William R. Hobbs

Department of Psychology | College of Human Ecology | Cornell University
✉ hobbs@cornell.edu 🌐 hobbs.human.cornell.edu | Updated: Oct. 22, 2023

Academic appointments

Lois and Mel Tukman Assistant Professor   2023 - 2026
College of Human Ecology, Cornell University

Assistant Professor, *Cornell University*   2018 - present

  Department of Psychology
  Department of Government

  Graduate fields:
    Government, Human Development,
    Information Science, Psychology

Postdoc, *Northeastern University*   2016 - 2018

  Lazer Lab, Network Science Institute
  IQSS, Harvard University

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, *University of California, San Diego*   2011 - 2016

  Institute for Network Science, Yale University (2013 - 2014)
  Data Science Team, Facebook (2013)

B.A., Economics, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*   2009

Publications

"From Anti-Muslim to Anti-Jewish: Target Substitution on Fringe Social Media Platforms and the Persistence of Online and Offline Hate."
William Hobbs, Nazita Lajevardi, Xinyi Li, and Caleb Lucas. (forthcoming).
Political Behavior. 1-22.

"For 'Living Well', Behaviors and Circumstances Matter Just as Much as Psychological Traits."
William Hobbs and Anthony Ong. 2023.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 120(12): e2212867120.

"Asymmetric Flooding in Foreign Election Interference on Social Media."
Alexandra Cirone and William Hobbs. 2023.
Political Science Research and Methods. 11(1): 160-171.

"Online Engagement with 2020 Election Misinformation and Turnout in the 2021 Georgia Runoff Election."
Jon Green, William Hobbs, Stefan McCabe, and David Lazer. 2022.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 119(34): e2115900119.

"COVID-19 Increased Censorship Circumvention and Access to Sensitive Topics in China."
Keng-Chi Chang, William Hobbs, Margaret Roberts, and Zachary Steinert-Threlkeld. 2022.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 119(4): e2102818119.

"Offsetting Policy Feedback: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act."
William Hobbs and Daniel Hopkins. 2021.
Journal of Politics. 83(4): 1800-1817.

"Using Administrative Records and Survey Data to Construct Samples of Tweeters and Tweets."
Adam Hughes, Stefan McCabe, William Hobbs, Emma Remy, Sono Shah, and David Lazer. 2021.
Public Opinion Quarterly. 85(S1): 323-346.

"Effects of Divisive Political Campaigns on the Day-to-Day Segregation of Arab and Muslim Americans."
William Hobbs and Nazita Lajevardi. 2019.
American Political Science Review. 113(1): 270-276.

"Major Life Events and the Age - Partisan Stability Association."
William Hobbs. 2019.
Political Behavior. 41(3): 791-814.

"How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information."
William Hobbs and Margaret Roberts. 2018.
American Political Science Review. 112(3): 621-636.

"Connective Recovery in Social Networks After the Death of a Friend."
William Hobbs and Moira Burke. 2017.
Nature: Human Behaviour. 1: 92.

"ConStance: Modeling Annotation Contexts to Improve Stance Classification."
Kenneth Joseph, Lisa Friedland, William Hobbs, David Lazer, and Oren Tsur. 2017.
EMNLP. 1115–1124.

"Voters of the Year: 19 Voters Who Were Unintentional Election Poll Sensors on Twitter."
William Hobbs, Lisa Friedland, Kenneth Joseph, Oren Tsur, Stefan Wojcik, David Lazer. 2017.
ICWSM. 544-547.

"Online Social Integration is Associated with Reduced Mortality Risk."
William Hobbs, Moira Burke, Nicholas Christakis, and James Fowler. 2016.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 113(46): 12980-12984.

"Presidential Effort and International Outcomes: evidence for an executive bottleneck."
David Lindsey and William Hobbs. 2015.
Journal of Politics. 77(4): 1089-1102.

"Widowhood Effects in Voter Participation."
William Hobbs, Nicholas Christakis, and James Fowler. 2014.
American Journal of Political Science. 58(1): 1-16.

"Prediction of Mortality Using On-Line, Self-Reported Health Data: empirical test of the RealAge score."
William Hobbs and James Fowler. 2014.
PLoS One. 9(1): e86385.

"Embedded Interests and the Managerial Local State: the political economy of methanol fuel-switching in China."
Genia Kostka and William Hobbs. 2013.
Journal of Contemporary China. 22(80): 204-218.

"Local Energy Efficiency Policy Implementation in China: bridging the gap between national priorities and local interests."
Genia Kostka and William Hobbs. 2012.
China Quarterly. 211: 765-785.

Working papers

"Attitudes in Open-ended Survey Responses."
William Hobbs and Jon Green. 2023.
(revise and resubmit)

Grants and Awards

Cornell Center for Social Sciences Faculty Fellow (2022-2023)

Cornell Center for Social Sciences seed grant: "Methods and Training Data for Encoding Social and Political Texts" (PI, 2020)

Cornell China Center seed grant: "Chinese Society, Media and the World: Attitudes and Discourse" with Jessica Chen Weiss and Yue Du (co-PI, 2019)

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority grant to study attitudes toward the Affordable Care Act with Daniel Hopkins (co-PI, 2018-2020)

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority award to study attitudes toward the Affordable Care Act with Daniel Hopkins (co-PI, 2016-2018)

Altmetric Top 100 Articles of the Year (2016)

Non-Refereed Conference and Seminar Presentations

Society for Political Methodology Conference (2023, 2019, 2017, 2016)

American Political Science Association Conference (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013)

Text as Data Conference (2022, 2018, 2017)

Political Networks Conference (2021, 2017)

Midlife in the United States conference (2021)

American Association for Public Opinion Research Conference (2018)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (2017, 2016, 2012)

North American Social Networks Conference (2017)

Southern Political Science Association Conference (2017)

Western Political Science Association Conference (2016)

Invited Talks

Social Psychology Speaker Series, Syracuse University (2022)

ICPSR Blalock Lectures (2021)

Arizona State University Machine Learning Day (2021)

Cornell Sociology Graduate Research Symposium (2020)

BCTR Talks at Twelve (2019)

Deep Wounds Conference (2018)

International Methods Colloquium (2017)

Scalable Cooperation Group, MIT Media Lab (2017)

Center for Complex Network Research, NEU Network Science Institute (2017)

Human Nature Lab, Yale Institute for Network Science (2016)

Teaching

At Cornell:

Data Science for Social Scientists I (undergraduate)
Data Science for Social Scientists II (undergraduate)

Social Networks (undergraduate)

Text and Networks in Social Science Research (graduate)
- cross-listed in Government, Human Development, Information Science, Sociology

As section instructor at UC-San Diego:

Introduction to American Politics

Political Inquiry (introduction to statistics)

Reports and White Papers

"Data Acquisition, Sampling, and Data Preparation Considerations for Quantitative Social Science Research Using Social Media Data." Zeina Mneimneh, et al.. 2021.

"The State of the Nation: A 50-State COVID-19 Survey Report #18: COVID-19 Fake News on Twitter." David Lazer, et al.. 2020.

"Combating Fake News: An Agenda for Research and Action." David Lazer, Matthew Baum, Nir Grinberg, Lisa Friedland, Kenneth Joseph, William Hobbs, and Carolina Mattsson. 2017.

Other Activities and Affiliations

Poster Award Committee, PolMeth Conference (2023)

Co-organizer, Text as Data Conference (2022)

Division Chair, Political Networks, APSA Conference Program Committee (2022)

Advisory Board, Cornell University College Scholar Program (2019 -)

Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of Psychology, Cornell University (2021 - 2022)

Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of Human Development, Cornell University (2020 - 2021)

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Human Development, Cornell University (2020 - 2021)

Graduate Review Committee, Department of Human Development, Cornell University (2020 - 2021)

Program Committee, 9th Conference on Complex Networks (2018)

IARPA Hybrid Forecasting Competition (2017 - 2018)

Facebook:

Core Data Science, research intern (2013)

Frankfurt School of Finance and Management:

   Research assistant for Genia Kostka (2010 - 2011)

Foreign language: Chinese (Mandarin)

Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, EPJ Data Science, Electoral Studies, European Political Science Review, International Political Science Review, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Online Trust and Safety, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Policy, PLOS ONE, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Politics, Groups, and Identities, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Research & Politics.*