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Education

Ph.D. Political Science, 2008 (Expected), Harvard University
M.A. Statistics, 2006, Harvard University
A.B. Economics; History with honors, 2001, Stanford University

Research Interests

Statistical Computing, Political Economy of Inequality, and Hierarchical Interstate Relations

Dissertation

Committee: Gary King (chair), Jeffrey Frieden, Kevin Quinn

My dissertation, titled “Explaining Variation in Freedom Between and Within States,” examines a cross-sectional survey data set covering 38 countries using differential-item functioning vignette correction and a hierarchical, random-effects, vector-response ordinal probit model. Individuals perceive different levels of freedom of speech not just due to institutional and social differences between countries, but because individuals within countries have different capacities that affect their perceived of freedom of speech.

Refereed Publications

Jonathan Wand, Gary King, and Olivia Lau. “Anchors: Software for Anchoring Vignettes Data,” *Journal of Statistical Software*, forthcoming.

Olivia Lau, Ryan T. Moore, and Michael Kellermann, “eiPack: Ecological Inference and Higher-Dimension Data Management,” forthcoming *R Journal* (formerly *R News*).

Working Papers

Kosuke Imai, Gary King, and Olivia Lau. “Toward a Common Framework for Statistical Development,” under review.

Kosuke Imai, Gary King, and Olivia Lau. “Zelig: Everyone’s Statistical Software (A User’s Guide),” book-length manuscript.

Olivia Lau, “United Nations Security Council Reform: The Efficacy of Small States under Bipolarity and Uni-Multipolarity,” working paper.

Software and Technical Reports

- Zelig** “Everyone’s Statistical Software,” with Kosuke Imai and Gary King. An R package to interpret and present statistical models.
- anchors** Tools for analyzing survey vignettes, with Jonathan Wand and Gary King.
- eiPack** Ecological inference in $R \times C$ tables, with Ryan T. Moore and Michael Kellermann.

Teaching

- Spring 2007 Instructor, Empire: Causes and Consequences, Harvard College
Syllabus:<http://fas.harvard.edu/~olau/98syllabus.pdf>
- AY 2006-7 Instructor, Senior Thesis Writers’ Workshop for International Relations and Comparative Politics, Harvard College
Syllabus: <http://fas.harvard.edu/~olau/99syllabus.pdf>
- Spring 2005 Head Teaching Fellow for Prof. Jeffrey Frieden, International Political Economy, Harvard College
- Fall 2004 Teaching Fellow for Prof. Gary King, Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

Professional Experience

- 2005 Research Assistant, Prof. Lisa Martin, Department of Government, Harvard University
- Summer 2003; 2001 - 2002 Research Associate, AES Consulting, LLC (currently Compass, Inc.), San Francisco, CA
- Summer 2000 Research Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC
- June-Dec 1999 Research Assistant, Prof. John Shoven, Department of Economics, Stanford University

Awards

Graduate Student Fellowship 2007 - 2008, 2002 - 2004

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award 2006

Murray Research Archive, Harvard University

Graduate Student Associate 2004 - present

Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University

Summer Math Fellowship 2003

Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Harvard University

Phi Beta Kappa 2001

Stanford University

Omicron Delta Epsilon 2001

Department of Economics, Stanford University

Stanford-In-Washington Fellow 2000

Stanford University

Conference Presentations

2007 Directions in Statistical Computing, Auckland University, New Zealand, Plenary talk

2006 UseR! Conference, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Vienna, Austria, Paper presentation

2006 UseR! Conference, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Vienna, Austria, Poster presentation

2006 Meeting of the Political Methodology Society, University of California, Davis, Poster presentation

2005 Meeting of the Political Methodology Society, Florida State University, Poster presentation

2005 Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C., Short course

2004 Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Short course

2004 Meeting of the Political Methodology Society, Stanford University, Short course

Service

Reviewer, 2004, *Journal of Politics*

Program committee, 2007, UseR! Conference

Editor, 2000-2001, *Herodotus*, Department of History, Stanford University

Computer Skills

Expert: R, S-plus, \LaTeX , Unix/Linux, Windows

Proficient: JAGS, Bugs, Microsoft Office applications

Passable: C/C++, HTML

References

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