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-PRESENT   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

UNDER REVIEW	**Shaffer, Robert**. "Preferences or Policy? A Text-as-Data Study of Institutional Complexity in American Law".
UNDER REVIEW	**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, *University of Pennsylvania*
FALL 2017	Continuing Fellow, *University of Texas, Austin* ($15,000)
SUMMER 2017	NSF/Society for Political Methodology Travel Grant ($1,100)
SUMMER 2017	Data Science for Social Good Fellow, eScience Institute, *University of Washington* ($6,500)
2015-2016	Continuing Fellow, *University of Texas, Austin* ($30,000)
SUMMER 2013	Fellow, Clark Center for Australia and New Zealand Studies, *University of Texas, Austin* ($6,000)
2012-2013	Malcolm Macdonald Fellow, *University of Texas, Austin* ($28,000)

Invited Presentations

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

Conference Participation

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

Teaching and Professional Experience

Spring 2018	TA, Graduate, Statistics II *(for Alison Craig)*
Spring 2017	TA, Graduate, Statistics II *(for Robert C. Luskin)*
Fall 2016	TA, Undergraduate, Constitutional Law *(for Benjamin Gregg)*
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant, Constitute/CCP *(for Zachary Elkins)*

Software

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

Service

Reviewer	*American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Law and Courts, Policy Studies Journal*
Founder	*University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law*

Skills

Proficient	Python, R, LaTeX
Intermediate	HTML, C++, SQL

References

Zachary Elkins *(chair)*
University of Texas, Austin
158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800
Austin, TX, 78712
zelkins@austin.utexas.edu

Stephen Jessee *(committee member)*
University of Texas, Austin
158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800
Austin, TX, 78712
sjessee@utexas.edu

Beth Simmons *(postdoctoral supervisor)*
University of Pennsylvania
Perry World House, 3803 Locust Walk
Pennsylvania, PA, 19104
simmons3@law.upenn.edu

Bryan D. Jones *(committee member)*
University of Texas, Austin
158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800
Austin, TX, 78712
bdjones@austin.utexas.edu

John Wilkerson *(committee member)*
University of Washington
101 Gowen Hall, Box 98195
Seattle, WA, 98195
jwilker@uw.edu