

# ROBERT SHAFFER

## PERSONAL

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INSTITUTION: University of Texas, Austin  
ADDRESS: 158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800, Austin, TX, 78712

## EDUCATION

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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

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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<sup>†</sup>

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

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

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<sup>†</sup>Conference papers which involved a competitive submission process and double-blind peer review.

## SOFTWARE AUTHORED

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<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 <a href="#">CRAN</a> and <a href="#">github</a> .
<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 <a href="#">github</a> .

## WORKING PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

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<i>APSA</i> 2017, <i>PolMeth</i> 2017, <i>MPSA</i> 2017	Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language."
<i>PolMeth</i> 2016, <i>APSA</i> 2015	Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity." Invited to revise and resubmit at <i>Political Analysis</i> .
<i>APSA</i> 2016, <i>useR!</i> 2016	Pete Mohanty and Robert Shaffer. "Messy Data, Robust Inference? Promises and Challenges of Complex Models." Under review, <i>Political Analysis</i> .
<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."
<i>WPSA</i> 2014, <i>ANZSANA</i> 2014	Robert Shaffer. "Environmental Politics and Comparative Delegation Dynamics."
<i>ANZSANA</i> 2013	Robert Shaffer. "Melting Ice and Tangled Nets: Litigation and Conservation Policy in the US, Australia, and Canada."

## INVITED WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

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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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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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, <a href="#">Constitute/Comparative Constitutions Project</a> ( <i>for Zachary Elkins</i> )
SUMMER 2013	Visiting Scholar, <i>Australian National University</i>

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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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)

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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PROFICIENT	Python, R
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, C++

BASIC                      Javascript

## SERVICE

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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>

## REFERENCES

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Zachary Elkins  
University of Texas, Austin  
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