

Sirus (Sarah) Bouchat

CONTACT INFORMATION	Scott Hall, 2nd Floor 601 University Place Evanston, IL 60208	Phone: +1 412 977 1405 E-mail: bouchat@northwestern.edu Website: bouchat.github.io
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science Core Faculty, Institute for Complex Systems (NICO) Weinberg College Fellow	2017–present 2018–2021 2017–2018
EDUCATION	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON Ph.D., Political Science <i>Fields:</i> Political Methodology, Comparative Politics <i>Committee:</i> Alexander Tahk (Chair), Scott Gehlbach, Melanie Manion (Duke University), Rikhil Bhavnani, Ian Coxhead (Agricultural & Applied Economics), Edmund Malesky (Duke University) M.A., Agricultural & Applied Economics M.A., Political Science HARVARD UNIVERSITY–JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT Master in Public Policy UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO A.B., International Studies (with General and Departmental Honors)	2017 2016 2013 2011 2008
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	EMPIRICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEORETICAL MODELS IPSA–NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SUMMER METHODS SCHOOL Bayesian Analysis SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SUMMER INSTITUTE Intermediate Burmese Beginning Burmese Beginning Khmer	Summer 2016 Summer 2015 Summer 2014 Summer 2013 Summer 2006
WORKING PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS	“Text Classification and Clustering,” chapter in <i>Sage Handbook for Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations</i> . 2020. Ed. Robert J. Franzese, Jr., and Luigi Carini. “Engaging Experts: Dealing with Divergent Elicited Priors in Political Science” “Careers & Causes: Participation in Authoritarian Legislatures” “Reading between the Lines: Eliciting Priors through Text-as-Data” “InDetermination: Measuring Uncertainty in Social Science Texts” “Making a Long Story Short: Eliciting Priors from Previously Published Research” “Collective Wisdom: Rethinking Expertise in Elicited Priors” “InCorporation: Assessing Corpus Selection for Social Science Applications”	

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS	Facebook Computational Social Science Workshop	2021
	Northwestern University Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop	2020
	University of Wisconsin–Madison Comparative Politics Colloquium	2014, 2016, 2019
	NLP Workshop Instructor, Conference on Politics and Computational Social Science with Pew Research Center	2019
	University of Michigan Statistical Learning Workshop	2019
	New York University NLP and Text-as-Data Speaker Series	2018
	University of Wisconsin–Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies	2017
	New Faces in Political Methodology IX	2017
	International Methods Colloquium	2016
	Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions Series—Myanmar	2013
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION	Society for Political Methodology Conference (Poster)	2016–2017, 2019, 2020
	International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Queer in AI (Poster)	2020
	Text-as-Data (TADA) Conference, University of Washington–Seattle (Paper)	2018
	Society for Political Methodology (Paper)	2018
	International Society for Bayesian Analysis (Contributed Talk, declined)	2018
	Text Analysis Developers’ Workshop, New York University	2018
	American Political Science Association Annual Conference (Paper)	2016–2018
	Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Paper)	2015–2018
	Women in Machine Learning Conference (Contributed Talk)	2017
	Text-as-Data Conference–Princeton University (Invited discussant)	2017
	International Burma Studies Conference (Paper)	2016
	Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Program Conference (Paper)	2016
	Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Paper)	2016
	Burma/Myanmar in Transition Conference, Lingnan University (Paper)	2015
	University of Wisconsin–Madison Models and Data Group (Paper)	2015
	University of Wisconsin–Madison Experimental Politics Workshop (Paper)	2014
	Harvard Gay Rights as Human Rights Conference (Paper)	2011
	Face Value Campaign Advisory Board Convening (Paper)	2010
	National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education	2007
	AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	Best Dissertation in Political Methodology Award, UW–Madison Political Science Dept.
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Field Research Grant, University of Wisconsin–Madison		2016
Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (declined)		2015
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Academic Year), Burmese		2015–2016
Honorable Mention, Association for Asian Studies Usha Mahajani Award		2014
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Academic Year), Thai (declined)		2014–2015
Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (Summer), Burmese		2014
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Field Research Grant, University of Wisconsin–Madison		2014
Summer Initiative Funding, University of Wisconsin–Madison		2013–2016
Leon D. Epstein Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison		2013–2014
Nominated, Association for Asian Studies Usha Mahajani Award		2013
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Summer), Burmese		2013
University Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison		2012–2013, 2016–2017
Nominated, Best Policy Analysis Exercise (MPP thesis)		2011
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy PAE Research Grant		2010
Traub-Dicker Summer Research Fellowship		2010
Harvard University–Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Associate Fellow		2009–2010
Kennedy School Grant		2009–2011
Howell Murray Award, University of Chicago		2008
Maroon Key Society, University of Chicago		2007–2008
University of Chicago College Outstanding New Leader Award	2007	
Human Rights Program Internship Award, University of Chicago	2007	
Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute Tuition Fellowship	2006	
Dean’s List, University of Chicago	2005–2008	

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Faculty

POLISCI 490: Text-as-Data (graduate)	Winter 2021
POLISCI 490: Authoritarian Politics (graduate)	Winter 2021
POLISCI 490: Machine Learning & Text-as-Data (graduate)	Winter 2018, Spring 2020
POLISCI 490: Bayesian Analysis (graduate)	Winter 2019
POLISCI 499: Independent Study (graduate)	Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2020
POLISCI 471: Game Theory (graduate)	Winter 2020, Winter 2022
POLISCI 390: Authoritarian Politics (undergraduate)	Spring 2018
MMSS 311-2: Topics in Political Science Methodology (undergraduate honors)	Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021
POLISCI 210: Intro to Political Science Research Methods (undergraduate)	Winter 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2021

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Lecturer

Introduction to Statistical Computing in Political Science (graduate)	Spring 2017
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Instructor

Political Science Dept. Incoming Ph.D. Student Math Camp	Summer 2015, 2016
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Teaching/Lab Assistant

Game Theory & Political Analysis (graduate, Prof. Alex Tahk)	Spring 2015
Maximum Likelihood Estimation (graduate, Prof. John Ahlquist)	Fall 2014
Introduction to Statistics in Political Science (graduate, Prof. Alex Tahk)	Fall 2014

Grader

Political Inequality (undergraduate, Prof. Rikhil Bhavnani)	Fall 2015
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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Course Material Design

Political Corruption (undergraduate, Profs. Jim Alt and Daniel Ziblatt)	Fall 2013
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Instructor/Trainer

Harvard Law School Advocates for Human Rights	2009
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SERVICE &
ADVISING

Political Science Department

Chair's Advisory Committee	2018–2019, 2019–2020, 2021–present
Methods Field Chair	2019–2020
Graduate Student First Year Advisor	2019–2020
Graduate Admissions Committee, Methods	2018–2019
Undergraduate Research & Arts Exposition, Poster Judge	2018
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reader	2017–2019
Dissertation Committee Member: Safa Al-Saeedi, Zhihang Ruan	
Political Science Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor: David Fishman (withdrawn)	
MMSS Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor: Olivia Martins, Aaron Coates	

Northwestern University

Northwestern AI Initiative Steering Committee, Weinberg College Lead 2020–present
Executive Committee Member, Institute for Complex Systems (NICO) 2018–2021
Computer Science “CS+X” Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee 2018–2019, 2020–2021,
2021–2022
Computational Social Science Research Networking Group Co-Coordinator 2017–2020

External/Discipline

Annual Conference Best Poster Award Committee, Society for Political Methodology 2020
Best Software Award Committee (chair), Society for Political Methodology 2019–2020, 2020–2021
Methodology Graduate Poster Chair, Midwest Political Science Association 2019–2020
Best Software Award Committee (member), Society for Political Methodology 2017–2019
Text-as-Data (TADA) Conference, University of Washington–Seattle, Mentor 2018
*Reviewer: Women in Machine Learning Conference (2017),
American Political Science Review*

INTERNATIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Myanmar Dec. 2014–Jan. 2015

Conducted preliminary dissertation fieldwork, including interviews with civil society representa-
tives and historical research at the Myanmar National Archives in Yangon

Hong Kong SAR Dec. 2010–Jan. 2011

Conducted semi-structured interviews with civil society activists for master’s thesis research ex-
amining social movement strategies in nondemocratic contexts

Germany June–Sept. 2007

Served as a Human Rights Intern with the Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz for 3 months
through the University of Chicago Human Rights Internship Program

Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar Aug.–Sept. 2006

Developed international advocacy strategies in collaboration with representatives of over 20
grassroots democracy organizations in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Mae Sot as a Free Burma
Project/U.S. Campaign for Burma Delegate

AFFILIATIONS

Member, International Society for Bayesian Analysis 2018–present
Member, American Statistical Association 2017–present
Member, American Political Science Association 2012–present
Member, Midwest Political Science Association 2012–present
Member, Association for Asian Studies 2012–present
Advisor, Harvard Carr Center Sexuality, Gender & Human Rights Program 2012–2016

SKILLS

Languages: German (Advanced), Burmese (Advanced), Khmer (Beginner)
Computer: R, L^AT_EX, JAGS, Stan, STATA, C++