

Vitae For William Craig Meddaugh

Contact Information:

William Craig Meddaugh
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Professional Preparation

- BS Chemistry/Biology (minors in Physics and Math), Texas Lutheran University
 - MA Chemistry, Rice University
 - MA Political Science, Rice University
 - PhD Political Science, Rice University (expected Spring 2012)
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Papers Presented

- “Using Content Analysis to Estimate the Ideal Points of UK Cabinet Ministers:1979- 2007” *Paper presented at the 67th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.*
 - “Using Content Analysis to Estimate the Ideal Points of MPs in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom” *Paper presented at the 68th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.*
 - “Media Influence on the Public Perception of the Real Economy” *Paper presented at the 68th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois. (With Raymond Duch)*
 - “Understanding the 2010 British Elections” *Paper presented at the 2011 APSA meeting, Seattle, Washington (with Harold Clarke and David Sanders)*
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Awards/Grants/Fellowships

- NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant (2009)
 - Social Sciences Research Institute Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (2009)
 - Fellow, British Election Study (2010-present)
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Current Papers/Projects

- “Using Content Analysis to Estimate the Ideal Points of MPs in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom” (dissertation)
- “Understanding the 2010 British Elections”
- “Media Influence on Voter Awareness and Voter Intentions in the British AV Referendum”
- “Media Influence on the Public Perception of the Real Economy”
- “The Changing Nature of Debate in the British House of Commons”
- “Picking the Best Method: A Comparison of 7 Different Methods of Document Classification”
- PolCAT: A software suite for content analysis in political science. Includes tools for content acquisition (web-crawling, RSS, Twitter interface, PDF conversion, and optical character recognition), project management (a powerful and extensible XML database), document coding, and content analysis. Includes most methods in common usage in political science (Wordscores, Wordfish, ReadMe) and other methods in current use in the information retrieval community (LSI, LDA, SVM, clustering, SNA,

and many more). Where possible, methods have been written to take advantage of parallel computing (on both the local machine and over a network/cluster) and most run much faster than their current implementation. All methods are also written to take advantage of the additional memory available under 64-bit operating systems. All of this is wrapped in an easy-to-use graphical user interface and is easily extensible through Python. Expected release date (Linux/Windows) is Summer 2012, though most components are fully functional at this time.

Teaching Experience

- Computers and Content Analysis in Political Science (instructor)
 - Statistics and the Scientific Method in the Social Sciences (instructor)
 - Introduction to American Politics (teaching assistant)
 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (teaching assistant)
 - Maximum Likelihood Estimation (teaching assistant)
 - Advanced Organic Chemistry (lab manager)
 - Instrumental Chemistry (instructor)
 - Introduction to Nanochemistry (lab manager)
 - Analytical Chemistry (instructor)
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Scholarly Interests (Political Science)

Computer-assisted content analysis, dynamics of majority cabinets, party factions, ideal point estimation, statistical methodology, computational technology in political science, British, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand politics, economic voting, influence of media on political behavior. Also interested in improving undergraduate instruction in statistics in the social sciences.

Scholarly Interests (other)

Parallel processing in Python, R and C/C++, pronoun (anaphora) resolution, complex sentence parsing, optical character recognition, information retrieval, and database design and management.

Additional Skills

Completely fluent in Python, Stata, and R. Can also speak C/C++, Perl, Pascal, Basic, and a few other languages.

About Me

When not teaching, meeting with students, or working on my scholarly projects and software, I am an avid angler, paddler, home-brewer, and an accomplished amateur wildlife photographer with images published in numerous magazines, books, and brochures. I am also deeply involved with conservation groups along the Texas coast including the Coastal Conservation Association and the Houston Audubon Society.

I also try and spend some of my free time contributing to software within the open source community. I have a strong interest in multiprocessing semantics, optical character recognition, artificial intelligence/machine learning, and photo processing (image stitching, noise reduction, sharpening algorithms, etc...).