

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, Sept 2018–Jan 2021 (*expected*)

Transferred PhD programs with full support for my interdisciplinary research.

- Dissertation: “Contextualized NLP tools for unsupervised text analysis”
- Committee: Arthur Spirling (chair), Kyunghyun Cho, Jonathan Nagler

New York University | MA in Politics, 2018

- Fully funded Politics PhD student, Sept 2015–Aug 2018
- PhD Qualifying Paper: “Estimating the distribution of state power at the UN using topic models” (readers: Arthur Spirling, Jennifer M. Larson)
- Masters’ Paper: “Modelling responsiveness and willingness to negotiate using sentiment: a textual analysis of the FARC-Colombia peace talks” (adviser: Arthur Spirling)

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

PUBLICATIONS

Huang, L., P. Perry and A. Spirling. “A General Model of Author ‘Style’ with Application to the UK House of Commons, 1935–2018.” Conditionally accepted at *Political Analysis*.

WORKING PROJECTS

Huang, L., K. Cho, and S. Bowman. “Extracting word sense from contextualized language models.”

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

SOFTWARE

R packages on CRAN

- `stylest`: Estimates a new stylometric measure for textual similarity, especially designed to enable comparisons across large groups of authors/speakers.
- `zipR`: Implements Pythonic `zip()` with convenient options to repeat, broadcast, and fill arrays.
- `leaflet.providers`: Enables users to get and retrieve data from providers of map tiles for the leading interactive map visualization package `leaflet`.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RStudio | Engineering Intern

June–August 2019

- Developed software to enhance the `shiny` and `leaflet` ecosystems maintained by RStudio, the leading IDE for data science in R. Deliverables include the `leaflet.providers` package and a not-yet-released reactive web app for R users.

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.

W. W. Norton & Company | Assistant Managing Editor

February 2013–July 2015, New York, NY

- *Promoted from Project Editor in September 2013.*
- Ensured accuracy of all text and visual elements throughout the production cycle, from manuscript to finished book.

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 | Teaching Assistant

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

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Center for Data Science Fellowship, 2018–present
- Society for Political Methodology Travel Grant, 2018, 2019
- Center for Data Science Supplementary Fellowship Grant, 2018
- American Political Science Association Travel Grant, 2018
- MacCracken Fellowship, 2015–2018
- NYU Dept. of Politics Summer Research Funding, 2016, 2017, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “STAR” Talk, Natural Language, Dialog and Speech Symposium, 2019
- Poster, 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, Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2018
- Invited participant, Text Analysis Developers’ Workshop, 2018

SKILLS

Programming

Python (sklearn/pandas, PyTorch)

R

SQL (SQLite, MariaDB)

Spark (PySpark)

Methods

Machine learning

Deep learning

Text mining

Data visualization

Causal inference