Christopher Newton, ABD

cnewton2@buffalo.edu | +1 (716) 335-6263 | github.com/newton-c |

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY | Instructor
Aug 2020 – Present | Buffalo, NY
- PSC 430 Human Rights
- Undergraduate class focused on what human rights are, data driven analysis of the causes of violations, and evidence-based policy to prevent and reduce further violations.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY | Research Assistant
Aug 2019 – June 2020 | Buffalo, NY
- RA for Prof. Michelle Benson. and Prof. Jacob Neiheisel
- Assisted with data cleaning, merging, and analysis.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY | Research Fellow
Dec 2018 – July 2019 | Buffalo, NY
- Collected, coded, and organized data on United Nations Security Council Resolutions from 1989 to 2018.
- Funded through Folke Bernadotte Academy (Principal Researcher: Prof. Michelle Benson)

PROJECTS (PARTIAL LIST)

DATA SCRAPING/TEXT ANALYSIS | Bash, Perl, Python, & R
Media & Murder: The Effect of News Coverage on Postconflict Criminal Violence in Colombia
- HTML of articles from all available Colombian newspapers was scraped using Bash, processed using Perl to extract all sentences referring to the FARC, passed through a sentiment analysis classifier in Python, and then analyzed statistically in R to examine whether the coverage of rebels affected reintegration.

MACHINE LEARNING | Python & R
Prediction and Theories of Violence
- Three theories of violence - Organizational Theory of Civilian Victimization, Political Economy of Crime, & Social Disorganization Theory - are pitted against each other as well as against an atheoretical model, to see which collection of features best predicts homicide levels in post-conflict countries.
- Various ML techniques, including Random Forests, LSTM, and SVM.

BAYESIAN INFERENCE | R, Stan
Can UN Peacekeeping Improve Health Outcomes Long After the Shooting Stops? (with Michelle Benson, Chhandosi Roy, and Colin Tucker)
- Civil wars do more damage than killing on the battle field. The destruction of health infrastructure & to the economy leads to worse health outcomes long after the end of the war. Using Bayesian linear models with informative priors, we examine whether deployment of UN Peacekeeping Operations to conflicts can help mitigate the sustained negative effects of civil wars.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY
Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science (Expected 2022)
- Paul D. Senese Award for research in international relations

Master of Arts in Political Science (2021)
Advanced Certificate in Data Analysis for the Social Sciences (2020)

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA
Bachelor of Arts in Music (2014)

KAGGLE CERTIFICATES
Intermediate Machine Learning
Intro to Machine Learning
Natural Language Processing
Intro to SQL
Data Visualization

SKILLS

TECHNICAL
Functional programming • R (tidyverse, Zelig, r-stan, rgeos) • Python (pandas, numpy, scikit-learn, tensorflow, geopandas) • Julia (Turing.jl, Stan.jl) • Java (TensorFlow) • STATA • Bash/Linux • Perl • LaTeX • Git & GitHub • SQL

LANGUAGES
English (native) • Spanish (fluent) French (conversational)

COURSEWORK

GRADUATE
Advanced Statistics For Social Sciences
Advanced Multivariate Statistics
Corpus Linguistics
Experimental Methods
Game Theory