

Aleksandr Fisher

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Technical Skills

Languages: Python, R, Stata, SAS, SQL, Latex

Tools: Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, Spacy, BeautifulSoup, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Flask, Dplyr, Tidyverse, Ggplot2, Rmarkdown, Mlr, DataExplorer

Quantitative Methods: Survey experiments, natural experiments, machine learning, decision trees, random forest, natural language processing, cluster analysis, various time-series cross-sectional models, causal mediation analysis, multinomial logistic regression, factor analysis, web scraping

Education

George Washington University *Washington, DC*
Ph.D. in Political Science *2019*

George Washington University *Washington, DC*
M.A in Political Science *2017*

Temple University *Philadelphia, PA*
B.A. in History and Political Science *2014*

Experience

The College Board *Newtown, PA*
Data Analyst/Statistical Programmer *Jan. 2020 - Present*

- Developed SAS and Python code that increased productivity and accuracy of the quality management processes related to the SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9
- Built a web application in Python/Flask to automate the creation of excel spreadsheets that track how College Board products align with state standards, reducing process time by dozens of hours every month
- Created new archives and archive features that added significant value to psychometric work by providing a centralized location for all test statistics

George Washington University *Washington, DC*
Ph.D. Candidate *Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2019*

- Designed, implemented, and analyzed five survey experiments in the U.S. and Russia to identify the causal effect of exposure to foreign disinformation; results published in academic journal
- Aggregated and cleaned cross-national survey data in 50 countries from 2012 to 2017 using R and Stata to compare changes in countries' international influence; results published in academic journal
- Conducted a large-scale (N~2,000) survey experiment in the United States to test how presidents talk themselves out of foreign policy esclations, results published in an academic journal and the *Washington Post*

Insight Data Science *New York, NY*
Data Science Fellow *Sept. 2019 - Nov 2019*

- Built an end-to-end product in Python/Flask for an early-stage startup in three weeks that predicts respondents' severity of depression from text inputs using a random forest model
- Cleaned unstructured text data using Pandas and NLTK, created predictive features using tf-idf and sentiment analysis, and compared machine learning models using scikit-learn
- Predicted people's level of depression within 2 points on a 16-point clinically verified scale, doubling the accuracy of a baseline model

Academic Positions

Haverford College *Haverford, PA*
Assistant Professor *Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2020*

- Designed and instructed *Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Political Science*, which included lessons on causal inference, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and data manipulation/visualization in R (Undergraduate students)

Jefferson University

Instructor

Philadelphia, PA

Jan. 2019 - May 2019

- Designed and instructed two sections of *Debating Global Issues*, which included lessons on economic globalization, development, and regime change (Undergraduate students)

George Washington University

Instructor/Teaching Assistant

Washington, DC

Sept. 2018 - August. 2018

- Designed and instructed a summer course *Science, Technology, and Politics*, which explored the influence of AI on political processes (Undergraduate students)
- Led a 4-day course reviewing fundamental math principles including probability, hypothesis tests as well as instruction in R (Doctoral students)
- Teaching assistant for *Introduction to Empirical Political Analysis* (Doctoral students)
- Teaching assistant for *Nonlinear Models* (Doctoral students)
- Led discussion sections for *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Undergraduate students)

Peer Reviewed Publications

- Fisher, Aleksandr. "Demonizing the enemy: The influence of Russian state-sponsored media on American audiences." *Post-Soviet Affairs* (2020): 1-16. [Link]
- Fisher, Aleksandr. "Trickle Down Soft Power: Do Russia's Ties to European Parties Influence Public Opinion?." *Foreign Policy Analysis* (2020). [Link]
- Fisher, Aleksandr. "A New Cold War? International Public Opinion of Russia and the United States." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 32.1 (2020): 143-152. [Link]
- Evers, Miles M., Aleksandr Fisher, and Steven D. Schaaf. "Is There a Trump Effect? An Experiment on Political Polarization and Audience Costs." *Perspectives on Politics* 17.2 (2019): 433-452. [Link]

Policy Publications

- If Trump backs down from his latest Iran threat, will he lose support? We checked. *Washington Post, Monkey Cage*, 2019, with Miles M. Evers and Steven Schaaf. [Link]
- Perceptions of Russian Interference in U.S. Elections Matters as Much as Actual Involvement. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2019. [Link]
- Moldova and Ukraine: Diverging Neighbors? *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2017. [Link]
- Ukraine's Struggle for Democracy: Severe Challenges Ahead. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015, with Amb. Adrian Basora. [Link]
- Putin's Greater Novorossiia: The Dismemberment of Ukraine. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015, with Amb. Adrian Basora. [Link]
- Home-Grown Terrorism: Russia's Ticking Bomb. *ISN, Center for Security Studies (CSS)*, 2015, with Maia Otashvili. [Link]
- Ukraine Crisis Timeline as of January 30, 2015. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 2015. [Link]