

DAVID CRABTREE

Data Analyst | Causal Inference & Survey Research

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SUMMARY

Quantitative social scientist specializing in causal inference and survey experiments. Six years of R across the full analysis cycle, from data collection and cleaning to modeling and publication, with four peer-reviewed articles (one forthcoming), including two first-authored articles from original survey research. Led a 10-person research team on an NSF-funded project that built a 20,000-observation dataset covering 600+ intergovernmental organizations. Building Python and SQL skills through Georgia Tech's MS in Analytics.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: R (advanced: tidyverse, ggplot2, estimatr); Python (intermediate: pandas, statsmodels, linearmodels, matplotlib); SQL (basic); L^AT_EX

Methods: randomized experiments and A/B testing, average treatment effects, instrumental variables and 2SLS, power analysis, regression, survey design, coding protocols and data quality assurance

Tools: Git/GitHub, Quarto, R Markdown, Qualtrics

EXPERIENCE

Project Manager, American Bar Foundation

Spring 2024 – Summer 2025

Charters of Intergovernmental Organizations (CIGO) Project, funded by the National Science Foundation and American Bar Foundation; PIs Tom Ginsburg (University of Chicago) and Kristina Daugirdas (University of Michigan)

- Led a team of 10 research assistants coding 1,200+ founding and amended charters of 600+ intergovernmental organizations, translating the PIs' research goals into coding tasks and assignments.
- Implemented a double-coding and reconciliation procedure: every observation was coded independently by two research assistants, with discrepancies resolved in reconciliation meetings or by the PIs.
- Wrote R scripts that merged research assistants' coding into a 20,000+ observation dataset and checked it for missing values and data-entry anomalies.
- Worked with web developers to build an online corpus of 200+ IO legal documents (public launch forthcoming).
- Co-authored the dataset's introductory article, forthcoming in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

Instructional Assistant, University of Chicago

Sep 2023 – Sep 2025

Department of Political Science (full-time academic staff)

- Led discussion sections, graded assignments with written feedback, and held office hours across 12 sections of five undergraduate courses, including Political Science Research Methods.
- Advised senior honors theses as Honors Thesis Preceptor for two cohorts (2023–24 and 2024–25).

Research Assistant

2021 – 2023

University of Chicago and East Tennessee State University

- *Survey experiment (Wesley Wehde):* co-designed and programmed in Qualtrics a nationally representative survey experiment ($N = 1,650$) that randomly assigned respondents to evaluate recipients of traditional or pandemic-era welfare programs; conducted all data analysis in R (t-tests, OLS) and first-authored two peer-reviewed articles from the study, writing one in full.

- *Constitutional dataset (Tom Ginsburg)*: hand-coded term-limit provisions in hundreds of national constitutions from the Comparative Constitutions Project, building the dataset for a sole-authored *Democratization* article.
- *Transitional Justice Lab (Monika Nalepa)*: built R visualizations of cross-national time-series data on physical repression in democratizing countries before their transitions.

PROJECTS

Re-examining the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment	<i>Python, R, Quarto</i>
github.com/davidicrabtree/oregon-medicaid-experiment	
• Rebuilt the analysis of a landmark randomized Medicaid lottery (Baicker et al. 2013, <i>NEJM</i>) from NBER public-use data in Python, with an R reference implementation that matches on every table. • Estimated intent-to-treat and two-stage least squares effects of Medicaid coverage; showed through power analysis that the headline blood-pressure null had only a 67% chance of detecting an effect the authors call clinically significant. • Found that the paper’s stated definition of elevated blood pressure does not match its results, and that covariate adjustment shrinks standard errors by only about 1%.	

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology , MS in Analytics (online)	<i>Expected Dec 2027</i>
University of Chicago , PhD program in Political Science	<i>2025 – present</i>
Coursework and comprehensive exams completed	
University of Chicago , MA in Social Sciences	<i>2023</i>
Maroon Scholar Research Scholarship (half tuition)	
East Tennessee State University , BA in Political Science; BA in International Affairs	<i>2022</i>
President’s Academic Performance Scholarship	

PUBLICATIONS

Crabtree, David. 2025. “Can Unamendable Term Limits Prevent Presidents-For-Life?” <i>Democratization</i> .	
Daugirdas, Kristina, Tom Ginsburg, David Crabtree , and Morgen Miller. Forthcoming. “Charters of International Organizations: Evidence From a New Dataset.” <i>Journal of Empirical Legal Studies</i> .	
Crabtree, David , and Wesley Wehde. 2023. “Examining Policy Feedback Effects from COVID-19 on Social Welfare Support: Developing an Outcome Distance Dimension.” <i>Policy & Politics</i> 51(1): 156–179.	
Crabtree, David , and Wesley Wehde. 2022. “Who Deserves What and Why During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Applying the CARIN Principles of Deservingness to the American Welfare State.” <i>Social Policy & Administration</i> .	

AWARDS

\$22,000 in competitive research funding: Malvi Center for Institutional Effectiveness Research Grant (\$10,000, 2025), Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship (\$8,500, 2022), and East Tennessee State University Honors College Summer Research Fellowship (\$3,500, 2021).	
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