Luke Sonnet

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Education

Present   PhD CANDIDATE, Political Science; UCLA

2012   BS, Economics, Political Science, History; University of Pittsburgh

Affiliations

2017 –   Graduate Student Affiliate, California Center for Population Research, UCLA

Publications

2018   Adam Boche, Jeffrey B. Lewis, Aaron Rudkin, and **Luke Sonnet**. "The new Voteview.com: Preserving and Continuing Keith Poole's Infrastructure for Scholars, Students and Observers of Congress", *Public Choice*, 176 (1-2): 17–32. [pre-print]

Papers in Preparation

"Improving Political Communication: A Field Experiment in Pakistan," with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar [pilot report for IGC].

"Beyond Logit, Probit, and Linear Probability Models: Using Machine Learning to Avoid Rigid and Misspecified Binary Outcome Regressions," with Chad Hazlett.

"Estimating NOMINATE scores over time using penalized splines," with Jeff Lewis.

Software

estimatr - A package in R using C++ to speed up the fitting of linear estimators with robust standard errors and appropriate confidence intervals. Lead author, written as part of the DeclareDesign software suite with Graeme Blair, Jasper Cooper, Alex Coppock, and Macartan Humphreys.

Voteview.com - A complete overhaul of the old VoteView website maintained by Keith Poole. An entirely new ingestion, storage, estimation, and delivery for canonical DW-NOMINATE ideology scores of U.S. congresspeople and rollcalls. Written in Python and JavaScript, using MongoDB, with Jeff Lewis, Adam Boche, and Aaron Rudkin. Includes *Rvoteview*, an R package to facilitate access to DW-NOMINATE scores.

KRLS - An update to the KRLS R package which provides flexible machine learning models

with interpretable results. This update includes a logistic regression specification and improvements in speed from moving core estimation code to C++ and truncated approximations to the original model. Written with Jens Hainmueller and Chad Hazlett.

Research Grants

2018	United States Institute of Peace, "Building Open Data on Pakistani Parliamentarians and Polling Stations" ($24,000)
2018	JPAL Governance Initiative, "Social Spillovers and the Gender Gap in Political Participation in Pakistan", Co-PI with Saad Gulzar and Muhammad Yasir Khan ($94,796)
2018	IGC Pakistan, Small Project Grant, "Social Spillovers and Female Political Participation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", Co-PI with Saad Gulzar and Muhammad Yasir Khan (£15,000)
2018	JPAL Governance Initiative, "Continuing Data Collection for 'Establishing Responsive Linkages between Politicians and Voters in Pakistan", Co-PI with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar ($140,199)
2018	UPS Endowment Fund "Improving Political Responsiveness to Citizen Demands in Pakistan by Using Scalable Technological Tools", Co-PI with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar ($62,400)
2018	Stanford Center of Global Poverty and Development, "Responsive Linkages between Voters and Politicians in Pakistan – Continuing Data Collection and Extension to Local Government", Co-PI with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar ($40,000)
2017	American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Summer Research Grant ($3,000)
2016	JPAL Governance Initiative, "Establishing Responsive Linkages between Politicians and Voters in Pakistan", Co-PI with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar ($200,000)
2016	IGC Pakistan, Small Project Grant, "Establishing Responsive Linkages between Politicians and Voters in Pakistan", co-PI with Miriam Golden and Saad Gulzar, December 2016 (£20,000)

Research Fellowships & Awards

2019–2020	Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division
2018	Pakistan@100 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (summer), Lahore University of Management Sciences-World Bank
2016	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
2015	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
2014–2015	Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division

Employment & Consulting

06/2019 – 08/2019	RESEARCH SCIENTIST INTERN, FACEBOOK. Worked on the Demography and Survey Science team designing and analyzing survey experiments as well as validating and developing weighting modules using Python.
10/2018 – 03/2019	J-PAL REPLICATION FELLOW. Graduate student fellow with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty

Action Lab's Research Transparency and Reproducibility Initiative to carry out pre-publication replications of J-PAL affiliate research. Replications are carried out in Stata and R.

07/2017 – 06/2018   DECLAREDESIGN. Open source statistical software developer writing a suite of R packages to study, and analyze social science data (DeclareDesign). Chief developer of the package for statistical estimation, estimatr.

01/2016 – 07/2017   VOTEVIEW.COM. Full stack developer writing in Python, Javascript, and R, using MongoDB to overhaul Voteview.com and update the delivery of DW-NOMINATE ideology scores.

2016   USAID. Consultancy to assess feasibility of impact evaluations for USAID's mission to improve civil society participation in Macedonia.

Teaching Assistantships

2017   "Causal Inference" (graduate level), with Chad Hazlett at UCLA

2016   "Causal Inference" (graduate level), with Chad Hazlett at UCLA

2015   "Data Analysis of Political Corruption" (undergraduate level), with Miriam Golden at UCLA

2012   "Latin American Politics" (undergraduate level), with Scott Morgenstern at University of Pittsburgh

Service & Conferences

Referee   Journal of Politics

Convener   Graduate Student Conference in Comparative Politics at UCLA (2015 with others, 2016, 2017 with others)

Presenter   APSA, MPSA, NPSA, Applied Dev. Economics Conference at the Lahore School of Economics

Attendee   BITSS Summer Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in the Social Sciences

Skills

Advanced: R, git

Intermediate: Python, C++, MongoDB, Stata, LaTeX

Limited: Spanish, Julia, Javascript

Field Work

2017 – 2018   Pakistan, roughly 11 months total

2016   Maiduguri, Nigeria for 2 months

References

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Jeff Lewis
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