Sina Shaikh

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology — **Cambridge, MA**
PhD in Political Science and Statistics — Sep 2026 - Present

University of Pennsylvania — **Philadelphia, PA**
Bachelor of Science in Engineering major in Computer Science, *Summa Cum Laude* — May 2024

University of Melbourne — **Melbourne, Australia**
Exchange Student in the Faculty of Science — Feb 2023 – Jun 2023

EXPERIENCE

MIT Election Data + Science Lab (MEDSL) — **Cambridge, MA**
Senior Research Support Associate — July 2024 – July 2026

- 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

NBCUniversal — **Philadelphia, PA**
Decision Desk Builder — 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 — **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant — 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 — **Philadelphia, PA**
Teaching Assistant for CIS 110 and GAFL 5310, Tutor for CRIM 4012 — 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 — **Philadelphia, PA**
Data Desk Reporter — 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) — **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant — 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 — **Philadelphia, PA**
Research Assistant — 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**)

AWARDS AND CONFERENCES

Awards

- MIT Presidential Fellowship (university-wide)
- PolMeth 2026 travel award
- Fox Research and Service Fellowship 2021-2024
- Dean's list 2021-2023

All Conferences Attended

- APSA 2026; PolMeth 2026; HPP 2026; ESRA 2025, 2026; SPSA 2025, 2026; EAC 2025 Data Summit; MIT Ethics of Computing Research Symposium 2025; Caltech Information and Misinformation in Elections 2025; MIT American Politics Conference 2024; AAPOR 2022