Christopher Newton, ABD

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

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY | INSTRUCTOR
Aug 2020 – Present | Buffalo, NY
- PSC 430 Human Rights
- Undergraduate class focused on what human rights are, what causes their violation, and what can be done to prevent and reduce further violations.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY | RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Aug 2019 – June 2020 | Buffalo, NY
- RA for Prof. Michelle Benson.
- 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 Stochastic Gradient Descent.

QUASIEXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS | R
Can UN Peacekeeping Improve Health Outcomes Long After the Shooting Stops? (with Michelle Benson, Chhandosi Roy, and Colin Tucker)
- Civil wars do more damage then the short term killing they are known for. The destruction of health infrastructure & to the economy leads to worse health outcomes long after the formal end of the war. We examine whether deployment of UN Peacekeeping Operations to conflicts can help mitigate the sustained negative effects of civil wars. Coarsened Exact Matching is used to account for the nonrandom deployment of Peacekeepers to wars (Accepted to ISA 2020).

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations

Expected 2021
MASTER OF ARTS IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS
2020
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN DATA ANALYSIS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
2020

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC
2014
- Classical Guitar
- Jazz Studies
- Minor in Spanish

SKILLS

TECHNICAL
R (tidyverse, zeligverse, base r, rgeos, gganimate) • Python (pandas, numpy, scikit-learn, tensorflow, dash, seaborn, matplotlib, geopandas)
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

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