

# ROBERT SHAFFER

## CONTACT

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2018-PRESENT      Postdoctoral Fellow, *University of Pennsylvania*  
2013                Visiting Scholar, *Australian National University*

## EDUCATION

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2018                Ph.D., Government, *University of Texas, Austin*  
**Committee:** Zachary Elkins (chair), Bryan Jones, Stephen Jessee, and John Wilkerson  
**Dissertation:** Power in Text: Extracting Institutional Relationships from Natural Language  
2016                M.S., Statistics and Data Science, *University of Texas, Austin*  
2012                B.A., Political Science, *University of California, Berkeley*

## PUBLICATIONS

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2018                Pete Mohanty and **Robert Shaffer**. “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS.” *Political Analysis* (2018): 1-18.  
2017                **Shaffer, Robert**. “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” *Cognitive Systems Research* 44: 89-99.  
2017                Pan, Janice, **Robert Shaffer**, Zenia Sinno, Marcus Tyler, and Joydeep Ghosh. “The Obesity Paradox in ICU Patients.” *Proceedings of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society*.  
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.

## WORKING PAPERS

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UNDER REVIEW	<b>Shaffer, Robert.</b> “Preferences or Policy? A Text-as-Data Study of Institutional Complexity in American Law”.
UNDER REVIEW	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> and Stephen Mayhew. “Legal Linking: Citation Resolution and Suggestion in Constitutional Law”.
UNDER REVIEW	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> and Zachary Elkins. “An Evaluation of Measures of Textual Similarity”.
IN PROGRESS	Elkins, Zachary, <b>Robert Shaffer</b> , and Jessie Baugher. “Formal Methods of Concept Formation”.
IN PROGRESS	<b>Shaffer, Robert</b> , Bryan D. Jones, JoBeth S. Shafran, Herschel F. Thomas, and Michelle Whyman. “Political Dialogue and the Great Recession: How Democratic Institutions Respond to Crises.”

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2018-2019	Perry World House Postdoctoral Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
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	Data Science for Social Good Fellow, eScience Institute, <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)

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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2016	Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Jesse Baugher (team presentation). “Agnostic Constitute: An Open-Data Platform.” <i>Sunlight Foundation Transparency Workshop</i> . October, 2016.
2014	Zachary Elkins, Robert Shaffer, and Juan Sequeda (team presentation). “We Can Help Countries Write Better Constitutions.” <i>South by Southwest</i> . March, 2014.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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<i>APSA</i>	2013, 2015-2018
<i>MPSA</i>	2014-2017

<i>PolMeth</i>	2014-2018
<i>Poliinformatics</i>	2014, 2017
<i>IPSA/AISP</i>	2017

## TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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SPRING 2018	TA, Graduate, Statistics II ( <i>for Alison Craig</i> )
SPRING 2017	TA, Graduate, Statistics II ( <i>for Robert C. Luskin</i> )
FALL 2016	TA, Undergraduate, Constitutional Law ( <i>for Benjamin Gregg</i> )
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant, <a href="#">Constitute</a> / <a href="#">CCP</a> ( <i>for Zachary Elkins</i> )

## SOFTWARE

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<i>bigKRLS</i>	R package (with Pete Mohanty) implementing improvements described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2018) ( <a href="#">CRAN</a> / <a href="#">github</a> ).
<i>constitute_tools</i>	Python toolset designed to assist Constitute data collection ( <a href="#">github</a> ).

## SERVICE

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REVIEWER	<i>American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Law and Courts, Policy Studies Journal</i>
FOUNDER	<i>University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law</i>

## SKILLS

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PROFICIENT	Python, R, $\text{\LaTeX}$
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, C++, SQL

## REFERENCES

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Zachary Elkins (*chair*)  
University of Texas, Austin  
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