

Keyon Vafa

Columbia University
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Interests	Machine Learning, Deep Generative Models, Computational Social Science, NLP	
Education	Columbia University Ph.D. Computer Science Advisor: David Blei	2017 -
	Columbia University M.S. Computer Science	2016 - 2018
	Harvard University B.A. Computer Science and Statistics, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2012 - 2016
Awards and Fellowships	Cheung-Kong Innovation Doctoral Fellowship	2020 -
	Columbia University Nominee for Google PhD Fellowship	2019
	National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship	2016 - 2019
	Columbia University Dean's Fellowship	2016 -
	Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society	2016
	Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching	2015
Work Experience	John Harvard Scholar (grade point average in top 5% of class)	2013 - 2015
	Software Engineer Intern, Google Brain	2018 - 2019
	Research Intern, Facebook Artificial Intelligence Research	2017
	Data Science Intern (Places Team), Facebook	2015
Selected Papers	Software Engineer Intern (Data Science Infrastructure), Facebook	2014
	A. Schein, K. Vafa , D. Sridhar, V. Veitch, J. Moffet, J. Quinn, N. Makiya, D. Blei, Donald Green. A digital field experiment reveals large effects of friend-to-friend texting on voter turnout . <i>The Web Conference (WWW)</i> .	2021
	K. Vafa , S. Naidu, D. Blei. Text-based ideal points . <i>Proceedings of ACL</i> .	2020
	D. Tran, K. Vafa , K. Agrawal, L. Dinh, B. Poole. Discrete flows: Invertible generative models of discrete data . <i>Proceedings of NeurIPS</i> .	2019
Selected Papers	K. Vafa . Training deep Gaussian processes with sampling . <i>Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference Workshop at NeurIPS</i> .	2016

	K. Vafa , C. Haigh, A. Leung, N. Yonack. Price discrimination in the Princeton Review's online SAT tutoring service . <i>Journal of Technology Science</i> . 2015	
Selected Talks	Test-Based Ideal Points (invited talk), Milstein Program Summer Speaker Series . Cornell Tech. 2020	
	Discrete Flows and Text-Based Ideal Points (guest lecture), Machine Learning with Probabilistic Programming , Columbia University. 2019	
	Text-Based Ideal Points, Text as Data Conference , Stanford University. 2019	
	Text-Based Ideal Points, <i>Caselaw Access Project Research Summit</i> , Harvard Law School. 2019	
Teaching Experience	Department of Computer Science, Columbia University Teaching Assistant, Foundations of Graphical Models (graduate level) Professor: David Blei 2018	
	Department of Computer Science, Harvard University Teaching Fellow, CS 281: Advanced Machine Learning (graduate level) Professor: Finale Doshi-Velez 2015	
	Teaching Fellow, CS 181: Introduction to Machine Learning Professor: Ryan Adams 2015	
Conference Reviewing	International Conference on Machine Learning 2017 - 2021	
	Neural Information Processing Systems 2017 - 2020	
	Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference 2017 - 2020	
	International Conference on Learning Representations 2017 - 2021	
	Association for Computational Linguistics 2021	
Reviewer Recognition	Top 33% Reviewer for ICML 2020	
	Top 10% Reviewer for NeurIPS 2020	
	ICML Expert Reviewer 2021	
	ICLR Reviewer Award 2021	
Other Experience	GetUsPPE , Data Scientist	
	Volunteered as a data scientist for GetUsPPE , an organization that is distributing personal protective equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic. 2020	

Press

[Harvard Law Today blog post](#): Text-Based Ideal Points

[ProPublica article](#): Princeton Review Price Discrimination

[Today Show segment](#): Princeton Review Price Discrimination

Languages and Skills

Python (+ PyTorch and TensorFlow), R (+ Stan), SQL, Java, PHP, Go

English (native), French (advanced), Farsi (proficient)

Long distance running (ran 2016 Boston Marathon)