

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| <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

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

SOFTWARE

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| <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

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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> |

SKILLS

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

REFERENCES

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|---|--|
| 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 | |