Zachary P Dickson, PhD

in zachary-dickson
G+ zachdickson94@gmail.com
○ github.com/z-dickson
🐦 twitter.com/sachary_
✉ z.dickson@lse.ac.uk
https://z-dickson.github.io/

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

London School of Economics and Political Science   London, UK
Postdoctoral Research Fellow   *Nov. 2022–Current*
COVIDEU Project (PI: Prof. Sara B. Hobolt)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Data Science Institute (LSE)   London, UK
Research Affiliate   *Nov. 2022–Current*

EDUCATION

University of Glasgow   Glasgow, UK
PhD, Politics   *March 2023*
- Thesis: Social Identity, Group Representation, and Unequal Responsiveness in the US and UK
- Supervised by: Sergiu Gherghina and Sergi Pardos-Prado

University of Edinburgh   Edinburgh, UK
MSc, International Relations   *September 2019*
- Dissertation: The Ideology of Meritocracy in Western Immigration Discourse

Northeastern Illinois University   Chicago, US
BA, Political Science   *May 2018*
- GPA: 3.79/4.0

RESEARCH

Working papers currently under review or in revisions

Elite Cues and Non-Compliance
with Sara B. Hobolt (R&R – *American Political Science Review*)

Going against the Grain: Climate Change as a Wedge Issue for the Radical Right
with Sara B. Hobolt (R&R – *Comparative Political Studies*)

Elite Responsiveness to Policy Shocks: Insights from COVID-19 Infection among US Congressmembers
with Tevfik Murat Yildirim (R&R submitted – *Political Communication*)

The Gender Gap in Elite-Voter Responsiveness Online
(R&R – *Perspectives on Politics*)

Elite Legislators and Unequal Representation in the UK
(Under Review – *Political Behavior*)

Teaching Experience

University of Glasgow   Glasgow, UK
Teaching Assistant   September 2020 – May 2022

- Comparative Politics

- Introduction to Politics (x2)

University of Strathclyde   Glasgow, UK
Teaching Assistant   September 2021 – May 2022

- Machine Learning for Data Analytics

- Quantitative Methods 2: Statistics & Analysis

- Politics: Decision Making & Outcomes

- Quantitative Methods 1: Statistics & Analysis

Research Experience

London School of Economics   London, UK
Research Assistant for Sara B. Hobolt & James Tilley   June 2023 – December 2023

- NLP & Data Visualization

Comparative Candidates Study   Glasgow, UK
Research Assistant for Wolfgang Rudig   August 2021 – October 2021

- Created a dynamic measure of ideology using legislators' tweets and probabilistic classification with BERT word embeddings

Industry Experience (Non-academic)

AT&T, Inc.   Chicago, Illinois, US
Workforce Analyst   2015–2018

- Implemented Six Sigma, Lean, and Agile methodologies for process improvement, project optimization, and workforce forecasting

- Developed workflow changes, operational guidelines, problem assessments and root cause analysis

AT&T, Inc.   Chicago, Illinois, US
Customer Service Intern   2013–2015

- Performed tech support, troubleshooting and problem resolution at inbound customer care center

- Managed onboarding and training processes for new hires – including both technical and soft-skills training workflows and manuals

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: Python, Julia, R, SQL, Git, Latex, Markdown
Statistics: Bayesian & Frequentist Estimation; Causal Inference (DiD, RDD, Synthetic Control)
Data Science: NLP (Word2Vec, LDA, Transformers), Machine learning (Tensorflow, scikit-learn, XGBoost)
Large Language Models: Hugging Face

Conference Presentations

Midwest Political Science Association – Annual Conference: *2022, 2023*
European Consortium for Political Research – Joint Sessions Workshop: *2022*
American Political Science Association – Annual Conference: *2022*
European Consortium for Political Research – General Conference: *2022*
European Political Science Association – General Conference: *2023*
European Consortium for Political Research – Standing Group on Parliaments: *2023*
PolMeth Europe: *2022, 2023*
Political Studies Association – Standing Group on Parliaments: *2023*

INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

LSE Political Behaviour Seminar *(April 2023)*
Data Science Institute Research Showcase *(November 2023)*
Machine Learning Methods for Social Scientists *(December 2023)*

SEMINARS/WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

2023-2024 LSE Political Behaviour Work-in-Progress Seminar *(co-organizer)*