

JOSHUA E. LAMBERT, PhD

AI and ML engineering leader · enterprise AI for financial data

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Google Scholar

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **AI organization leadership.** Director, AI Foundry at FactSet, leading the Knowledge Services organization: more than 20 engineers, MLOps specialists and researchers on a global team spanning the Americas, Europe and Asia.
- **Production AI for financial data.** Promoted from Senior ML Engineer to Director in four years. Built the knowledge graph, retrieval and enrichment services behind FactSet's agentic products, including services powering FactSet's MCP platform (650+ client firms).
- **Research and teaching.** PhD in Security Studies with 16 publications, 8 of them peer-reviewed, on machine learning for security and political forecasting. Visiting Professor teaching PhD-level ML/AI at the University of South Alabama.

EXPERIENCE

2022 – Present

FACTSET

S&P 500 financial data and analytics company serving more than 9,200 clients and 260,000 users

2026 – Present

• Director, AI Foundry Vice President

Lead the Knowledge Services organization within FactSet's AI Foundry: more than 20 people across engineering, MLOps and research, on a global team spanning the Americas, Europe and Asia.

- Own the Knowledge Services platform, a unified enrichment layer (entity, date, metric and concept resolution) served via API and MCP to FactSet's agentic products and its MCP platform (650+ client firms).
- Drive Intelligent Document Services and semantic-layer strategy for flagship agents, including a pre-earnings research agent and the firm-wide agent platform.
- Grew the organization from a single 4-person team to more than 20 people in four sub-teams: three teams led by managers who report to me, plus a dedicated architecture team.

2024 – 2026

• Associate Director, Data Solutions AI

- Led enterprise knowledge graph infrastructure to production scale (500M+ nodes, 2B+ relationships), with GNN-based reasoning powering AI financial products.
- Architected production RAG pipelines and LLM orchestration over multi-modal financial data.
- Built and led the Data Solutions AI team, setting practices for graph AI, semantic search and productionizing transformer models.

2022 – 2023

• Senior Machine Learning Engineer

- Took graph database infrastructure from prototype to production, setting data-modeling and query standards for billion-edge knowledge graphs.
- Designed semantic-layer abstractions that gave ML models one interface to structured and unstructured financial data.

SPARKCOGNITION GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

AI for defense and government

2021 – 2022

• Machine Learning Engineer, NLP

- Built production transformer NLP pipelines (classification, entity extraction, semantic search) for defense clients, with MLOps and model monitoring.
- Architected distributed vectorization for low-latency similarity search across millions of unstructured documents.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

- 2020 – 2021 • **Postdoctoral Scholar, ML/NLP** *National Center for Integrated Coastal Research*
2020 • **Quantitative Research Associate** *Kurdish Political Studies Program*
2016 – 2019 • **Quantitative Research Associate** *IC Center for Academic Excellence*

- Led a multidisciplinary team building a cross-national database of leader speech, using NLP to extract psychological traits; released as the open-access [PsyCL Dataset](#).
- Built neural-network classification pipelines for coastal adaptation research, with reproducible training and evaluation workflows.
- Developed conflict-prediction and anomaly-detection models for terrorism, genocide and civilian victimization data.
- Designed the Fisheries Conflict Database for Secure Fisheries (One Earth Future, 2018): SQL schema, ETL and NLP extraction from conflict reports.

ACADEMIC AND ADVISORY APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 – 2026 • **Global Scholar and Visiting Professor** *Mitchell College of Business, University of South Alabama*
- **ML/AI for Business Analytics** (PhD): LLMs, neural networks and applied AI, with hands-on PyTorch and cloud ML labs.
 - **Python for Business Analytics** (PhD): data manipulation, statistical analysis and ML workflows for doctoral researchers.
- 2015 – Present • **Founder and Principal Consultant** *J.E. Lambert Consulting LLC*
ML/AI, NLP and data-architecture engagements for Fortune 500, startup and public-sector clients, plus voter-turnout forecasting and voter-identification models for political campaigns.
- 2019 – 2020 • **Instructor of Record** *School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs, UCF*
2016 – 2018 • **Graduate Teaching Assistant** *UCF*
- **GIS for Political Analysis**: spatial analysis with ArcGIS and Python; open-source [Jupyter curriculum](#). Student evaluations 4.71/5 (university average 4.16).
 - Assisted in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Geography and Public Policy Analysis.

EDUCATION

- 2020 • **PhD, Security Studies** *University of Central Florida*
2015 • **MA, Political Science** *University of New Orleans*
2014 • **BA, Political Science** *Auburn University*

PUBLICATIONS

16 publications: 8 peer-reviewed articles, 2 book chapters, 2 policy reports, 4 popular articles; Google Scholar.

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2026 • Charlie Smith and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “BeigeSage: Sentiment classification in economic texts utilizing LLMs and fine-tuned BERT models,” *Applied Economics*.
- 2025 • Stephen Walker, Mark Schafer and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “Individual Leaders and the State: The Case of Israel as a Complex Adaptive System,” *Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi*.
- 2022 • Cullen Hendrix, Sarah M. Glaser, **Joshua E. Lambert**, and Paige Roberts, “Global climate, El Niño, and militarized fisheries disputes in the East and South China Seas,” *Marine Policy*.
- 2022 • Mark Schafer and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “Psychological Characteristics of Leaders (PsyCL): Introducing a New Data Set,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

- 2021 Sarah M. Glaser, Colleen Devlin, **Joshua E. Lambert**, and Ciera Villegas, “The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict around the Horn of Africa,” *Journal of Peace Research*.
- 2021 Christopher M. Faulkner, **Joshua E. Lambert**, Bruce M. Wilson, and Matthew S. Faulkner, “The Human Right to Water and Sanitation: Using Natural Language Processing to Uncover Patterns in Academic Publishing,” *Water*.
- 2021 **Joshua E. Lambert**, Graham Epstein, Jennifer Joel, and Jacopo Baggio, “Identifying Topics and Trends in the Study of Common-Pool Resources Using Natural Language Processing,” *International Journal of the Commons*.
- 2019 Christopher M. Faulkner, **Joshua E. Lambert**, and Jonathan Powell, “Reassessing Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) ‘Competition’ in Civil War: Lessons from Sierra Leone,” *Small Wars and Insurgencies*.
- Book chapters*
- 2024 Güneş Murat Tezcür and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “Global Patterns in Religion and Large Scale Violence,” in *Liminal Minorities*, Cornell University Press.
- 2021 **Joshua E. Lambert**, Mark Schafer, Stephen Walker, and Collin Kazazis, “Presidential Personalities and Operational Codes: Learning Effects and Midterm Congressional Election Results,” in *Operational Code Analysis and Foreign Policy Roles: Crossing Simon’s Bridge*, Routledge.
- Policy reports*
- 2019 Eric Keels, Jay Benson, John Filitz, and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “Reassessing Rebellion,” *One Earth Future*.
- 2019 Sarah M. Glaser, Colleen Devlin, **Joshua E. Lambert**, Ciera Villegas, and Natasia Poinatte, “Fish Wars: The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict in Tanzania,” *One Earth Future*.
- Popular articles*
- 2021 **Joshua E. Lambert** and Anthony Licciardi, “What belief in extraterrestrial visitors to Earth reveals about trust in elections,” *The Conversation*.
- 2019 Eric Keels and **Joshua E. Lambert**, “Why Sudan’s deadly crackdown on protesters could escalate in coming weeks,” *The Conversation*.
- 2019 Christopher Faulkner, **Joshua E. Lambert**, and Jonathan Powell, “Peeling back the layers on the role of private security companies in Africa,” *The Conversation*.
- 2018 Clayton Besaw, **Joshua E. Lambert**, and Jean-Pierre Larroque, “Rulers, Elections, and Irregular Governance (REIGN) Showcase: Part I,” *One Earth Future*.

TALKS AND MEDIA

Industry and technical

- 2026 FactSet FOCUS user conference (Austin, TX), speaker: “Digital Transformation in the AI Era,” with Ryan Roser
- 2025 FactSet Developer Days, speaker: panel on vectorization strategies
- 2024 FactSet Data Solutions Town Hall: generative AI applications
- 2023 FactSet Developer Days, moderator: panel on GenAI system design
- 2023 FactSet GenAI Fridays: LLM-based solutions architecture
- 2022 Warner Robins Air Force Base: advanced NLP information retrieval for technical documents
- 2022 Boeing Intelligence & Analytics: AI and NLP solutions for DoD partners

Media

- 2023 Interview, [YouTube documentary on political revolutions](#)
- 2022 Interview, [Swiss Radio Television \(RTS\)](#) on military coup prediction
- 2019 Guest, [Al Jazeera](#), [The Stream](#) on the Sudan conflict and political transition

Academic

- 2022 International Studies Association (Nashville, TN)
- 2021 American Political Science Association (Seattle, WA): religious pluralism and mass violence
- 2021 International Studies Association (virtual): militarized fisheries conflicts and global climate
- 2021 Centre College guest lecture: GIS in empirical social science
- 2021 UCF colloquium: machine learning applications in natural resource management
- 2019 International Studies Association (Toronto, CAN): drivers of fisheries conflict in East Africa
- 2018 Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans, LA): two presentations on PMCs and civilian victimization
- 2017 International Society of Political Psychology (Edinburgh, SCT): presidential psychology and protest
- 2017 Florida Political Science Association (Orlando, FL): best graduate paper
- 2017 Southwestern Political Science Association (Austin, TX)
- 2017 International Studies Association South (Orlando, FL): two presentations on conflict prediction
- 2017 UCF political science colloquium: food insecurity and coup forecasting
- 2014 Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans, LA): race and media perceptions
- 2013 Alabama Political Science Association (Tuscaloosa, AL)

AWARDS AND SERVICE

- 2020 ViEWS Conflict Forecasting Competition, invited participant (Uppsala, SWE)
- 2018 – 19 President, Political Science Graduate Student Association (UCF)
- 2018 PRIO Conflict Trends Course (Oslo, NOR)
- 2018 SciPy conference workshop (Austin, TX)
- 2018 GEOINT Symposium (Tampa Bay, FL)
- 2017 Florida Political Science Association, best graduate paper (Orlando, FL)
- 2017 DIA Summer Seminar (Washington, DC)
- 2017 ISPP Summer Methodology Academy (Edinburgh, SCT)
- 2015 Senator of the Year; Vice President; Dean Search Committee, Student Government Association (UNO)
- 2014 – 15 Senator, Student Government Association (UNO)

SKILLS

Leadership	Global AI organizations, org design and hiring, AI strategy and roadmaps, architecture governance, stakeholder management
ML and NLP	LLMs, RAG, agents and MCP, knowledge graphs, graph neural networks, transformers, forecasting, causal inference
Platform	AWS (Bedrock, SageMaker), Databricks, MLflow, vector databases, Neo4j, PostgreSQL, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD
Languages	Python, SQL, R