Samuel Bestvater

Curriculum Vitae

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Professional Appointments

2021–Present **Pew Research Center** Washington, DC
Computational Social Scientist, *Data Labs*

Education

The Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA
2022 **Ph.D.**, *Political Science & Social Data Analytics*
2019 **M.A.**, *Political Science*

Indiana University Bloomington, IN
2018 **M.A.**, *Political Science*

Covenant College Lookout Mountain, GA
2013 **B.A.**, *History*

Publications

Journal Articles

2023 Bestvater, Samuel and Cyanne Loyle. "Messaging and Mobilization: Rebel Groups, Social Media Communication, and Audience Effects." *Journal of Peace Research*.

Bestvater, Samuel and Burt Monroe. "Sentiment is Not Stance: Target-Aware Opinion Classification for Political Text Analysis." *Political Analysis*. 31 (6): 235-256.

2019 Loyle, Cyanne and Samuel Bestvater. "#rebel: Rebel Communication Strategies in the Age of Social Media." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. 36 (6): 570-590.

2016 Horne, Cale and Samuel Bestvater. "Assessing the Effects of Changes in British Counter-terrorism Policy on Radical Islamist Networks in the UK, 1999-2008." *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 8 (2): 87-110.

Peer Reviewed Proceedings

2020 Kim, Sangyeon, Omer Yalcin, Samuel Bestvater, Kevin Munger, Burt Monroe, and Bruce Desmarais. "The Effects of an Informational Intervention on Attention to Anti-Vaccination Content on YouTube." In *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* 14: 949-953.

Book Chapters

2022 Bestvater, Samuel. "Political Research with Social Media Data." In *The Handbook of Research Methods in International Relations*. Joseph Huddleston, Tom Jamieson, and Patrick James, eds. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Other Writing

2024 Bestvater, Samuel. "How U.S. Adults Use TikTok" Pew Research Center.

2023 Bestvater, Samuel, Risa Gelles-Watnick, Meltem Odabaş, Monica Anderson and Aaron Smith. "#BlackLivesMatter Turns 10: Social media, online activism, and ten years of #BlackLivesMatter." Pew Research Center.

Shah, Sono and Samuel Bestvater. "House Freedom Caucus on Twitter: Going negative and getting attention." Pew Research Center.

2022 Shah, Sono and Samuel Bestvater. "As the 2022 campaign draws to a close, here's how federal, state and local candidates have used Twitter." Pew Research Center.

Bestvater, Samuel and Sono Shah. "Analyzing text for distinctive terms using pointwise mutual information." Pew Research Center: Decoded.

Bestvater, Samuel and Sono Shah. "5 Facts about political tweets shared by U.S. adults." Pew Research Center.

Bestvater, Samuel, Sono Shah, Gonzalo Rivero, and Aaron Smith. "Politics on Twitter: One-Third of Tweets From U.S. Adults Are Political." Pew Research Center.

Bestvater, Samuel. "More members of Congress, especially Democrats, are talking about Black History Month on social media." Pew Research Center.

Public Engagement

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Conference (2021, 2022)

Politics and Computational Social Science Annual Conference (2022)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2019, 2021)

TextXD: Text Analysis Across Domains Conference (2019)

Peace Science Society International Annual Conference (2018)

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference (2018)

Georgia Political Science Association Annual Conference (2013)

Invited Talks

2023 "Inferring real-world political attitudes and behaviors from social media data." Indiana University Workshop in Methods.

2022 "Data Labs at Pew Research Center: Using data science to study society, culture, and politics." University of Maryland GVPT Methods Workshop.

Awards & Fellowships

2021 Graduate Exhibition Committee, Penn State
Second Place: Research in Social & Behavioral Sciences
"From Clicks to Collective Action: How Online Activism Promotes Individual Protest Mobilization."

Center for Social Data Analytics, Penn State
C-SoDA Accelerator Grant

Program in Comparative Politics, Penn State
PiCP Graduate Research Award

2020	Research and Graduate Studies Office, Penn State
	RGSO Dissertation Support Award
	Center for Social Data Analytics, Penn State
	C-SoDA Predoctoral Fellowship
	The McCourtney Institute for Democracy, Penn State
	Eleanor Roosevelt Summer Fellowship
2018	College of the Liberal Arts, Penn State
	Graduate Scholar Award
	Department of Political Science, Indiana University
	Outstanding Graduate Student Paper
	"Social Movement Networks and the Repression of Protest."
2016	Department of Political Science, Indiana University
	First Year Fellowship

Instructional Experience

Pew Research Center Methodological Innovation Workshop

2021 Presenter, *What can NLP do for your research?*

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis

2021 Teaching Assistant, *Advanced Methods for Text as Data*

Indiana University

2018 Teaching Assistant, *Political Data Analysis II*

2017 Instructor, *R for Social Science Research*

Teaching Assistant, *Political Data Analysis I*

Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Political Theory*

Service to the Discipline

Reviewer for **Political Analysis, Research and Politics, American Journal of Political Science**