

# ROBERT SHAFFER

## CONTACT

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2020-PRESENT	Postdoctoral Fellow, <i>Syracuse University</i>
2018-2020	Postdoctoral Fellow, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
SUMMER 2013	Visiting Scholar, <i>Australian National University</i>

## EDUCATION

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2018	Ph.D., Government, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i>
2016	M.S., Statistics and Data Science, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i>
2012	B.A., Political Science, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>

## PUBLICATIONS

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2020	<b>Shaffer, Robert.</b> “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law”. Forthcoming, <i>Journal of Politics</i> .
2020	<b>Shaffer, Robert,</b> Lauren Pinson, Jonathan Chu, and Beth Simmons. “What Explains US Local Government Officials’ Receptivity to New Refugees?” Forthcoming at the <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences</i> .
2019	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> and Stephen Mayhew. “Legal Linking: Citation Resolution and Suggestion in Constitutional Law”. <i>Proceedings of the NAACL Workshop on Natural Legal Language Processing</i> (2019): 39-44.
2019	Pete Mohanty and <b>Robert Shaffer.</b> “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS”. <i>Political Analysis</i> 27, no.2 (2019): 127-144.
2017	<b>Shaffer, Robert.</b> “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” <i>Cognitive Systems Research</i> 44 (2017): 89-99.

2017	Pan, Janice, <b>Robert Shaffer</b> , Zenia Sinno, Marcus Tyler, and Joydeep Ghosh. “The Obesity Paradox in ICU Patients”. <i>Proceedings of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society</i> (2017): 3360-3364.
2014	Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, James Melton, <b>Robert Shaffer</b> , Juan F. Sequeda, Daniel P. Miranker. “Constitute: The World’s Constitutions to Read, Search, and Compare”. <i>Journal of Web Semantics</i> 27 (2014): 10-18.
2013	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> . “Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada”. <i>Environmental Law Reporter</i> 43, no.2: 10169-10188.

## WORKING PAPERS

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UNDER REVIEW	Simmons, Beth and <b>Robert Shaffer</b> . “Globalization and Border Securitization in International Discourse”.
IN PROGRESS	Lerner, Josh and <b>Robert Shaffer</b> . “Setting the Committee Agenda: Measuring Speaker Influence in Congressional Hearings”.
IN PROGRESS	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> and Zachary Elkins. “On Measuring Textual Similarity”.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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FALL 2017	Continuing Fellow, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$15,000)
SUMMER 2017	NSF/Society for Political Methodology Travel Grant (\$1,100)
SUMMER 2017	Data Science for Social Good Fellow, eScience Institute, <i>University of Washington</i> (\$6,500)
2015-2016	Continuing Fellow, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$30,000)
SUMMER 2013	Fellow, Clark Center for Australia and New Zealand Studies, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$6,000)
2012-2013	Malcolm Macdonald Fellow, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$28,000)

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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2020	<b>Robert Shaffer</b> . “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Northeastern University. February, 2020.
2019	<b>Robert Shaffer</b> . “Partisanship or Policy? Understanding Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Maastricht University Institute for Data Science/Faculty of Law. November 2019.
2019	<b>Robert Shaffer</b> . “Similarity Measures for Legal Texts.” University of Pennsylvania Department of Computer and Information Systems. September, 2019.

2016	Zachary Elkins, <b>Robert Shaffer</b> , and Jesse Baugher (team presentation). “Agnostic Constitute: An Open-Data Platform.” <i>Sunlight Foundation Transparency Workshop</i> . October, 2016.
2014	Zachary Elkins, <b>Robert Shaffer</b> , and Juan Sequeda (team presentation). “We Can Help Countries Write Better Constitutions.” <i>South by Southwest</i> . March, 2014.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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<i>APSA</i>	2013, 2015-2020
<i>MPSA</i>	2014-2017, 2019
<i>PolMeth</i>	2014-2018, 2020
<i>Poliinformatics</i>	2014, 2017
<i>IPSA/AISP</i>	2017

## TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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SPRING 2018	TA, Graduate, Statistics II ( <i>for Alison Craig</i> )
SPRING 2017	TA, Graduate, Statistics II ( <i>for Robert C. Luskin</i> )
FALL 2016	TA, Undergraduate, Constitutional Law ( <i>for Benjamin Gregg</i> )
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant, <a href="#">Constitute/CCP</a> ( <i>for Zachary Elkins</i> )

## SOFTWARE

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<i>bigKRLS</i>	R package (with Pete Mohanty) implementing improvements to KRLS described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2019) ( <a href="#">CRAN</a> / <a href="#">github</a> ).
<i>constitute_tools</i>	Python toolset designed to assist Constitute data collection ( <a href="#">github</a> ).

## SERVICE

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REVIEWER	<i>American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Law and Courts, Policy Studies Journal</i>
FOUNDER	<i>University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law</i>

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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PROFICIENT	Python, R, $\text{\LaTeX}$
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, C++, SQL

## REFERENCES

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Zachary Elkins (*chair*)  
University of Texas, Austin  
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