

Nicholas Beauchamp

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Employment

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Core Faculty, NULab for Texts, Maps and Networks; Core Faculty, Network Science Institute, Northeastern University, 2013 – present.

Lecturer in Discipline, Department of Political Science and Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences program, Columbia University, 2012 – 2013.

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, New York University. 2013.

Dissertation: Persuasion, Ideology, and Speech: Using automated text analysis to model opinion formation and change

M.A. Political Science, New York University, May 2007.

M.A. Literature in English, Johns Hopkins University, May 2001.

B.A. Honors in Philosophy, Honors in English, Yale University, June 1996.

Publications

“Microblog Conversation Recommendation via Joint Modeling of Topics and Discourse,” *Proceedings of the North American Association for Computational Linguistics*. (with Xingshan Zeng, Jing Li, Lu Wang, Sarah Shugars, Kam-Fai Wong). Forthcoming 2018.

“Winning on the Merits: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes,” *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. 2017 (with Lu Wang, Sarah Shugars, and Ke Chen Qin)

“Measuring Public Opinion with Social Media Data,” Book chapter, *Oxford Handbook of Polling and Polling Methods*. 2017 (with Marko Klasnja, Pablo Barbera, Joshua Tucker and Jonathan Nagler)

“Modeling and Measuring Deliberation Online,” Book chapter, *Oxford Handbook of Networked Communication*. 2018

“Predicting and Interpolating State-level Polls using Twitter Textual Data,” *American Journal of Political Science*, 2017.

“What Terrorist Leaders Want: A Content Analysis of Terrorist Propaganda Videos,” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 2016 (with Max Abrahms and Joseph Mroszczyk).

“Visualizing Biographies of Artists of the Middle East,” Exhibit, *The Amory Art Show*, New York, 2015 (with Dietmar Offenhuber and Christoph Riedl)

“A Bottom-up Approach to Linguistic Persuasion in Advertising,” Research Note, *The Political Methodologist*, Fall 2011

“Findings of an independent panel on allegations of statistical evidence for fraud during the 2004 Venezuelan Presidential recall referendum,” in *Observing the Venezuela Presidential Recall Referendum: Comprehensive Report*, The Carter Center, 2004. (with Henry Brady, Richard Fowles, Aviel Rubin, and Jonathan Taylor)

Other media

Tools

Plotmapper.com, for visualizing single documents

Autoscale (nickbeauchamp.com), for visualizing multiple documents

QuickTopics (nickbeauchamp.com), for content topic analysis of multiple documents

Clichéscore, Textpredictor, Motifator, etc. (nickbeauchamp.com): assorted tools for analyzing text

Blossom.R, a general-purpose algorithm for optimization over rough, discontinuous and multimodal objective functions

Online publications

“The State of the Union Address in a Single Image,” Washingtonpost.com, January 2015

“A Network Analysis of the Ferguson Witness Reports,” Washingtonpost.com, December 2014

“The Ideological Position of Obama’s SOTU Relative to Past Presidents,” Washingtonpost.com, January 2012

Work in major media

“This algorithm identifies the key ingredients to winning a debate,” *Digital Trends*, June 2018

“The Persuasion Principle,” *Impact: Journal of the Market Research Society*, London UK, January 2016

“Inside the Message Machine that Could Make Politicians More Persuasive,” NPR’s *All Things Considered*, October 2015

“An Algorithm to Help Politicians Pander,” *Wired*, October 2015

“How to Make Your Speeches Better, Automatically,” *Pacific Standard*, September 2015

Working Papers and Under Review

“Anchoring and Reasoning Effects on Group Decision-making and Deliberation” (with Briony Swire-Thompson and David Lazer)

“A Bayesian Model of Engagement in Online Arguments” (with Sarah Shugars)

“Mapping Conceptual Networks (with Peter Levine and Sarah Shugars)

“Trajectories of Hate (with Spencer Piston and Ioana Panaitiu)

“Deep Learning for Predicting Votes on Congressional Bills” (with Alex Herzog)

“Visualizing Argument Structure from Online and Live Conversations” (with Lu Wang and Michelle Borkin)

“Plotmapper: Visualizing Rhetorical Structure and Flow in Individual Documents”

“‘Someone is Wrong on the Internet’: Political Argument as the Exchange of Conceptually Networked Ideas”

“Experimentally Optimized Textual Treatments using Response Surfaces and Online Nelder-Mead Methods”

“Scaling Appeals Court Judges using Unanimous Decisions”

- “A Bottom-up Approach to Linguistic Persuasion in Advertising”
- “Using Text to Scale Legislatures with Uninformative Voting”
- “‘Someone is Wrong on the Internet’: Political Argument as the Exchange of Conceptually Networked Ideas”
- “Blossom: A new evolutionary strategy optimizer with applications to matching and sampling”
- “Predicting and Explaining Supreme Court Decisions Using the Texts of Briefs and Oral Arguments”
- “How do we combine issues? Estimating Spatial Metrics and Utility Functions Using Maximum Likelihood.”

Conference Presentations

- “Trajectories of Hate,” Fake News / Real Knowledge, NULab Spring Conference, March 2018
- “A Bayesian Model of Engagement in Online Arguments,” Social Media and Political Participation Global, October 2017.
- “Mapping Conceptual Networks,” Text as Data, October 2017.
- “Winning on the Merits: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes,” APSA Annual Conference, September 2017.
- “Mapping Conceptual Networks,” Political Networks, July 2017.
- “Winning on the Merits: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes,” MPSA Annual Conference, April 2017.
- “Here’s Where You’re Wrong: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes,” New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data, October 2016.
- “Here’s Where You’re Wrong: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes,” Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference, July 2016
- “Climbing Mount Obamacare: Experimentally Optimized Textual Treatments,” New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data, October 2015
- “Climbing Mount Obamacare: Experimentally Optimized Textual Treatments,” APSA Annual Meeting, September 2015
- “Creating More Persuasive Text through Response Surface Optimization,” Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference, July 2015
- “Experimentally Optimized Textual Treatments using Response Surfaces and Online Nelder-Mead,” MPSA Annual Conference, July 2015
- “Visualizing and Modeling Document-Scale Semantic Structure,” New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data, September 2014.
- “Scaling Appeals Court Judges using Unanimous Decisions,” APSA Annual Meeting, September 2014.
- “Visualizing and Modeling Document-Scale Semantic Structure,” APSA Annual Meeting, September 2014.
- “Someone is Wrong on the Internet: Deliberation as the Exchange of Networked Ideas”, Political Networks, June 2014
- “Someone is Wrong on the Internet: Deliberation as the Exchange of Networked Ideas”, ICA, May 2014
- “Scaling Appeals Court Judges using Unanimous Decisions,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2014.

- “Predicting and Interpolating State-level Polling Using Twitter Textual Data,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2014.
- “Predicting and Interpolating State-level Polling Using Twitter Textual Data,” New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data, September 2013.
- “Predicting and Interpolating State-level Polling Using Twitter Textual Data,” APSA Annual Meeting, August 2013.
- “Blossom: A new evolutionary strategy optimizer with applications to matching and sampling,” APSA Annual Meeting, August 2013.
- “Blossom: A new evolutionary strategy optimizer with applications to matching and sampling,” Society for Political Methodology Summer Conference, July 2013
- “Many Paths to an Opinion: Using the Text of Briefs and Oral Arguments to Predict and Explain Supreme Court Decisions,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2013
- “The Long-Term Effects of Political Argument as an Exchange of Ideas,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2013
- “Predicting and Explaining Supreme Court Decisions Using the Texts of Briefs and Oral Arguments,” APSA Annual Meeting, September 2012 (canceled due to weather)
- “A Hidden Markov Topic Model for Predicting Ideology and Opinion Change,” Society for Political Methodology Summer Conference, July 2012
- “A Correlated Topic Model of Online Political Argument and Opinion Change,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2012
- “A Bottom-up Approach to Linguistic Persuasion in Advertising,” APSA Annual Meeting, August 2011
- “A Generative Model of Political Argumentation with Correlated Topics and Strategic Speech,” Society for Political Methodology Summer Conference, July 2011
- “A Bottom-up Approach to Linguistic Persuasion in Advertising,” St Louis Area Methods Meeting, April 2011
- “Persuading Voters With Lots of Words: Predicting the Effects of TV Ads Using One-at-a-time Regression and Automated Text Analysis,” MPSA Annual National Conference, March 2011
- “How to Scale Legislatures with Text: A comparison of methods, with applications to the US Congress and UK House of Commons,” Text as Data 2nd Annual Conference, Northwestern University, March 2011
- “Persuading voters with lots of words: A new technique for predicting the effects of TV ads using automated text analysis,” Society for Political Methodology Summer Conference, July 2010

Invited Presentations

- “Clinton Hate Trumps Love,” invited presentation, Social Media and Political Participation global, Abu Dhabi, February 2017.
- “Someone is Wrong on the Internet: Deliberation as the Exchange of Networked Ideas,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 2016
- “Exploring Conceptual Structures of Smell and Taste via Computational Text Analysis,” Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia, PA, March 2016
- “Text, Opinion and Persuasion,” invited presentation, Social Media and Political Participation global, New York, October 2015.

- “Predicting and Interpolating State-level Polling Using Twitter Textual Data,” invited presentation, Applied Statistics workshop at the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University, April 2014.
- “Persuasion, Ideology, and Speech: Using automated text analysis to model opinion formation and change,” invited presentation, Visual Design research group, Northeastern University, November 2013.
- “Persuasion, Ideology, and Speech: Using automated text analysis to model opinion formation and change,” invited presentation, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences research seminar, New York, March 2013.
- “Persuasion, Ideology, and Speech: Using automated text analysis to model opinion formation and change,” invited presentation, Social Media and Political Participation research group, New York, December 2012.

Grants

- “Hybrid Forecasting Competition,” IARPA-BAA-16-02, ~\$1 million (TBD), 2017-2018, with David Lazer, Alex Vespignani, Hughes Research Labs, MIT, Harvard
- “Inferring Argument Structure from Online and Live Conversations,” Northeastern University Tier 1, \$50,000, 2017-2018, with Lu Wang and Michelle Borkin
- “Visualization of Text-based Networks,” Northeastern University Tier 1, \$50,000, 2014-2015, with Dietmar Offenhuber and Christoph Riedl

Teaching Experience

- Bostonography: Int. to Computational Social Science and Digital Humanities*, Northeastern, 2018 (UG)
- Bayesian and Network Statistics*, Northeastern University, 2017 (G)
- Introduction to Computational Statistics*, Northeastern University, 2015-2017 (G)
- Social Network Analysis*, Northeastern University, 2015, 2018 (G)
- Congress*, Northeastern University, 2014 (U), 2016 (U/G)
- Quantitative Techniques*, Northeastern University, 2013 (U)
- Social Network Analysis*, Columbia University, 2013 (G)
- Mathematics for Political Scientists*, Columbia University, 2012 (G)
- Data Analysis for the Social Sciences*, Columbia University, 2012, 2013 (G)
- Mathematics Boot Camp*, Columbia University, 2012 (G)
- Power and Politics in America*, Teaching Assistant, NYU 2011 (U)
- Math for Political Scientists*, Teaching Assistant, NYU 2008 (G)
- Game Theory I*, Teaching Assistant, NYU 2008 (G)
- Quantitative Methods I*, Teaching Assistant, NYU 2007 (G)
- Politics and Fiction*, Agnes Scott College, 2003 (U)
- Politics, Science and Fiction*, Johns Hopkins University, 2001, 2002 (U)
- Postmodern Political Fictions*, Johns Hopkins University, 1999, 2000 (U)
- 19th Century Literature*, Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University, 1999 (U)

American Literature, Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University, 1998 (U)

Demos After-School Science Program, Co-Director, Yale University, 1995-1996 (Middle-school)

Service

Affiliations

Department of Political Science, Faculty, Northeastern University, 2013 – present

Network Science Institute, Faculty, Northeastern University, 2014 – present

NULab for Texts, Maps and Networks, Core Faculty, Northeastern University, 2013 – present

Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Associate, Harvard University, 2013 – present

Activities

Seventh Annual New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data conference, Co-host/co-organizer, Oct. 2016

Social Media and Political Participation research group, New York University, 2012 – present

Information Technology Policy Committee, Faculty Senate, Northeastern University, 2017 – present

NULab Fellows Faculty Advisor, Northeastern University, 2016 – present

Quantitative Graduate Methods Committee, CSSH, Northeastern University, September 2016 – present

Ph.D. Committee, Network Science Institute, Northeastern University, 2015 – present

Ph.D. Committee, Department of Political Science, Northeastern University, 2013 – present

CSSH Tier 1 proposal review committee, Northeastern University, 2017

Quantitative Methods Cluster Search Committee, Northeastern University, 2015 – 2016

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences task force, Northeastern University, 2014 – 2015

Merit criteria reevaluation group, Department of Political Science, Northeastern University, 2014 – 2015

Ph.D. in Network Science program developer, Northeastern University, 2013 – 2015

MA in Data Analytics Committee, Northeastern University, 2013 – 2015

Computational Social Science search committee, Northeastern University, 2013 – 2014

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences speaker series, Organizer, Columbia University, 2013

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences application review committee, Columbia University, 2013

Thesis advisor: Ioana Panaitiu (Political Science PhD, Northeastern U.), Sarah Shugars (Network Science PhD, Northeastern U.), Sang Won Han (Sociology Ph.D., Columbia U.), Benjamin Crumpler (QMSS Politics, Columbia U.), Kyle Ueyama (QMSS Politics, Columbia U.), H. Seung Cho (Politics Ph.D., Columbia U.).

Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Analysis*, *Journal of Politics*, *Nature Communications*, *PLOS One*, *Political Behavior*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Mass Communication and Society*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Psychological Science*, *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, *SocInfo*, *WebSci*, *IC2S2*.