

# Introduction to Machine Learning and Text Mining for Trade Policy

## Discussion Questions: Lecture 1.

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1. Have you ever encountered an application of machine learning in your work?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this set of approaches from the perspective of researchers doing applied policy work?
3. How can we best communicate the results of this kind of work to policy professionals who may not have a quantitative background? How do we deal with the risk of these tools being seen as a “black box”?
4. What kinds of policy-relevant questions can potentially be framed (or reframed) in terms of prediction problems, that machine learning could perhaps be used to answer?
5. How comfortable do you feel in using the tools we have looked at during this course? What can you do to become more comfortable with them?
6. What possible applications do you see for these kinds of tools in your own work over the medium-term?