

Jacob (Jake) Carlson

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<https://jscarlson.github.io>

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ph.D. Economics, August 2022 – May 2027 (expected)

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
B.A. Statistics and Data Science, August 2016 – May 2020
B.A. Ethics, Politics, and Economics, August 2016 – May 2020
Summa cum laude with distinction in both subjects

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Two Sigma PhD Fellowship Finalist
- Presidential Scholar (Harvard University)
- Phi Beta Kappa (Yale University)
- Forethought Foundation for Global Priorities Research Undergraduate Thesis Prize (2020)

WORKING PAPERS

- Carlson, Jacob and Neil Shephard. “When are time series predictions causal? The potential system and dynamic causal effects.” Working paper (2026).
- Carlson, Jacob. “Making Interpretable Discoveries from Unstructured Data: A High-Dimensional Multiple Hypothesis Testing Approach.” Working paper (2025).
- Carlson, Jacob and Melissa Dell. “A Unifying Framework for Robust and Efficient Inference with Unstructured Data.” Working paper (2025).
- Andrews, Isaiah, Harvey Barnhard, and Jacob Carlson. “True and Pseudo-True Parameters.” Working paper (2024). Revision requested, *Econometric Theory*.

PUBLICATIONS

- Carlson, Jacob, Tom Bryan, and Melissa Dell. “Efficient OCR for Building a Diverse Digital History.” *ACL* (2024). **Oral presentation**.
- Dell, Melissa, Jacob Carlson, Tom Bryan, Emily Silcock, Abhishek Arora, Zejiang Shen, Luca D’Amico-Wong, Quan Le, Pablo Querubin, Leander Heldring. “American Stories: A Large-Scale Structured Text Dataset of Historical U.S. Newspapers.” *NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks Track* (2023).
- Bryan, Tom, Jacob Carlson, Abhishek Arora, Melissa Dell. “EfficientOCR: An Extensible, Open-Source Package for Efficiently Digitizing World Knowledge.” *EMNLP System Demonstrations* (2023).
- Carlson, Jacob, Trevor Incerti, and P.M. Aronow. “Dyadic Clustering in International Relations.” *Political Analysis* (2024).
- Shen, Zejiang, Ruochen Zhang, Melissa Dell, Benjamin Lee, Jacob Carlson, and Weining Li. “LayoutParser: A Unified Toolkit for

Deep Learning Based Document Image Analysis.” *ICDAR* (2021). **Oral presentation.**

**ACADEMIC
POSITIONS**

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Data Science Fellow in Deep Learning September 2020 – May 2022

- Developed deep learning methods and tools for social science data curation with Melissa Dell

TEACHING

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- *Causal Inference in Economics* (ECON 2148, Graduate): Spring 2025, 2026
- *Time Series* (STAT 242, Graduate): Fall 2024, 2025
- *Unleashing Novel Data at Scale* (ECON 2355, Graduate): Spring 2021

INVITED TALKS

- **2026:** ESIF Economics and AI+ML Meeting (Cornell, June); AI and Economics Summer Conference (Chicago Booth, August)
- **2022:** ASSA Annual Meeting (Virtual, January)

SOFTWARE

- hdmht-discovery: <https://github.com/jscarlson/hdmht-discovery>
- NetworkTargeting (with Davide Viviano): <https://github.com/dviviano/NetworkTargeting>
- EffOCR (with Tom Bryan and Melissa Dell): <https://pypi.org/project/efficient-ocr>
- dcr (with Trevor Incerti and P.M. Aronow): <https://github.com/jscarlson/dcr>, <https://github.com/jscarlson/stata-dcr>

**ACADEMIC
SERVICE**

Referee: Journal of Political Economy

LAST UPDATED

July 2, 2026