

ROBERT SHAFFER

CONTACT

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020-PRESENT Postdoctoral Fellow, *Syracuse University*
2018-2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, *University of Pennsylvania*
SUMMER 2013 Visiting Scholar, *Australian National University*

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Government, *University of Texas, Austin*
2016 M.S., Statistics and Data Science, *University of Texas, Austin*
2012 B.A., Political Science, *University of California, Berkeley*

PUBLICATIONS

2020 **Shaffer, Robert.** “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law”. Forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*.
2019 **Shaffer, Robert** and Stephen Mayhew. “Legal Linking: Citation Resolution and Suggestion in Constitutional Law”. *Proceedings of the NAACL Workshop on Natural Legal Language Processing* (2019): 39-44.
2019 Pete Mohanty and **Robert Shaffer.** “Messy Data, Robust Inference? Navigating Obstacles to Inference with bigKRLS”. *Political Analysis* 27, no.2 (2019): 127-144.
2017 **Shaffer, Robert.** “Cognitive Load and Issue Engagement in Congressional Discourse.” *Cognitive Systems Research* 44 (2017): 89-99.
2017 Pan, Janice, **Robert Shaffer**, Zenia Sinno, Marcus Tyler, and Joydeep Ghosh. “The Obesity Paradox in ICU Patients”. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society* (2017): 3360-3364.

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”. <i>Journal of Web Semantics</i> 27 (2014): 10-18.
2013	Shaffer, Robert . “Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada”. <i>Environmental Law Reporter</i> 43, no.2: 10169-10188.

WORKING PAPERS

REVISE AND RESUBMIT	Shaffer, Robert , Lauren Pinson, Jonathan Chu, and Beth Simmons. “What Explains US Local Government Officials’ Receptivity to New Refugees?” Invited to revise and resubmit at the <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences</i> .
UNDER REVIEW	Simmons, Beth and Robert Shaffer . “Globalization and Border Securitization in International Discourse”.
IN PROGRESS	Lerner, Josh and Robert Shaffer . “Setting the Committee Agenda: Measuring Speaker Influence in Congressional Hearings”.
IN PROGRESS	Shaffer, Robert and Zachary Elkins. “On Measuring Textual Similarity”.

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	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

2020	Robert Shaffer . “Power in Text: Implementing Networks and Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Northeastern University. February, 2020.
2019	Robert Shaffer . “Partisanship or Policy? Understanding Institutional Complexity in American Law.” Maastricht University Institute for Data Science/Faculty of Law. November 2019.
2019	Robert Shaffer . “Similarity Measures for Legal Texts.” University of Pennsylvania Department of Computer and Information Systems. September, 2019.

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

<i>APSA</i>	2013, 2015-2020
<i>MPSA</i>	2014-2017, 2019
<i>PolMeth</i>	2014-2018, 2020
<i>Poliinformatics</i>	2014, 2017
<i>IPSA/AISP</i>	2017

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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, Constitute/CCP (<i>for Zachary Elkins</i>)

SOFTWARE

<i>bigKRLS</i>	R package (with Pete Mohanty) implementing improvements to KRLS described in Mohanty and Shaffer (2019) (CRAN / github).
<i>constitute_tools</i>	Python toolset designed to assist Constitute data collection (github).

SERVICE

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>

TECHNICAL SKILLS

PROFICIENT	Python, R, \LaTeX
INTERMEDIATE	HTML, C++, SQL

REFERENCES

Zachary Elkins (*chair*)
University of Texas, Austin
158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800
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Stephen Jessee (*committee member*)
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