

ROBERT SHAFFER

PERSONAL

INSTITUTION: University of Texas, Austin
ADDRESS: BAT 2.116, Mailcode A1800, Austin, TX, 78712
EMAIL: rbshaffer@utexas.edu

EDUCATION

SPRING 2018 PhD Student, 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

PUBLICATIONS

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 (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

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

WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

- 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." <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

2014-2016	Founder and Co-Organizer, <i>University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law</i>
-----------	--

APPOINTMENTS

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

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)
2011-2012	Charles H. Percy Undergraduate Grant for Public Affairs Research, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> (\$500)
SUMMER 2011	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> (\$3500)

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 at https://github.com/rdr1990/bigKRLS .
<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 at https://github.com/rbshaffer/constitute_tools .

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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