

# Sarah Shugars

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **New York University**

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Center for Data Science  
September 2020 - Present

### **George Washington University**

Research Fellow, School of Media & Public Affairs  
January 2021 - Present

## EDUCATION

### **Northeastern University**

Ph.D., Network Science, Political Science Track. May 2020.

Dissertation: *Reasoning Together: Network Methods for Political Talk and Normative Reasoning*.  
Committee: **David Lazer** (Political Science), **Nicholas Beauchamp** (Political Science),  
**Peter Levine** (Political Science & Philosophy), **Lu Wang** (Computer Science)

### **Emerson College**

M.A., Integrated Marketing Communication, 2009.

### **Clark University**

B.A., Physics, *cum laude*. 2004.  
Concentration in Asian Studies.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Shugars S.**, Gitomer A., McCabe S., Gallagher R. J., Joseph K., Grinberg N., Doroshenko L., Foucault Welles B., Lazer D. (2021). Pandemics, Protests, and Publics: Demographic Activity and Engagement on Twitter in 2020. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 1.

**Shugars S.**, Kim S., Lebovits L. (*Forthcoming*). Building a Bigger Table: Networking 101 for Graduate Students. *PS: Political Science & Politics*

Gallagher R.J., Doroshenko L., **Shugars, S.**, Lazer D., Foucault Welles B. (2021) Sustained Amplification of COVID-19 Elites in the United States. *Social Media + Society*

**Shugars S.** (2020). Good Decisions or Bad Outcomes? A Model for Group Deliberation on Value-Laden Topics. *Communication Methods and Measures*

**Shugars S.**, & Beauchamp N. (2019). Why Keep Arguing? Predicting Engagement in Political Conversations Online. *SAGE Open*, Volume 9(1).

Zeng X., Li J., Wang L., Beauchamp N., **Shugars S.**, & Wong K. (2018). Microblog Conversation Recommendation via Joint Modeling of Topics and Discourse. *Proceedings of North American Chapter of Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*, Vol 1, 375-385.

Miller J.A., **Shugars S.**, & Levine D. (2018). Games for Civic Renewal. *The Good Society, Volume 26(1)*, 135-192.

Wang L., Beauchamp N., **Shugars S.**, & Qin K. (2017). Winning on the Merits: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)*, Volume 5, 219-232.

## ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

**Shugars S.** & Scarpino S. V. (2021) One outstanding path from A to B. *Nature Physics 17 (4)*, 540-540.

Lazer D., Ruck D.J., Quintana A., **Shugars S.**, Joseph K., Grinberg N., Gallagher R.J., Horgan L., Gitomer A. Bajak A., Baum M., Ognyanova K., Qu H., Hobbs W., McCabe S., Green J. (2021) The COVID States Project #18: Fake News on Twitter. *The Covid States Project*.

**Shugars S.** (2020). A Review of Daniel T. O'Brien, "The Urban Commons: How Data and Technology Can Rebuild Our Communities." *The Good Society, Vol. 28 (1-2)*, 64-69.

Levine P., Dube L., and **Shugars S.** (2018). Civic Education System Map. *CivXNow Coalition*, in collaboration with the Tisch College of Civic Life.

## UNDER REVIEW AND WORKING PAPERS

"How the resilience of experts to numeric and linguistic peer information improves collective intelligence" (with Nick Beauchamp, Briony Swire-Thompson, and David Lazer). *Under review*.

"No Rapunzel in This Ivory Tower: Finding Your Collective and Overcoming Academic Isolation in Political Science" (with Devon Cantwell, Siobhan Kirkland, Hannah Lebovits, Maricruz Osorio, Natalie Rojas, Rosalie Rubio, Rachel Torres, and Rachel Winter).

"Curation Bubbles: Domain Versus URL Level Analyses of News Sharing on Social Media" (with Jon Green, Stefan McCabe, and David Lazer)

"The Structure of Reasoning: Measuring Justification of Preferences in Text"

**Recipient of the John Sprague Award: Best Paper in Political Networks**

"A Bayesian Model of Engagement in Online Arguments" (with Nick Beauchamp)

"Personality, Ideology, and the Structure of Conceptual Networks" (with Nick Beauchamp and Peter Levine)

"Diversify Network Science: Race and Gender Diversity in Network Science Scholarship" (with Emma Towson, Syed Haque, Dina Misty, Matt Simonson, and Brooke Foucault Welles).

## TEACHING

DS 111: Data Science for Everyone  
New York University. Spring 2021.

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of scientific thinking and data science analysis in Python.

DS 2001: Programming with Data for Social Sciences  
Northeastern University. Spring 2019.

This course introduced students to core principles of ethical social science research and taught fundamentals of programming and computational approaches in Python.

Instructor effectiveness rated 4.6/5. Reviews available upon request.

Methods at the Intersection of Network and Text Analysis  
Workshop offered for the Political Networks Conference, PolNet 2021.

INPR 2183: Making Sense of the 2018 Elections  
Northeastern University. Fall 2018 workshop. Co-Instructor.

This course prepared students to produce and interpret data journalism and covered data scraping, text analysis, and data visualization.

PHIL 0020: Introduction to Civic Studies  
Tufts University. Spring 2014. Co-Instructor.

This political philosophy course engaged students in thinking critically about the roles of citizens and institutions in building and maintaining democratic life.

## INVITED TALKS

“The Dynamics of Group Deliberation on Value-Laden Topics”  
SIAM Minisymposium on Opinion Dynamics in Complex Social Systems.  
Virtual. May 2021.

“Pandemics, Protests, and Publics: Demographic Activity and Engagement on Twitter in 2020”  
CoCo Seminar Series.  
Virtual / Binghamton University, April 2021.

“The Construction of Expertise: Voice and Inequality in the Spread of COVID-19 Information and Misinformation”  
Center for Data Science Seminar Series.  
Virtual / New York University. October 2020.

“Why Keep Arguing? Predicting Engagement in Political Conversations Online”  
Connected\_Politics Lab Seminar Series.  
Virtual / University College Dublin. April 2020.

“The Structure of Reasoning: Measuring Justification and Preferences in Text”  
Women in Network Science (WiNS) Seminar Series  
Virtual. April 2020.

“Inferring Conceptual Networks from Free Response Text.”  
New Faces in Political Methodology.  
Penn State. State College, PA. April 2019.

“Professional Development Panel: Using Text as Data”  
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA).  
Chicago, IL. April 2019.

“Confidence and Collaboration: Gender and Working Together in the Public Sphere”  
Gendered Creative Teams Conference.  
Central European University. Budapest, Hungary. May 2017.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021\*)

Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021\*)

Political Networks (PolNet) Conference (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021\*)

Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2018, 2019, 2021\*)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (2017, 2019, 2021)

New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data (2017, 2018, 2019)

International Network for Social Network Analysis (Sunbelt) Conference (2019, 2020, 2021\*)

North American Social Networks Conference (2017, 2018)

Visions in Methodology (2019)

NetSci Conference (2019, 2021\*)

International Conference on Complex Systems (2018)

New England Regional Conference on Complex Systems (2018)

*\* Accepted for forthcoming conference.*

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

NetSeed Research Grant. \$5,500 for “Mapping Ideological Belief Systems.” May 2021.

John Sprague Award. Given annually for the Best Paper in Political Networks presented by a graduate student. July 2020.

First Place, Net-COVID Best Project Award. For “COVID-19 Misinformation on Twitter.”  
Work with Amy Knopf, Sam Rosenblatt, Ravi Sharma, Jihye Song, and Arjumand Younus.  
June 2020.

Northeastern Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Community Service. Given annually to a single graduate student from across the university. April 2018.

MPSA Women’s Caucus for Political Science, Graduate Student Travel Award. April 2019.

National Science Foundation Travel Grant. 2017, 2018, 2019.

NULab Travel Grant, NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University. 2017, 2018, 2019.

NetSI Travel Grant, Network Science Institute, Northeastern University. 2017, 2019.

SYNS Travel Grant, Society of Young Network Scientists. 2017.

HASTAC Scholar, 2017-2019.

NULab for Text, Maps, and Networks Fellow, 2016-2017.

Invited Participant, 1 Year Until 2020: US Election Research Workshop. Facebook, Menlo Park, CA. 2019.

Invited Participant, Complex Networks Winter Workshop (CNWW). Québec City, QC. 2018.

Invited Participant, Summer Institute for Computational Social Science (SICSS). CU Boulder Satellite. Boulder, CO. 2018.

Invited Participant, Summer Institute of Civic Studies. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University, Medford, MA. 2013.

## SERVICE

### **Service to the Discipline**

*Reviewer:* American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Political Analysis, National Science Foundation, American Politics Review, Journal of Deliberative Democracy, International Journal of Press/Politics.

Core organizer & Co-Chair, Conference on Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS). 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.

Program Committee Member, Political Networks Conference (PolNet). 2021.

Committee Member, John Sprague Best Paper Award selection committee. 2021. Editorial Board Member, Journal of Quantitative Description. Panelist, Diversify NetSci Satellite, NetSci Conference. 2019.

Co-Organizer, Society for Young Network Scientists. 2017-2018.

Program Committee Member, International Conference of Computational Social Science, 2018.

Senior Editor, *The Good Society: A Journal of Civic Studies*, 2015-Present. Women in Network Science co-coordinator, 2018.

Text as Data student organizer, 2016.

### **Service to New York University**

Faculty Mentor, CDS Undergraduate Research Program

### **Service to Northeastern University**

Network Science Graduate Student Council member, 2016-2018.

Network Science Admissions committee student representative, 2018.

### **Service to the Community**

Board Vice President, The Welcome Project, 2012 - 2019

The Welcome Project builds the collective power of immigrants to participate in and shape community decisions.

Board Member, OPENAIR Circus, 2006-2015

A non-profit, community circus, the OPENAIR Circus promotes leadership and self-esteem for children and teens through participation in the arts.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Future Faculty Program, 2017-2019.**

Northeastern's Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Through Research. Boston, MA.  
Attended workshops in: Fostering an Inclusive Learning Environment, Designing Authentic Assignments, Active Learning in STEM Courses, Discussions that Work: Engaging Structures and Practical Facilitation Moves, Creating a Space for Difficult Topics in the Classroom.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University  
Communications Manager/Communications Specialist, 2008-2015

Anti-Defamation League, New England Region  
Communications Assistant, 2005-2008

## REFERENCES

Dr. David Lazer  
University Distinguished Professor of Political Science  
and Computer and Information Science, Northeastern University  
d.lazer@northeastern.edu

Dr. Nick Beauchamp  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Northeastern University  
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Dr. Peter Levine  
Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Tufts University  
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