerti, and P. M. Aronow. "Dyadic Clustering in International Relations." *Political Analysis* (2024).
- Shen, Zejiang, Ruochen Zhang, Melissa Dell, Benjamin Lee, Jacob Carlson, and Weining Li. "LayoutParser: A Unified Toolkit for Deep Learning Based Document Image Analysis." *ICDAR* (2021). Oral presentation.

WORKING PAPERS

- Carlson, Jacob and Melissa Dell. "A Unifying Framework for Robust and Efficient Inference with Unstructured Data." arXiv:2505.00282 (2025).
- Andrews, Isaiah, Harvey Barnhard, and Jacob Carlson. "True and Pseudo-True Parameters." (2024).

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Research Assistant   May 2023 – August 2024
- Assisted Isaiah Andrews and Davide Viviano with theoretical and applied econometrics projects

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Data Science Fellow in Deep Learning   September 2020 – May 2022

- Developed deep learning methods and tools for social science data curation with Melissa Dell

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Research Assistant   September 2018 – August 2018
- Evaluated effectiveness of evidence-based policies across the U.S. with Yusuke Narita

Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut
Research Assistant   May 2017 – May 2019
- Researched mandatory minimum sentencing trends across DOJ administrations with Kate Stith

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Cornerstone Research, New York, NY
Summer Analyst   May 2019 – July 2019
- Performed financial and economic analyses for Fortune 500 clients in complex litigation

TEACHING

Harvard University — Unleashing Novel Data at Scale (ECON 2355)
- Overall section leader rating: 5.00 ("excellent"); Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- Student feedback: "Deeply knowledgeable and good at communicating complex technical concepts"; "Jacob is an incredible TF who was always accessible, eager to help, and very knowledgeable. One of the best I've had."

PRESENTATIONS

ASSA 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting
- Presented "LayoutParser" at "Nonstandard Data Sources" paper session (January 8, 2022)

SOFTWARE

- `NetworkTargeting` Ⓡ (with Davide Viviano): `https://github.com/dviviano/NetworkTargeting`
- `EffOCR` 🐍 (with Tom Bryan and Melissa Dell): `https://pypi.org/project/efficient-ocr`
- `dcr` Ⓡ 🐍 (with Trevor Incerti and P.M. Aronow): `https://github.com/jscarlson/dcr`, `https://github.com/jscarlson/stata-dcr`

LAST UPDATED   May 5, 2025