

Brian Lookabaugh

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EDUCATION

University of North Texas

Ph.D. in Political Science

Denton, TX

Aug. 2020 – Dec. 2023

University of North Texas

Master of Science in Political Science

Denton, TX

Aug. 2018 – May 2020

University of Texas at Tyler

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Tyler, TX

Jan. 2017 – May 2018

EXPERIENCE

Research Analyst/Associate

Nov. 2023 – Present

Fors Marsh

Remote

- Managed and balanced work across multiple internal teams while collaborating with clients and external federal contractors, ensuring seamless project execution and fostering strong stakeholder relationships.
- Monitored and updated an ETL pipeline that processes thousands of FEMA employee survey responses per year and contributed to the development of annual updates to survey design and subsequent enhancements to the ETL process.
- Generated comprehensive data visualizations for quarterly briefing decks designed to present key insights and trends to senior FEMA leadership and collaborated with subject-matter experts to gain insight into questions that interested senior FEMA leadership and explore explanations for trends and findings.
- Developed automated machine learning-derived natural language processing (NLP) systems to process, classify, and report on tens of thousands of qualitative open-text survey responses for FEMA, the Department of Defense, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- Led the development of a causal modeling approach that directly informed and shaped policy decisions for FEMA leadership, providing actionable insights that enhanced decision-making and strategic planning within the agency.
- Served an instrumental role in the creation of a novel longitudinal data set commissioned by the EAC, tracking trends in election administration over time. This involved managing and merging ten substantially large cross-sectional data sets, each containing hundreds of survey items.
- Directed the development of an empirical causal research paper evaluating the impact of election equipment upgrades on voter election confidence which was later presented at the Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference.

Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis Intern

Jun. 2023 – Nov. 2023

Fors Marsh

Remote

- Analyzed data and visualized trends in U.S. elections and voting behavior, producing comprehensive reports for presentation in a Report to Congress.
- Regularly collaborated with federal stakeholders, including the EAC and the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), to review and align project scope and deadlines.
- Assisted in the conduction and documentation of interviews with election officials nationwide, contributing to the development of a comprehensive report on the findings from these interviews.

Quantitative Social Scientist

Aug. 2020 – Dec. 2023

University of North Texas

Denton, TX

- Applied extensive study and practical expertise in political methodology to spearhead research projects integrating causal inference approaches to political science problems.
- Conducted rigorous and novel empirical research in political science, applying new estimators to solve complex problems and address gaps in existing literatures.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: R, Python, Stan, SQL, Stata

Software: Quarto/RMarkdown, Git, Microsoft Office

Data Science/Statistics: Causal Inference (Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional), Experimental Design, Multilevel Modeling, Machine Learning (Predictive and Causal/Debiased), Natural Language Processing, Survival Analysis, Bayesian Statistics, Simulation, Survey Design, Data Visualization, Complex Data Wrangling