

Margaret (Molly) E. Roberts

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
University of California, San Diego
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La Jolla, CA 92093-0521

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political methodology, text analysis, political communication, and Chinese politics.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of California, San Diego,
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, July 2014-.

EDUCATION

Harvard University,
Ph.D., Government, 2014

Stanford University
M.S. Statistics, June 2009

Stanford University
B.A. International Relations & Economics, June 2009

BOOK

Roberts, Margaret E. *Censored: Distraction and Diversion Inside China's Great Firewall*. Princeton University Press. (Forthcoming, 2018)

PUBLICATIONS

14. King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. (Forthcoming) "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument." *American Political Science Review*.
13. King, Gary, Patrick Lam, and Margaret E. Roberts. (Forthcoming). "Computer-Assisted Keyword and Document Set Discovery from Unstructured Text." *American Journal of Political Science*.
12. Roberts, Margaret E, Brandon M. Stewart, and Edo M. Airoidi. 2016. "A model of text for experimentation in the social sciences." *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 111 (515): 988-1003.
11. Roberts, Margaret E, Brandon Stewart, and Dustin Tingley. 2016. "Navigating the Local Modes of Big Data: The Case of Topic Models." In *Computational Social Science: Discovery and Prediction*. ed. R. Michael Alvarez, New York: Cambridge University Press.
10. Reich, Justin, Dustin Tingley, Jetson Leder-Luis, Margaret E. Roberts, & Brandon M. Stewart. 2015. "Computer Assisted Reading and Discovery for Student Generated Text." *Journal of Learning Analytics*, 2(1): 156-184.

9. Chuang J, Roberts M, Stewart B, Weiss R, Tingley D, Grimmer J, Heer J. 2015. "TopicCheck: Interactive Alignment for Assessing Topic Model Stability." *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies*. (peer reviewed conference paper)
8. Monroe, Burt, Jennifer Pan, Margaret E. Roberts, Maya Sen, and Betsy Sinclair. 2015. "No! Formal Theory, Causal Inference, and Big Data Are Not Contradictory Trends in Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 48 (1): 71-74.
7. Gary King and Margaret E. Roberts. 2015. "How Robust Standard Errors Expose Methodological Problems They Do Not Fix." *Political Analysis*, 23(2):159-179.
6. Lucas, Christopher, Richard Nielsen, Margaret E. Roberts, Brandon M. Stewart, Alex Storer, and Dustin Tingley. 2015. "Computer assisted text analysis for comparative politics." *Political Analysis*, 23(2): 254-277.
5. Chuang J, Wilkerson JD, Weiss R, Tingley D, Stewart BM, Roberts ME, Poursabzi-Sangdeh F, Grimmer J, Findlater L, Boyd-Graber J, et al. 2014. "Computer-Assisted Content Analysis: Topic Models for Exploring Multiple Subjective Interpretations." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems Workshop on Human-Propelled Machine Learning*. (peer-reviewed conference paper)
4. King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2014. "Reverse Engineering Chinese Censorship: Randomized Experimentation and Participant Observation." *Science*, 345 (6199): 1-10.
3. Roberts Margaret E, Stewart Brandon M, Tingley Dustin, Airoldi Edo M. 2014. "The Structural Topic Model and Applied Social Science." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems Workshop on Topic Models: Computation, Application, and Evaluation*. (Peer-reviewed conference workshop, selected for oral presentation.)
2. Roberts, Margaret E, Brandon M. Stewart, Dustin Tingley, Christopher Lucas, Jetson Leder-Luis, Shana Gadarian, Bethany Albertson, David Rand. 2014. "Structural Topic Models for Open-Ended Survey Responses." *American Journal of Political Science*, 58 (4): 1064-1082.
1. King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review*, 107(2), 326-343.

WORKING PAPERS

- Roberts, Margaret E, Brandon M. Stewart and Dustin Tingley. "stm: R Package for Structural Topic Models." (Revise & Resubmit)
- Hobbs, William and Margaret E. Roberts. 2016. "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information." (Revise & Resubmit)
- Roberts, Margaret E, Brandon M. Stewart and Richard Nielsen. "Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text." (Under Review)
- Horowitz M, Stewart B, Tingley D, Bishop M, Resnick L, Roberts M, Chang W, Mellers B, Tetlock P. "What Makes Foreign Policy Teams Tick: Explaining Variation in Group Performance At Geopolitical Forecasting." (Under Review)
- Liebman, Benjamin L, Margaret E Roberts, Rachel E Stern and Alice Z Wang. "Mass Digitization of Chinese Court Decisions: How to Use Text as Data in the Field of Chinese Law." (Under Review)
- Egami, Naoki, Christian Fong, Justin Grimmer, Margaret E Roberts, and Brandon Stewart. "How to Make Causal Inferences with Text."

OTHER WRITINGS

- Roberts, Margaret E. 2016. “Here’s How Text Analysis is Transforming Social Science Research.” *Washington Post*, copy here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/27/heres-how-text-analysis-is-transforming-social-science-research/>
- Roberts, Margaret E. 2016. “Introduction to the Virtual Issue: Recent Innovations in Text Analysis for Social Science.” *Political Analysis Virtual Issue*, copy here: http://oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/text-as-data.pdf
- Roberts, Margaret E. 2015. “What New Kinds of Data Can Reveal About Autocrats.” *The Political Communication Report*, copy here: http://www.politicalcommunication.org/newsletter_25_1_roberts.html
- “Presystolic Mitral Annular Septal-Lateral Shortening is Independent from Left Atrial and Left Ventricular Contraction During Acute Volume Depletion,” *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery*, Wolfgang Bothe, Tom Nguyen, Margaret E. Roberts, Tomasz Timek, Akinobu Itoh, Neil Ingles, and David Craig Miller, August 2009; 36: 236-243.
- Roberts, Margaret E. “The U.S.-China Trade Relationship: Explaining U.S. Anti-Dumping Duties on China.” Senior Honors Thesis, Stanford Center for International Development, Working Paper No. 360. Copy at <http://goo.gl/1wj99v>.

SOFTWARE

- **stm** (with Brandon M. Stewart and Dustin Tingley) stm is an R package for implementing topic models with applications to social science.
- **stmBrowser** (with Michael Freeman, Jason Chuang, Brandon Stewart and Dustin Tingley) stmBrowser is an R package for visualizing topic models.
- **stmCorrViz** (with Antonio Coppola, Brandon Stewart and Dustin Tingley) This package generates an interactive hierarchical topic explorer.
- **eiR: A(n R) Program for Ecological Inference** (with Gary King) eiR is an R package for implementing statistical procedures for ecological inference

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2017 National Science Foundation RIDIR Award, “Collaborative Research: Analytical tools for text based social data integration” (with Amarnath Gupta and Brandon Stewart) \$1,516,099
- 2016 UC San Diego, Hellman Fellowship, “Estimating the Impact of the Great Firewall on Political Opinion in China” \$46,447
- 2016 UC San Diego, Academic Senate Research Award, “The Credibility of Media Information to Citizens” (with Seth Hill) \$14,032
- 2015 UC San Diego, Integrated Digital Infrastructure Grant, “A High-Performance Storage, Management and Computation Platform for Heterogeneous, Multilingual Text Data to Enable Social Science Research” (with James Fowler and Amarnath Gupta) \$94,000
- 2015 National Science Foundation RAPID Grant, “RAPID: Measuring the Intent of Chinese Leaders through Censorship Behavior” (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan) \$200,000
- 2015 APSA Division of Political Communication’s Outstanding Dissertation Award
- 2015 Richard J. Herrnstein Prize for Dissertation “Fear, Friction, and Flooding: Methods of Online Information Control.”

- 2014 China and Inner-Asia Council Graduate Student Best Paper Prize at Association for Asian Studies Annual conference for “Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age”
- 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for “Reverse Engineering Chinese Censorship through Randomized Experimentation and Participant Observation”
- 2014 Society for Political Methodology’s Harold F. Gosnell Prize for “Topic Models for Open-Ended Survey Responses with Applications to Experiments”
- 2014 Edward M. Chase Prize for the best dissertation on a subject relating to the promotion of world peace
- Spring 2014 Center for American Politics Research Grant
- Fall 2013 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs mid-Dissertation Grant
- Summer 2013 Institute for Quantitative Social Science Research Grant
- Spring 2013 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology)
- Fall 2013 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (The Government and Politics of China)
- Spring 2012 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology)
- Fall 2011 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Introduction to Quantitative Methods)
- Spring 2011 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology)
- 2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship for Chinese
- 2009-2014 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Ashford Fellowship
- 2008 Firestone Medal for Excellence in Research, for Undergraduate Thesis
- 2007 Phi Beta Kappa, elected Junior Year
- 2006 Stanford in Government National Fellowship Recipient

TEACHING

- Winter 2017, Poli 5, Introduction to Social Data Analytics
- Fall 2016, Poli 172, Advanced Social Data Analytics
- Fall 2016, Poli 274, Text as Data
- Winter 2015 & Winter 2016, Poli 170A, Introductory Statistics for Political Science and Public Policy
- Winter 2015 & Winter 2016, Poli 271, Advanced Statistical Applications
- Spring 2013, Teaching Fellow, Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology
- Fall 2012, Teaching Fellow, The Government and Politics of China
- Spring 2012, Teaching Fellow, Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology
- Fall 2011, Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- Spring 2011, Teaching Fellow, Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology

ADVISING

- *UCSD*
 - Adeline Lo, PhD 2015 Dissertation Committee Member (Princeton Post-doctoral fellow)
 - Dissertation Committee Member: Taylor Carlson, Kristy Pathakis, Inbok Rhee, Skyler Roth, Clara Suong, Brian Tsay, Jason Wu, Yin Yuan, Paul Zachary
 - 2016-2017, Advisor in Advanced Empirical Research on Politics for Undergraduates (AEROPUP) program, Kennedy Middleton
 - 2014-2015, Advisor in Advanced Empirical Research on Politics for Undergraduates (AEROPUP) program, Amy Jiang
 - 2014-2015, Undergraduate Thesis Advisor in International Policy Studies, Emily Deng
- *Harvard*
 - 2013-2014, Undergraduate Thesis Advisor in Government, Haemin Jee
 - 2012-2013, Statistics Advisor for Undergraduate Thesis Writers in Government
 - 2011-2014, Resident Tutor and Government Concentration Advisor, Dunster House, Harvard

 - 2011-2012, Undergraduate Thesis Advisor in East Asian Studies, Sam Brotherton

SERVICE

- Journal Reviewer: *Annals of Applied Statistics, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, International Studies Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Official Statistics, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Policy and Internet, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Political Science Research and Methods, Problems of Post-Communism, Sociological Methods and Research, Sociological Methodology, World Politics*
- Conference Reviewer: *Association of Computational Linguistics, International Conference on Web and Social Media, Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*
- Editorial Board: *Political Analysis, Scientific Data, Political Behavior*
- Society for Political Methodology Program Committee (2015-present)
- Society for Political Methodology Diversity Committee (2014-2016)
- Dunster House Resident Tutor, 2011-2014

KEYNOTES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

27. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). University of Washington (Invited).
26. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). University of New Mexico (Invited).
25. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Princeton University (Invited).

24. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Microsoft Research (Invited).
23. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). University of Iowa (Invited).
22. 2017, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Berkeley Haas School of Business (Invited).
21. 2016, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Oxford University (Invited).
20. 2016, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). ETH Zurich (Invited).
19. 2016, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Arizona State University (Invited).
18. 2016, “How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument.” (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, Computational Social Science Workshop (Keynote).
17. 2016, “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information” (with William Hobbs). Waseda University, Tokyo (Invited).
16. 2016, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, UCLA. (Invited).
15. 2016, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). New York University Text as Data Speaker Series. (Invited).
14. 2016, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). New York University Text as Data Speaker Series. (Invited).
13. 2016, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). University of Colorado, Boulder Methods Workshop. (Invited).
12. 2016, “Structural Topic Models for the Social Sciences” (with Brandon Stewart and Dustin Tingley). Iowa State University Methods Workshop. (Invited).
11. 2016, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Washington University, St Louis Methods Workshop. (Invited).
10. 2015, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Yale University Methods Workshop.
9. 2015, “Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Kansas State Statistics Department.
8. 2015, “Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age,” Communication Conflict and Contention in the Digital Age, Konstanz, Germany.
7. 2015, “Using Text Matching to Estimate Chinese Bloggers Reactions to Censorship.” (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). University of Chicago (Invited).
6. 2015, “Reverse Engineering Chinese Censorship.” CDS Symposium, Power and Counterpower, Cambridge, UK (Invited).
5. 2014, “Where Propaganda and Censorship Converge in Chinese Media.” (with Brandon Stewart). Stanford University (Invited).

4. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". University of California, Irvine (Invited).
3. 2014, "A Randomized Experimental Study of Censorship in China." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). The International Society for New Institutional Economics. (Invited).
2. 2014, "Leveraging Big Data Analytics to Transform HR Processes and Increase Productivity". Human Capital, Singapore (invited).
1. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". University of California, Merced, Understanding Politics Speaker Series (invited).

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

44. 2017, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). Western Political Science Association.
43. 2017, "Censorship of Criticism Reduces Perceptions of Government Responsiveness" (with Tianguang Meng and Jennifer Pan). Mass Politics, the State and Foreign and Domestic Policy in Russia and China, Notre Dame University.
42. 2017, "Do Citizens Account for Media Bias? Evidence from China and the United States" (with Seth Hill). Social Media and Political Participation Global Conference, NYU Abu Dhabi.
41. 2016, "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Text as Data, Northeastern.
40. 2016, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). Mass Politics, the State and Foreign and Domestic Policy in Russia and China, Cornell University.
39. 2016, "Censorship of Criticism Reduces Perceptions of Government Responsiveness" (with Tianguang Meng and Jennifer Pan). American Political Science Association.
38. 2016, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). American Political Science Association.
37. 2016, "Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text" (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Southern California Methods Workshop.
36. 2016, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). Pacific Peace Science Conference, Kyoto.
35. 2016, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). Social Media and Political Participation Global Conference, NYU Florence.
34. 2016, "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Midwest Political Science Association.
33. 2016, "How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information" (with William Hobbs). Midwest Political Science Association.
32. 2015, "Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text" (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Text as Data Conference, NYU.
31. 2015, "Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text" (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Society for Political Methodology 32nd Summer Meeting.

30. 2015, "Matching Methods for High-Dimensional Data with Applications to Text" (with Rich Nielsen and Brandon Stewart). Visions in Methodology, Lexington, Kentucky.
29. 2015, "Where Propaganda and Censorship Converge in Chinese Media." (with Brandon Stewart). China Fears Conference, University of California, Irvine.
28. 2015, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". Midwest Political Science Association.
27. 2014, "Structural Topic Models." (with Edoardo Airoldi and Brandon Stewart). Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS) Annual Meeting.
26. 2014, "Where Propaganda and Censorship Converge in Chinese Media." (with Brandon Stewart). Text as Data Conference, Northwestern.
25. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". Digital Methods Conference, Princeton.
24. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". Stability Maintenance and the Chinese State's Response to Social Conflict, UCSD.
23. 2014, "What the 'Big' Picture Reveals About Governments: Scalable Text Analysis of Millions of Newspapers in China." (with Brandon Stewart). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
22. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
21. 2014, "Computer-Assisted Keyword and Document Set Discovery from Unstructured Text." (with Gary King and Patrick Lam). Society for Political Methodology 31st Summer Meeting.
20. 2014, "A Randomized Experimental Study of Censorship in China." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.
19. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". Association of Asian Studies Conference.
18. 2014, "Fear or Friction? How Censorship Slows the Spread of Information in the Digital Age". International Studies Association Conference.
17. 2014, "What the 'Big' Picture Reveals About Governments: Scalable Text Analysis of Millions of Newspapers in China" (with Brandon Stewart). International Studies Association Conference.
16. 2013, "The Structural Topic Model and Applied Social Science." (with Brandon M. Stewart, Dustin Tingley, and Edo M. Airoldi) Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems Workshop on Topic Models: Computation, Application, and Evaluation.
15. 2013, "A Randomized Experimental Study of Censorship in China." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Social Media and Participation Workshop.
14. 2013, "A Randomized Experimental Study of Censorship in China." (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
13. 2013, "It's the Journey, not the Destination: Estimating Refugee Flows from Stock Data." (with Kara Ross Camarena). Society for Political Methodology 30th Summer Meeting. (Poster presentation)
12. 2013, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression" (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan) Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Conference.
11. 2013, "Incorporating Substantive Information in Topic Models for Social Science Inference" (with Brandon M. Stewart, Dustin Tingley, Edo Airoldi) Visions in Methodology.

10. 2013, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression" (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan) . Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.
9. 2013, "Topic models for open ended survey responses with applications to experiments" (with Brandon M. Stewart, Dustin Tingley, Christopher Lucas, Jetson Leder-Luis, Shana Gadarian, Bethany Albertson, David Rand) NYU Experimental Political Science Conference.
8. 2012, "Structural Topic Models for Social Science Inquiry" (with Brandon Stewart and Edo Airoidi) (Poster presentation) Women in Machine Learning Workshop.
7. 2012, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression" (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan) New Directions in Text Analysis.
6. 2012, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression" (with Gary King and Jennifer Pan) Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
5. 2012, "How Robust Standard Errors Expose Methodological Problems They Do Not Fix" (with Gary King) Society for Political Methodology 29th Summer Meeting.
4. 2012, "How Robust Standard Errors Expose Methodological Problems They Do Not Fix" (with Gary King) New Faces in Political Methodology.
3. 2011, "Incorporating Substantive Information in Topical Analysis of Political News with Papers Structural Constraints" (with Edo Airoidi and Brandon Stewart) Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
2. 2011, "Topic Models and Structure" (with Edo Airoidi and Brandon Stewart) (Poster presentation) Society for Political Methodology 28th Summer Meeting.
1. 2010, "How Does Matching Affect Bias from Misclassification?" (Poster presentation), Society for Political Methodology 27th Summer Meeting.