

Akitaka Matsuo

Contact Information

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Appointments

Research Fellow in Data Science, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science, March 2018 - Current

Postdoctoral Research Officer, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science, September 2016 - February 2018

Postdoctoral Research Officer, The Centre for Experimental Social Sciences, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, December 2012-August 2016

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Rice University, 2012

M.A. Political Science, Michigan State University, 2005

M.A. Political Science, Kyoto University, 2002

B.A. Law, Kyoto University, 2000

Research and Teaching Interests

Quantitative Methodology (Bayesian Methods, Scaling, Computer Content Analysis, Experimental Methods)

Comparative Politics (Political Institutions, Parties and Elections, Political Economy, Asian Politics, Japanese Politics)

Peer-reviewed Publications

“quanteda: An R package for the quantitative analysis of textual data.” 2018, *Journal of Open Source Software*, 3(30), 774, with Kenneth Benoit, Kohei Watanabe, Haiyan Wang, Paul Nulty, Adam Obeng, and Stefan Müller.

“Multi-dimensional Policy Preferences in the 2015 British General Election: A Conjoint Analysis.” 2018, *Electoral Studies*, 55, 89-98, with Seonghui Lee.

“Decomposing Political Knowledge: What Is Confidence in Knowledge and Why It Matters.” 2018, *Electoral Studies*, 51, 1-13, with Seonghui Lee.

“Predicting the Brexit Vote by Tracking and Classifying Public Opinion Using Twitter Data.” 2017, *Statistics, Politics and Policy*, 8(1), 85-104, with Julio Amador, Sofia Collignon-Delmar, and Kenneth Benoit.

“The Effects of Election Proximity on Participatory Shirking: The Staggered-Term Chamber as a Laboratory.” 2015, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 40(4), 599-625, with Kentaro Fukumoto.

“Kokkai Giin Ha Naze Iinkai De Hatugen Suru No Ka? Seitou, Rieki, Senkyo Seido [*Why Do Diet Members Speak in Committees? Political Parties, Legislators, and Electoral Systems*].” 2010, *Japanese Journal of Electoral Studies*, 26(2), 84-103, with Shunta Matsumoto [in Japanese].

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

“Findings from the Hackathon on Understanding Euroscepticism Through the Lens of Textual Data.” 2018, *ParlaCLARIN at the 11th edition of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC2018)*, with Federico Nanni, Gran Glavas, Simone Paolo Ponzetto, [and 19 others].

Work in Progress

“Paths to false beliefs: Political ignorance, partisan motivation, and conspiracy mentality.” (with Seonghui Lee and David Hendry)

“Explaining Legislators’ Ideological Inconsistencies Between Campaign Rhetoric and Legislative Speech” (with Hiroki Kubo)

“Brexit Debate through Social Media.” (with Kenneth Benoit)

“Scaling the Euroscepticism as Sentiment Regression” (with Andreas Niekler, Benedetta Carlotti, and Ahmet Aker)

“Altruistic Motivations for Election Participation.”

Software

R packages:

Packages of Quanteda: `spacyr`, `readtext`, `quanteda`

`kaigiroku`: an R client to access Kokkai Kaigiroku API

`wordshoal`: a package for computing the wordshoal text model (with Kenneth Benoit and Benjamin Lauderdale)

Interactive Online Experiment:

`altruisticVoting`, `taxCompliance` (in `nodegame`)

Awards and Scholarships

British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grants, £9,850, April 2015 - Dec 2016

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (SES 0819527), \$10,670, August 2008 - July 2009

Dissertation Fellowship, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Taiwan, \$4,070, November 2008 - January 2009

Research Support Grant for Taiwan Study, Interchange Society, Japan, \$7,081, May 2008 - July 2008

Research Grant, Matsushita International Foundation, Panasonic, Japan, \$4,768, October 2008

International Ambassadorial Scholarship, Rotary Foundation, Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

Invited Presentations

“Quantitative Text Analysis Using R” (with Ken Benoit), The annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science, University of Tokyo, January 2018

“Text Analysis using R”, “Are Pivotal Players Blamed?” CROP-IT Seminar, Kobe University, June 2014.

“Are Veto Players Blamed: Experimental and Observational Evidences.” Seminar Series, Political Economy of Reforms, University of Mannheim, March 2014.

“Determinants of Committee Assignments in the Legislative Yuan.” Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Taipei Taiwan, January 2009.

Conference Presentations (Selected)

“Paths to False Beliefs: Political Ignorance, Partisan Motivation, and Conspiracy Mentality.” Presented at the annual meeting of the European Political Science Association, Vienna, June 2018, with Seonghui Lee and David Hendry.

“Brexit Debate through Social Media.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2017, with Kenneth Benoit.

“Altruistic Motivations for Election Participation.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, September 2016, and Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2017.

“Multi-dimensional Policy Preferences in 2015 UK General Election.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016, with Seonghui Lee.

“Tax Cheating in Synchronic Online Experiments.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016, with Raymond Duch.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Data for Data Scientists, MY472, Department of Methodology, LSE, 2018.

Instructor, AWS Academy Cloud Foundation, LSE, 2018.

Instructor, Santiago Summer School on Experimental Methods, University of Santiago, 2016.

Instructor, Summer School on Experimental Social Sciences, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, 2014, 2015.

Instructor, Essex Summer School on Experimental Methods, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLI 212, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2012.

Instructor, East Asian Democracies, POLI 353, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Fall 2011.

Instructor, Math Camp for Political Science Ph.D. Students, Rice University, Summer 2007 and 2006.

Teaching Assistant, Regression Analysis (Graduate Level), Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2008, Fall 2006, and Fall 2005.

Teaching Assistant, Maximum Likelihood Models (Graduate Level), Department of Political Science, Rice University, Spring 2007 and 2006.

Additional Education and Training

EITM Summer Institute, University of Washington St. Louis, 2009

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan, 2007, 2004

Academy Cloud Foundation, Architecting on AWS, AWS Academy, 2018

Certificate

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Computer Languages and Platforms

Proficient: R, Python, SQL databases, JavaScript, Qualtrics, PHP, Perl

Familiar: AWS, noSQL databases, C++, STATA, z-Tree

Languages

Japanese: native

Mandarin Chinese: research level for reading, intermediate level for written and spoken

Professional Service and Administrative Duties

Journal Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Studies*, *SAGE Open*

Academic Conference Panel Discussant:

Midwest Political Science Association, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016

European Political Science Association, 2013, 2016

Conference Program Committee Member:

Annual Workshop on Crowdsourcing and Online Behavioral Experiments (COBE), 2015, 2016

University Service:

LSE General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Working Group, Member, 2018

Workshop Organizer at Nuffield CESS:

Innovations in Online Experiments, April 2015

Field Experiments and Election Campaigns, May 2014

Experiments with Crowd Sourced Subjects, February 2013

Project Manager:

CESS-Oxera project on Retirement Income Market Study in UK (funded by Financial Conduct Authority), June - December 2015

Conference Manager:

International Meeting on on Experimental and Behavioral Sciences, 2014, 2015, 2016

Development and Management of Online Panel for Experimental Subjects

(URL: <https://cess-subjects.nuff.ox.ac.uk/online/>)

Manager of Experimental Laboratory, Nuffield Centre for Experimental Social Sciences, September 2013 - December 2013

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
European Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

References

Available upon request