

Leslie Huang

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NYU Center for Data Science, 60 Fifth Avenue

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EDUCATION

New York University | PhD in Data Science, *expected* 2021

2018–present

Transferred PhD programs with full support for my interdisciplinary research.

- Dissertation: “Contextualized NLP tools for political texts”
- Committee: Arthur Spirling (chair), Kyunghyun Cho, Jonathan Nagler
- Research interests: Natural language processing, clustering methods, text analysis, computational social science

New York University | MA in Politics, 2018

2015–2018, Politics PhD student

- PhD Qualifying Paper: “Estimating the distribution of state power at the UN using topic models”
- MA Thesis: “Modelling responsiveness and willingness to negotiate using sentiment: a textual analysis of the FARC-Colombia peace talks”

Columbia University | BA in English Literature and Political Science, 2011

Graduated *summa cum laude*

- GPA: 3.99
- Dean’s List; Phi Beta Kappa honor society

WORKING PAPERS

L. Huang, A. Spirling, J. Zhang, and C. Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil. “Question Typology: clustering questions and answers in political discourse.”

A. Spirling, L. Huang, and P. Perry. “A General Model of Author “Style” with Application to the UK House of Commons, 1935–2018.” *Under review*.

L. Huang. “Estimating the distribution of state power at the UN using topic models.”

SOFTWARE

stylest: R package for estimating textual style. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=stylest>

zipR: R package for Python-style zip(). <https://cran.r-project.org/package=zipR>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RStudio | Engineering Intern

June 2019–present

- Improve shiny and leaflet libraries developed by RStudio, the chief IDE for statistical programming in R.

NYU, Center for Data Science | “NLP/Text-as-Data Speaker Series” Coordinator

June 2017–present

- Manage logistics and communications for weekly guest talks by cutting-edge NLP researchers from top universities and companies such as Google, Facebook, and Microsoft Research ([website](#)).

NYU, Politics | Research Assistant

June–September 2017

- Wrote/refactored simulations in R for a study on incomplete sampling of networks in experiments.

NYU, Environmental Studies | Research Assistant

January–August 2017

- Implemented unsupervised machine learning models. Cleaned and constructed dataset of webscraped texts.

Columbia University, Institute of Social and Economic Research and Policy | Research Assistant

May 2010–May 2011

- Researched and coded case studies on intra- and interstate conflict for NSF-supported project.

W. W. Norton & Company | Assistant Managing Editor

February 2013–July 2015, New York, NY

- *Promoted from Project Editor in September 2013.*
- Shepherded books from manuscript to first printing, working closely with editorial and design teams to ensure accuracy of all text and visual elements throughout the production cycle.

Foreign Policy Association | Assistant Editor

June 2011–February 2013, New York, NY

- Guided leading scholars in developing book chapters on international affairs. Wrote and researched supplementary publications. Designed print/digital publications. Hired/supervised interns.

TEACHING

NYU, Center for Data Science

- Intro to Data Science (Python), Fall 2018
- Text-as-Data (R), Spring 2018

Taught programming labs for PhD/MS students in Data Science, tutored students on coding and research design, and graded problem sets.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Center for Data Science Fellowship, 2018–present
- Center for Data Science Supplementary Fellowship Grant, 2018
- American Political Science Association Travel Grant, 2018
- Society for Political Methodology Travel Grant, 2018
- MacCracken Fellowship, 2015–2018
- NYU Dept. of Politics Summer Research Funding, 2016, 2017, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Poster presentation, Society for Political Methodology, Annual Meeting 2019
- Paper presentation, Conference on Data Science and Law, 2019
- Paper presentation, American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2018
- Paper co-presentation, Society for Political Methodology, Annual Meeting 2018
- Poster presentation, Society for Political Methodology, Annual Meeting 2018
- Invited participant, Text Analysis Developers' Workshop, 2018

SKILLS

Computer languages

Python

R

Stata

SQL (SQLite)

Spark (PySpark)

Methods

Machine learning

Data visualization

Text mining

Statistics & causal inference

Network analysis

Human languages

Spanish (ltd. working proficiency)

German (elementary)

Mandarin (elementary)