

ROBERT SHAFFER

PERSONAL

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EDUCATION

SUMMER 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

2018 Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS.” Forthcoming at *Political Analysis*.

2017 Shaffer, Robert. “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” *Cognitive Systems Research* 44: 89-99.

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 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

<i>bigKRLS</i>	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 <i>bigmemory</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 .

INVITED WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

2017	Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, Alex Hudson, and Jesse Baugher. "Constitute and the Semantic Web." <i>IPSA/AISP 2017 International Conference</i> . December, 2017.
2017	Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Jesse Baugher. "Constitute and the Semantic Web." <i>PoliInformatics Invitational Workshop</i> . August, 2017.
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, and 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

WORKING PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

<i>PolMeth</i> 2018, <i>APSA</i> 2017, <i>MPSA</i> 2017	Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language."
<i>useR!</i> 2016, <i>APSA</i> 2016, <i>MPSA</i> 2017	Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. "Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS."
<i>PolMeth</i> 2016, <i>APSA</i> 2015	Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity."

<i>MPSA</i> 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.”
<i>PolMeth</i> 2015, <i>MPSA</i> 2015	Robert Shaffer, Herschel F. Thomas III, Michelle Whyman, JoBeth Surface Shafran, and Bryan D. Jones. “The Political Effects of Uncertainty.”
<i>PolMeth</i> 2014	Robert Shaffer. “Power in Language: A Grammar-Based Approach for Measuring Delegation of Authority.”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SPRING 2018	Teaching Assistant, Graduate, Statistics II (<i>for Alison Craig</i>)
SPRING 2017	Teaching Assistant, Graduate, Statistics II (<i>for Robert C. Luskin</i>)
FALL 2016	Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate, Constitutional Law (<i>for Benjamin Gregg</i>)
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant, Constitute/Comparative Constitutions Project (<i>for Zachary Elkins</i>)
SUMMER 2013	Visiting Scholar, <i>Australian National University</i>

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	Fellow, eScience Institute Data Science for Social Good, <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)

SERVICE

2014-present	Founder and Co-Organizer, <i>University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law</i>
2016-present	Reviewer, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , <i>Journal of Law and Courts</i> , <i>Policy Studies Journal</i>

SKILLS

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

REFERENCES

Zachary Elkins
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