Robert Shaffer

Contact

EMAIL:	shafferr@upenn.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*

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". *Journal of Web Semantics* 27 (2014): 10-18.

| 2013 | **Shaffer, Robert**. "Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada". *Environmental Law Reporter* 43, no.2: 10169-10188. |

Working Papers

In progress	**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, *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

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." *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, 2015-2019
MPSA	2014-2017, 2019
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 to KRLS described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2019) (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*

Technical 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