

Sina Shaikh

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science in Engineering *Summa Cum Laude*, major in Computer Science, minor in Political Science

Philadelphia, PA

May 2024

Skills/Interests: Java, R, C, Python, Bash, Datawrapper, JavaScript, LaTeX, HTML, Excel, SQL, MongoDB, Neo4j, SolidWorks, OCaml, Assembly (LC4), Spanish (Proficient), photography, mock trial

University of Melbourne

Exchange Student in the Faculty of Science

Melbourne, Australia

Feb 2023 – Jun 2023

EXPERIENCE

MIT Election Data + Science Lab (MEDSL)

Senior Research Support Associate

Cambridge, MA

July 2024 – Present

- Use Python, R, SQL, and Github for data collection, analysis, and visualization for Elections Performance Central, Precinct Project, Elections Performance Index
- Developed automated webscraping and plotting functionality for election data collection at: https://github.com/Sinas100/election_scraper
- Manage MEDSL's server and data storage design and maintenance for ~36,000,000 rows of precinct level election results
- Audited Introduction to Quantitative Methods I and II and American Political Behavior

NBCUniversal

Decision Desk Builder

Philadelphia, PA

Aug 2022 – May 2024

- Assisted Stephanie Perry and the NBC News Exit Poll team with coverage of 2022, 2023, and 2024 elections
- Drafted and tested exit poll survey used by the NBC Decision Desk
- Built graphics in English and Spanish using exit poll data for use on NBC, MSNBC, CNBC, and Telemundo

Penn Perry World House

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Oct 2022 – May 2024

- Scraped, cleaned, and analyzed text data for the Leadership Responsibility Index under Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
- Utilized various natural language processing techniques including keyword assisted topic modeling, structural topic modeling, tf-idf, and sentiment analysis

University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant for CIS 110 and GAFL 5310, Tutor for CRIM 4012

Philadelphia, PA

Aug 2021 – May 2024

- Taught intro OCaml and Java in recitations and office hours in CIS 110
- Taught graduate students the R Shiny framework, statistics, and mapping in GAFL 5310
- Tutored private student in applying machine learning for social science in CRIM 4012

Daily Pennsylvanian

Data Desk Reporter

Philadelphia, PA

Aug 2023 – May 2024

- Wrote, conducted data analysis, and created visualizations primarily on data related stories
- Work at <https://www.thedp.com/staff/sina-shaikh>, cited in *The Atlantic* and *Philadelphia Magazine*

Penn's Development Research Initiative (PDRI)

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Aug 2023 – May 2024

- Helped design baseline survey for the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS) Bangladesh for Dr. Guy Grossman
- Coded and analyzed data on acknowledgements in academic papers, paper under review: https://guygrossman.com/assets/pdf/2025_Informal_Connections_Outweigh_Co_authorship.pdf

University of Pennsylvania Department of Sociology

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Feb 2024 – May 2024

- Assisted Dr. Jerry A. Jacobs in analysis of relative importance of books and articles in Sociology
- Designed and implemented Google Scholar scraper using SerpAPI to measure citation counts

Penn Program on Opinion Research and Election Studies

Philadelphia, PA

Fox Research and Service Fellow

Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

- Conducted quantitative public opinion research under Dr. Marc Trussler through the Fox Leadership Program
- Analyzed data and prepared visualizations using R, LaTeX, and R Markdown

Brookings Institution

Washington, DC

Governance Studies Intern

Jun 2022 – Aug 2022

- Worked in the Governance Studies department under Dr. Bill Galston and Dr. E. J. Dionne
- Researched for and fact-checked Washington Post and Wall Street Journal columns
- Analyzed data for books and reports on topics including social democracy, Trump's influence in the GOP, and firearm regulation

Computational Social Science Lab at Penn

Philadelphia, PA

Research Intern

May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Worked on PennMAP team under David Rothschild
- Coded TV programs and examined trends in consumption for over 82,000 hours of TV from 2012-present
- Assisted with “The diminishing state of shared reality on US television news” (<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2310.18863.pdf>)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Partisan Delinking of Survey Cooperation and Turnout in the 2020 Election

- Presented research project on behalf of Dr. Joshua Clinton, Dr. John Lapinski, and Dr. Marc Trussler at the 2022 AAPOR Conference in Chicago
- Studied the changing makeup of survey respondents and how that might have biased polls in 2020
- Paper later published at: <https://academic.oup.com/poq/article-abstract/86/2/247/6585580>

Why the Wait?

- Presented a poster at the 2025 Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference in Tallahassee
- Studied relationship between mail voting, preprocessing, and vote counting speed in the 2020 and 2024 elections

All Conferences Attended

- EAC 2025 Data Summit, ESRA 2025, MIT Ethics of Computing Research Symposium 2025, Caltech Information and Misinformation in Elections 2025, SPSA 2024, MIT American Politics Conference 2024, AAPOR 2022