

ROBERT SHAFFER

CONTACT

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020-PRESENT Postdoctoral Fellow, *Syracuse University*
2018-2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, *University of Pennsylvania*
SUMMER 2013 Visiting Scholar, *Australian National University*

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

2020 **Shaffer, Robert.** “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law”. Forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*.
2019 **Shaffer, Robert** and Stephen Mayhew. “Legal Linking: Citation Resolution and Suggestion in Constitutional Law”. *Proceedings of the NAACL Workshop on Natural Legal Language Processing* (2019): 39-44.
2019 Pete Mohanty and **Robert Shaffer.** “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS”. *Political Analysis* 27, no.2 (2019): 127-144.
2017 **Shaffer, Robert.** “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” *Cognitive Systems Research* 44 (2017): 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* (2017): 3360-3364.

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”. <i>Journal of Web Semantics</i> 27 (2014): 10-18.
2013	Shaffer, Robert . “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

UNDER REVIEW	Shaffer, Robert , Lauren Pinson, Jonathan Chu, and Beth Simmons. “What Explains US Local Government Officials’ Receptivity to New Refugees?”
IN PROGRESS	Shaffer, Robert and Zachary Elkins. “On Measuring Textual Similarity”.
IN PROGRESS	Simmons, Beth and Robert Shaffer . “Globalization and Border Securitization in International Discourse”.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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

2020	Robert Shaffer . “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Northeastern University. February, 2020.
2019	Robert Shaffer . “Partisanship or Policy? Understanding Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Maastricht University Institute for Data Science/Faculty of Law. November 2019.
2019	Robert Shaffer . “Similarity Measures for Legal Texts.” University of Pennsylvania Department of Computer and Information Systems. September, 2019.
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.” *South by Southwest*. March, 2014.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

<i>APSA</i>	2013, 2015-2019
<i>MPSA</i>	2014-2017, 2019
<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 to KRLS described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2019) (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>

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

REFERENCES

Zachary Elkins (*chair*)
University of Texas, Austin
158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800
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Stephen Jessee (*committee member*)
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Beth Simmons (*postdoctoral supervisor*)
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Bryan D. Jones (*committee member*)
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