

ELAYNE STECHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Data scientist specializing in causal inference, experimentation, and statistical modeling. 5+ years of experience designing randomized experiments and analyzing large-scale survey and geospatial data. Advanced R user with applications in policy and applied research.

SKILLS

- Programming: R (advanced), Python (basic)
- Statistical Methods: Regression, experimental design, difference-in-differences, impact evals, correlation analysis
- Causal Inference: RCTs, A/B testing, quasi-experimental analysis
- Languages: Spanish (working proficiency), Modern Standard Arabic (reading/writing proficiency)

DATA SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Co-Principal Investigator

Asking About Violence Project | 2020 - Present

- Co-designed 3 multisite placebo-controlled experiments across contexts (Nigeria, Colombia, Mexico)
- Led survey and intervention design, including instrument development, sampling and implementation protocols
- Co-trained field teams and co-developed data collection workflows (SurveyCTO) for 6,000+ surveys
- Collaborated on end-to-end research pipeline from inception to design through analysis and reporting

Data Scientist (Research Consultant)

Social Impact: Mali Reintegration Project | 2022 - 2025

- Conducted analysis of geospatial and demographic data from multiple sources to inform site selection (Mali)
- Built and managed data pipelines and high frequency checks (monitoring) systems in R
- Delivered weekly analytical updates to internal teams; presented methodology to USAID stakeholders; proactively identified and escalated data quality and implementation risk

Data Analyst (Consultant)

Euromonitor International | 2019 - 2022

- Analyzed market and consumer data to generate insights for global clients and internal stakeholders
- Produced client-facing reports translating analysis into key trends and business recommendations

Data Scientist (Research Consultant)

United Nations University: Managing Exits from Armed Conflicts | Spring - Summer 2020

- Co-developed and deployed 6 surveys (SurveyCTO) in conflict-affected setting (Northeast Nigeria)
- Refined sensitive-question modules to improve clarity, appropriateness, and measurement quality

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist (Graduate Researcher)

UCLA | 2020 - Present

- Analyzed large-scale survey, event and administrative datasets using regression and causal methods
- Implemented statistical models (e.g., LASSO, PCA) and built reproducible workflows in R, Dropbox and Github
- Scraped and processed 10M+ records from online sources

Graduate Researcher

Chicago Project on Security and Threats at the University of Chicago | 2017 - 2019

- Led research on key case studies with an emphasis on understanding stakeholder dynamics (Mexico, Kashmir)

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

PhD Political Science (*Expected Fall 2026*)

MS Statistics and Data Science (*Expected Summer 2026*)

University of Chicago

MA International Relations (2019)

Tufts University

BA International Relations, Arabic (2014)