

ROBERT SHAFFER

PERSONAL

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EDUCATION

SPRING 2018 PhD Candidate, Government, *University of Texas, Austin*
(Expected)

FALL 2016 MS, Statistics and Data Science, *University of Texas, Austin*

SPRING 2012 BA, Political Science, *University of California, Berkeley*
Distinction in General Scholarship
Highest Honors in Political Science

PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

2017 Shaffer, Robert. "Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse." *Cognitive Systems Research* (in press).

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.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES

2017 Pan, Janice, Robert Shaffer, Zenia Sinno, Marcus Tyler, and Joydeep Ghosh. "The Obesity Paradox in ICU Patients." 39th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, 2017.

NON-PEER REVIEWED

2013 Shaffer, Robert. "Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada." *Environmental Law Reporter* 43, no.2 (2013).

2012 Shaffer, Robert. "Biodiversity and the Courts: Endangered Species Law in the US, Australia, and Canada." *Berkeley Undergraduate Journal* 24, no.2 (2012).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. April, 2017.
- 2017 Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity." *Texas Methodology Meetings*. February, 2017.
- 2016 Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. "Messy Data, Robust Inference? Promises and Challenges of Complex Models." *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. September, 2016.
- 2016 Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "Supervised Similarity and Constitutional Borrowing: Inferring Similarity from Human Judgment." *Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting*. July, 2016.
- 2016 Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. "bigKRLS: Optimizing Non-Parametric Regression in R." *useR! Annual Meeting*. June, 2016.
- 2016 Brian J. Cook, Robert Shaffer, and L. Maria Ingram. "The Design and Implementation of Chemical Disclosure Requirements and Trade Secret Protections in State Fracking Regulation." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. April, 2016.
- 2015 Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity." *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. September, 2015.
- 2015 Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, and Bryan D. Jones. "Uncertainty and Topical Diversity in the 2008 Financial Crisis." *Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting*. July, 2015.
- 2015 Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, and Bryan D. Jones. "The Political Effects of Uncertainty." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. April, 2015.
- 2015 Robert Shaffer. "Political Conflict and Constitutional Design." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. April, 2015.
- 2014 Robert Shaffer. "Power in Language: A Grammar-Based Approach for Measuring Delegation of Authority." Poster Presentation, *Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting*. July, 2014.
- 2014 Robert Shaffer. "Environmental Politics and Comparative Delegation Dynamics." *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*. April, 2014.
- 2014 Robert Shaffer. "Statutory Design and Environmental Policy in Canada and Australia." *Australia and New Zealand Studies Association of North America Annual Conference*. February, 2014.

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| 2013 | Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Grammar and Language in Comparative Delegation." Poster Presentation, <i>American Political Science Association Annual Conference</i> . September, 2013. |
| 2013 | Robert Shaffer. "Political Fragmentation and Policy Delegation: Divided Government in Unified Institutional Systems." Poster Presentation, <i>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference</i> . April, 2013. |
| 2013 | Robert Shaffer. "Melting Ice and Tangled Nets: Litigation and Conservation Policy in the US, Australia, and Canada." <i>Australia and New Zealand Studies Association of North America Annual Conference</i> . February, 2013. |

WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

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| 2016 | Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Jesse Baugher. "Agnostic Constitute: An Open-Data Platform." <i>Sunlight Foundation Transparency Workshop</i> . October, 2016. |
| 2014 | Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, Michelle Wolfe, and Bryan D. Jones. "Attribute Uncertainty and the U.S. Financial Crisis." <i>Poliinformatics Invitational Workshop</i> . November, 2014. |
| 2014 | Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, Michelle Wolfe, Bryan D. Jones. "Attribute Uncertainty and the US Financial Crisis." <i>Poliinformatics Challenge, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i> . August, 2014. |
| 2013 | Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, James Melton, Robert Shaffer, Juan F. Sequeda and Daniel Miranker. "Constitute: The World's Constitutions to Read, Search and Compare." <i>Semantic Web Challenge</i> . October, 2013 |

SERVICE

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| 2014-present | Founder and Co-Organizer, <i>University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law</i> |
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APPOINTMENTS

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| SPRING 2016 | Teaching Assistant, <i>Regression (Graduate)</i> |
| FALL 2015 | Teaching Assistant, <i>Constitutional Law (Undergraduate)</i> |
| 2013 - 2015 | Research Assistant, <i>Constitute/Comparative Constitutions Project</i> |
| SUMMER
2013 | School Visitor, <i>Australian National University</i> |

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

SUMMER 2017	Fellow, eScience Institute Data Science for Social Good Summer Program, <i>University of Washington</i> (\$6500)
2015-2016	Continuing Fellow, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$20,000)
SUMMER 2013	Fellow, Clark Center for Australia and New Zealand Studies, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$6000)
2012-2013	Malcolm Macdonald Fellow, <i>University of Texas, Austin</i> (\$17,000)

SOFTWARE

<i>bigKRLS</i>	R package implementing various improvements to Hainmueller and Hazlett's (2013) KRLS model, with a special focus on incorporating KRLS into R's high-performance <i>bimemory</i> suite. Available via CRAN and github .
<i>constitute_tools</i>	Back-end Python toolset designed to assist with Constitute data collection pipeline. Includes a hierarchical parser designed to read legal documents and a series of formatting tools. Available via github .

TECHNICAL SKILLS

PROFICIENT	Python, R
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, L ^A T _E X, C++
BASIC	Javascript