

Jacob Jaffe

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (current), Cambridge, MA **Sixth Year**

Degrees: PhD Candidate (expected graduation, Spring 2023), Department of Political Science

Rice University (completed), Houston TX **Graduation: May 2017**

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Statistics, Political Science, Policy Studies (triple major)

Publications (Conferences)

Converting Voters to Mail with Email (Jaffe, MPSA 2022)

How Accurate is Vote Tabulation (Jaffe, ESRA 2022, Poster)

Analyzing Time to Vote Using a 2-Phase Coxian Distribution

Modeling Voting Service Times with Machine Logs (Jaffe, Stewart, and Coblenz, ESRA 2018)

A Direct Test for Consistency of Random Effects Models that Outperforms the Hausman Test (Esaray and Jaffe, 2017)

Work and Research Experience

Research Assistant

July 2016-Current

MIT Election Data and Science Laboratory, Cambridge MA

- Collected and analyzed administrative voting data from dozens of states
- Performed original research using a wide variety of statistical techniques from visualization to queueing system optimization
- Collaborated in partnership and large group formats, including in leadership roles on voting projects
- Presented, wrote, and edited written research

Research Assistant

February 2020-August 2020

Professor Ariel White, MIT Political Science Department, Cambridge MA

- Surveyed existing Python and R options for Optical Character Recognition of social media screenshots
- Developed Python framework for computer vision analysis of Facebook screenshots

Expert Witness Research & Support

November 2019-May 2020

Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University Government Department, Cambridge MA

- Gathered AZ administrative data to analyze claim of mail ballot issues on Native American Reservations
- Performed original statistical analysis
- Aided in the writing and editing of research memo

Expert Witness Research & Support

November 2018-December 2018

Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University Government Department, Cambridge MA

- Gathered NC administrative data to analyze claim of mail ballot fraud in NC-9 congressional race
- Performed original statistical analysis
- Aided in the writing and editing of research memo

Research Intern

May 2016-August 2016

Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington DC

- Conducted preliminary racial bloc voting analysis
- Designed and implemented ArcGIS spatial analysis

Expert Witness Research & Support

February 2016

Professor Robert Stein, Rice University Political Science Department, Houston TX

- Geolocated ND Native American voters to analyze claim related to average distance to county seat

Research Assistant

March 2016-April 2017

Professor Robert Stein, Rice University Department of Political Science, Houston TX

- Research the impact of Election Day Vote Centers

Research Assistant

October 2016-April 2017

Professor Justin Esaray, Rice University Department of Political Science, Houston TX

- Research the impact of “naming and shaming” on human rights abuses
- Help to develop new tree-based analysis methods
- Conference paper on Hausman test alternative for fixed/random effects

Research Assistant

March 2015-November 2015

Houston Action Research Team, Houston TX

- Geospatial analysis of Houston collisions and impact of SafeClear program
- Additional statistical analysis
- Contributed to writing and editing policy recommendations to Houston Police Dept. Special Operations

Research Assistant

May 2015-July 2015

Professor Robert Stein, Rice University Department of Political Science, Houston TX

- Programmatically reformatted data to optimize for use in the social sciences
- Geospatial analysis in ArcGIS

Research Assistant

May 2014-December 2014

Houston Action Research Team, Houston TX

- Wrote filter for large traffic dataset analysis to identify secondary collisions
- Statistical analysis of SafeClear program
- Contributed to writing and editing resulting policy memo, research paper (manuscript in development)
- Research won 2015 Rice University research awards

Programmer

Spring 2014

Rice University Center for Civic Leadership, Houston TX

- Designed and implemented algorithm to match students and internships

Research Assistant

Fall 2013

- Professor Robert Stein, Rice University Department of Political Science, Houston TX
- Exit poll design and statistical analysis
- Statistical analysis of voting locations

Research Assistant

Summer 2013

Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University Government Department, Cambridge MA

- Research rate of bill passage over time for analysis of Congressional voting patterns
- Data cleaning, tabulation and analysis

Academics

Teaching, MIT

- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Political Science with Professor Devin Caughey (Fall 2019), Teaching Assistant for American Elections with Professor Charles Stewart III (Fall 2020)
- Recipient of Kaufman Teaching Certificate

Teaching, Barnard College

- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Politics with Professor Michael Miller (Spring 2021), Teaching Assistant Reforming American Elections with Professor Michael Miller (Summer 2021), Teaching Assistant for Empirical Research Methods in Political Science with Professor Michael Miller (Fall 2021)

Relevant Coursework, MIT

- Fundamentals of Probability, US Political Behavior (1+2), Research Methods (1, 2, 3, 4), Scope and Methods, US Political Institutions (1+2), Linear Algebra, Mathematical Programming, Political Philosophy, Discrete Stochastic Processes, Bayesian Modeling Inference