

ROBERT SHAFFER

CONTACT

EMAIL: rbshaffer@utexas.edu
WEBSITE: <https://rbshaffer.github.io>
INSTITUTION: Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania
ADDRESS: 3803 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018 Postdoctoral Fellow, *University of Pennsylvania*
2013 Visiting Scholar, *Australian National University*

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Government, *University of Texas, Austin*
Committee: Zachary Elkins (chair), Bryan Jones, Stephen Jessee, and John Wilkerson
Dissertation: Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language
2016 M.S., Statistics and Data Science, *University of Texas, Austin*
2012 B.A., Political Science, *University of California, Berkeley*

PUBLICATIONS

2018 Pete Mohanty and **Robert Shaffer**. “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS.” Forthcoming at *Political Analysis*.
2017 **Shaffer, Robert**. “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” *Cognitive Systems Research* 44: 89-99.
2017 Pan, Janice, **Robert Shaffer**, Zenia Sinno, Marcus Tyler, and Joydeep Ghosh. “The Obesity Paradox in ICU Patients.” *Proceedings of the 39th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society*.
2014 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, James Melton, **Robert Shaffer**, Juan F. Sequeda, Daniel P. Miranker. “Constitute: The World’s Constitutions to Read, Search, and Compare.” *Journal of Web Semantics*, 2014.
2013 **Shaffer, Robert**. “Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada.” *Environmental Law Reporter* 43, no.2.

WORKING PAPERS

COMPLETED	Shaffer, Robert. “Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language”.
COMPLETED	Shaffer, Robert and Zachary Elkins. “An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity”.
IN PROGRESS	Elkins, Zachary, Robert Shaffer , and Jessie Baugher. “Formal Methods of Concept Formation”.
IN PROGRESS	Shaffer, Robert , Bryan D. Jones, JoBeth S. Shafran, Herschel F. Thomas, and Michelle Whyman. “Political Dialogue and the Great Recession: How Democratic Institutions Respond to Crises.”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2018-2019	Perry World House Postdoctoral Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
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

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

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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, Constitute / CCP (<i>for Zachary Elkins</i>)

SOFTWARE

<i>bigKRLS</i>	R package (with Pete Mohanty) implementing improvements described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2018) (CRAN / github).
<i>constitute_tools</i>	Python toolset designed to assist Constitute data collection (github).

SERVICE

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>

SKILLS

PROFICIENT	Python, R, \LaTeX
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, C++, SQL

REFERENCES

Zachary Elkins (<i>chair</i>) University of Texas, Austin 158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800 Austin, TX, 78712 zelkins@austin.utexas.edu	Bryan D. Jones (<i>committee member</i>) University of Texas, Austin 158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800 Austin, TX, 78712 bdjones@austin.utexas.edu
Stephen Jessee (<i>committee member</i>) University of Texas, Austin 158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800 Austin, TX, 78712 sjessee@utexas.edu	John Wilkerson (<i>committee member</i>) University of Washington 101 Gowen Hall, Box 98195 Seattle, WA, 98195 jwilker@uw.edu
Beth Simmons (<i>postdoctoral supervisor</i>) University of Pennsylvania Perry World House, 3803 Locust Walk Pennsylvania, PA, 19104 simmons3@law.upenn.edu	