

ROBERT SHAFFER

PERSONAL

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

EDUCATION

SPRING 2018 PhD Candidate, 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

PEER-REVIEWED

2017 Shaffer, Robert. "Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse." *Cognitive Systems Research* (accepted).

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.

NON-PEER REVIEWED

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

2017 Robert Shaffer. "Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. April, 2017.

2017 Robert Shaffer and Zachary Elkins. "An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity." *Texas Methodology Meetings*. February, 2017.

- 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.” <i>Australia and New Zealand Studies Association of North America Annual Conference</i> . February, 2013.
------	--

WORKSHOPS AND COMPETITIONS

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, 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-present	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, Constitute/Comparative Constitutions Project
SUMMER 2013	School Visitor, <i>Australian National University</i>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

SUMMER 2017	Fellow, eScience Institute Data Science for Social Good Summer Program, <i>University of Washington</i> (\$6500)
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)

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 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 .

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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