

Jacob (Jake) Carlson

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<https://jscarlson.github.io>

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ph.D. Economics, August 2022 – May 2028 (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 (2020)

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. "Making Interpretable Discoveries from Unstructured Data: A High-Dimensional Multiple Hypothesis Testing Approach." Working paper (2025).
 - 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." Working paper (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	May 2018 – December 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, New York Summer Analyst	May 2019 – July 2019
• Performed financial and economic analyses for Fortune 500 clients in complex litigation		
TEACHING	Harvard University , Cambridge, Massachusetts • <i>Causal Inference in Economics</i> (ECON 2148), Graduate, Spring 2025	
• <i>Time Series</i> (STAT 242), Graduate, Fall 2024		
• <i>Unleashing Novel Data at Scale</i> (ECON 2355), Graduate, Spring 2021		
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		
ACADEMIC SERVICE	<i>Referee:</i> Journal of Political Economy (JPE)	
LAST UPDATED	November 11, 2025	