Robert Shaffer

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Education

SPRING 2018 *(Expected)*	PhD Candidate, Government, *University of Texas, Austin* Committee: Zachary Elkins (chair), Bryan Jones, Stephen Jessee, and John Wilkerson
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 Publications

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.

Other Publications

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

[†]Conference papers which involved a competitive submission process and double-blind peer review.

Software Authored

bigKRLS R package (with Pete Mohanty) implementing improvements to Hainmueller and Hazlett's (2013) KRLS model, with a focus on incorporating KRLS into R's high-performance *bigmemory* suite. Available via CRAN and github.

constitute_tools 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.

Working Papers and Presentations

MPSA 2017 Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language."

PolMeth 2016, *APSA* 2015 Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity."

APSA 2016, *useR!* 2016 Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. "Messy Data, Robust Inference? Promises and Challenges of Complex Models."

MPSA 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."

PolMeth 2015, *MPSA* 2015 Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, and Bryan D. Jones. "The Political Effects of Uncertainty."

PolMeth 2014 Robert Shaffer. "Power in Language: A Grammar-Based Approach for Measuring Delegation of Authority."

WPSA 2014, *ANZSANA* 2014 Robert Shaffer. "Environmental Politics and Comparative Delegation Dynamics."

ANZSANA 2013 Robert Shaffer. "Melting Ice and Tangled Nets: Litigation and Conservation Policy in the US, Australia, and Canada."

Invited Workshops and Competitions

2017 Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Jesse Baugher. "Constitute and the Semantic Web." *PoliInformatics Invitational Workshop.* August, 2017.

2016 Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Jesse Baugher. "Agnostic Constitute: An Open-Data Platform." *Sunlight Foundation Transparency Workshop.* 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." *PoliInformatics Invitational Workshop.* November, 2014.

2014	Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, Michelle Wolfe, and Bryan D. Jones. "Attribute Uncertainty and the US Financial Crisis." *PoliInformatics Challenge, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* 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." *Semantic Web Challenge.* October, 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SPRING 2017	Teaching Assistant, Graduate, Statistics II *(for Robert C. Luskin)*
FALL 2016	Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate, Constitutional Law *(for Benjamin Gregg)*
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant, Constitute/Comparative Constitutions Project *(for Zachary Elkins)*
SUMMER 2013	Visiting Scholar, *Australian National University*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

FALL 2017	Continuing Fellow, *University of Texas, Austin* ($15,000)
SUMMER 2017	Fellow, eScience Institute Summer Program, *University of Washington* ($6500)
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* ($6000)
2012-2013	Malcolm Macdonald Fellow, *University of Texas, Austin* ($28,000)

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

PROFICIENT	Python, R
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, LaTeX, C++
BASIC	Javascript

SERVICE

2014-present	Founder and Co-Organizer, *University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law*

2016-present   Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Law and Courts*

References

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