



Max Weylandt, PhD

Researcher

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 WDH

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SUMMARY

I am a creative researcher with an autodidactic streak and formal training in statistics and the social sciences. My PhD research uses original and existing survey data to study American beliefs around democracy, and text as data approaches like topic models and word embeddings to study the speech of politicians around the world. I enjoy creating tools to improve the research process and thinking of new ways to measure things.

EDUCATION

2024	PhD, Political Science Coursework: Democratization, Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, Machine Learning, Comparative Methods, Experiments	Northwestern University
2024	MS in Applied Statistics Coursework: Probability, Regression, Hierarchical Linear Models, Causal Inference, Data Visualization	Northwestern University
2015	MPhil Development Studies	Oxford University
2013	B.A. Political Science	Dickinson College

SELECTED PROJECTS

(Click to view if underlined)

Software	Straightliner R package that implements various quantitative measures of straightlining. Designed to be easier to use in the research flow than existing packages.	<u>Github</u>
Data	Namibian National Assembly Election Results I compiled election data going back to 1989 from a variety of online and offline sources to create this unique dataset, with the aim of helping other researchers study Namibian politics.	<u>Harvard Dataverse</u>
Research	How Elites Talk About Democracy Parsed two decades of parliamentary transcripts; compared tens of thousands of politicians' speeches in UK, US, and SA using word embedding methods and structural topic models.	
Research	Longer Open-Ended Survey Responses Factorial Experiment testing survey design elements that can encourage longer responses to open-ended questions; increased responses up to 100% from 20-word average in control. Under review.	<u>PDF (draft)</u>

EXPERIENCE

2018-2024	PhD Student <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conceptualized new survey questions and tested their measurement before fielding.• Coded surveys and partnered with four survey companies to collect over 3,000 responses across three studies.• Collaborated with other researchers to co-author 2 book chapters and one article.• Researched survey methods and democracy using a broad range of approaches, including survey experiments, structural topic models, word embeddings, hierarchical linear models, lasso, random forests.• Obtained over \$ 18,000 in research grants.	Northwestern University
2019 - 2022	Instructor, Quantitative Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loyola: as instructor of record, designed quantitative methods class for Masters of Public Policy students. Covered description, visualization, t-tests ANOVA, regression in R.• Northwestern: Teaching Assistant for graduate and undergraduate classes covering R, data processing, visualization, regression, network analysis, and more.	Northwestern University, Loyola University
2015-2018	Research Associate & Project Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led "Democracy Report" project: conducted Research and provided analysis on the work of Parliament in Namibia. Researched and wrote over 20 in-depth policy briefs and plain-language explainers on various legislative issues.• Helped secure US\$ 82,000 in grant funding for project, and led team building a website mapping the beneficial owners of all mining licenses in Namibia.• Contributed research to civil society-led push for Access to Information Bill (passed in 2022)	Institute for Public Policy Research