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# Benjamin D. Horne

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Assistant Professor of Information Sciences**, University of Tennessee Knoxville, 2020 - present

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Computer Science**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2014 - 2020

DISSERTATION: Robust News Veracity Detection

COMMITTEE: Sibel Adali (CS, RPI; Chair), Lirong Xia (CS, RPI), Stacy Patterson (CS, RPI), Dorit Nevo (Business, RPI), and Tamar Gordon (Communications, RPI)

**B.S. in Computer Science**, Union University, 2010 - 2014

**B.S. in Business Administration**, Union University, 2010 - 2014

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapters:

**1. Fake News Starts with the Title**

Chapter 9. "Language That Manipulates: Politics, Advertising, and Doublespeak" in Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers. 13th Edition by P. Eschholz, A. Rosa, and V. Clark. Macmillan Learning. 2020  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#)

### Journals:

**1. Tailoring Heuristics and Timing AI Interventions for Supporting News Veracity Assessments**

Computers in Human Behavior Reports (CHB Reports) 2020

[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Dorit Nevo, Sibel Adali, Lydia Manikonda, Clare Arrington

**Media Coverage:** IEEE Spectrum, RPI News, ACM TechNews, Electronics360, Tech Xplore, Scienmag, Newswise, The Next Web

**2. Effects of Priming Messages to Decrease Negativity in Online Learning Environments**

APA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology 2020

Hung-Tao Chen, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), Dan Florrel, Megan Thomas

**3. Robust Fake News Detection Over Time and Attack**

ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST) 2019

[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Jeppe Norregaard, and Sibel Adali

**4. Uncertainty-based False Information Propagation in Social Networks**

ACM Transactions of Social Computing (TSC) 2019

Jin-Hee Cho, Scott Rager, John O'Donovan, Sibel Adali, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)

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## 5. Recognizing Experts on Social Media: A Heuristics Based Approach

ACM SIGMIS: The DATABASE for Advances in Information Systems (DATABASE) 2018

Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, and Sibel Adali

### Conferences:

#### 1. What is BitChute? Characterizing the "Free Speech" Alternative to YouTube

31st ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT'20) 2020

Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne

**Media Coverage:** Mashable, Business Insider

**Other:** Cited on Wikipedia pages for Bitchute and WebTorrent (01/2021)

#### 2. Trustworthy Misinformation Mitigation with Soft Information Nudging

The First IEEE Conference on Trust, Privacy and Security in Intelligent Systems (TPS) 2019

Benjamin D. Horne, Mauricio Gruppi, and Sibel Adali

#### 3. Different Spirals of Sameness: A Study of Content Sharing in Mainstream and Alternative Media

The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019

Benjamin D. Horne, Jeppe Norregaard, and Sibel Adali

#### 4. Rating Reliability and Bias in News Articles: Does AI Assistance Help Everyone?

The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019

Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, John O'Donovan, Jin-Hee Cho, and Sibel Adali

#### 5. Models for Predicting Community-Specific Interest in News Articles

The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018

Benjamin D. Horne, William Dron, and Sibel Adali

#### 6. The Multi-Domain Integration and Correlation Engine

The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018

W. Dron, A. Sydney, J. Hancock, L. Scott, T. Abdelzaher, J. Han, S. Adali, B.D. Horne

#### 7. Assessing the News Landscape: A Multi-Module Toolkit for Evaluating the Credibility of News

The 27th International Web Conference (WWW) 2018

Benjamin D. Horne, Will Dron, Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adali

#### 8. Identifying the Social Signals that Drive Online Discussions: A Case Study of Reddit Communities

International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks (ICCCN) 2017

Benjamin D. Horne, Sibel Adali, and Sujoy Sikdar

#### 9. From Sports to Science: Using Basketball Analytics to Broaden the Appeal of Math and Science Among Youth

MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference (MIT SSAC) 2017 - **Best Research Paper Award**

John F. Drazan, Amy K. Loya, Benjamin D. Horne, and Ron Eglash

**Media Coverage:** NBA Enrichment Program, Denver Stiffs Podcast, RPI News, Fansided, SB Nation, Vice Sports, Harvard Sports Analytics Blog

#### 10. Impact of message sorting on access to novel information in networks

Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM) 2016

Benjamin D. Horne, Sibel Adali, and Kevin Chan

#### 11. Expertise in social networks: how do experts differ from other users?

The International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2016

Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, Jesse Freitas, Heng Ji, and Sibel Adali

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### **Peer-Reviewed Workshops and Extended Abstracts:**

1. **Do All Good Actors Look The Same? Exploring News Veracity Detection Across The U.S. and The U.K.**  
ICWSM Data Challenge on Safety 2020  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Mauricio Gruppi, and Sibel Adali
2. **Hateful YouTube: Characterizing the Social Video-hosting Platform BitChute**  
6th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2020  
Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
3. **An Exploration of Verbatim Content Republishing by News Producers**  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#) and Sibel Adali
4. **An Exploration of Misinformation Classification in Brazil and The U.S.**  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
5. **Effects of Priming on Online Discussion Behavior**  
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) International Annual Meeting 2018  
Hung-Tao Chen and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
6. **This Just In: Fake News Packs a Lot in Title, Uses Similar, Repetitive Content in Text Body, More Similar to Satire than Real News**  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#) and Sibel Adali  
**Media Coverage:** Science News
7. **The Impact of Crowds on News Engagement: A Reddit Case Study**  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#) and Sibel Adali
8. **Exploring the Creative Destruction of 3D Printing Through an Analysis of Intellectual Property Issues**  
Emerging Researcher National (ERN) Conference 2013  
Stephanie M. Santoso, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Stephen B. Wicker

### **Published Datasets:**

1. **NELA-GT-2020: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Self-published 2021  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
2. **NELA-GT-2019: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Self-published 2020  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
3. **NELA-GT-2018: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019  
Jeppe Norregaard, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
4. **Sampling the News Producers: A Large News and Feature Data Set for the Study of the Complex Media Landscape**  
The 12th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2018  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adali

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## **Preprints:**

### **1. Tell Me Who Your Friends Are: Using Content Sharing Behavior for News Source Veracity Detection**

Preprint 2021

Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adali

## **AWARDS and FUNDING**

**Co-PI** - “Monitoring the Content and Measuring the Effectiveness of Russian Disinformation and Propaganda Campaigns in Selected Former Soviet Union States”, **Minerva Grant, United States Department of Defense** (\$1.6 Million) 2021

**Robert McNaughton Prize** for outstanding graduate in Computer Science 2020

MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference **Best Research Paper Award** (\$10,000) 2017

RPI **Outstanding Research Poster Award** 2017

Union University **Academic Excellence Medal** in Computer Science 2014

Union University **Dr. Joe Tucker Scholarship** 2013

## **INVITED TALKS, PANELS, and GUEST LECTURES**

Invited Co-speaker with Dr. Catherine Luther, U.S. Technology Leadership Council (USTLC), 2021

Guest Lecture, CCI 620, Advice on the Academic Job Hunt, UTK CCI, 2021

The Rise of Extremist Movements on Social Media, UTK CCI Social Media Week, 2021

Guest Lecture, ECE 692 Adversarial Learning, UTK Tickle College of Engineering, 2021

Power of Information: Information Science Graduate Programs Fair, iSchool's Inc. 2020

## **TEACHING**

### **University of Tennessee Knoxville:**

INSC 201 Foundations of Information Sciences (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

INSC 360 Programming for Information Applications (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

INSC 484 Database Applications (Fall 2021)

INSC 591 Indep Project/Research (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

INSC 594 Graduate Research Participation (Spring 2021)

## **SERVICE**

### **PC Member or Invited Reviewer:**

Conferences:

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ICWSM (2019, 2020, 2021)

ACM WebSci (2020, 2021)

AMCIS (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

ASONAM (2019)

Journals:

Information Processing and Management (2021)

Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review (2020)

International Journal of Communications (IJoC) (2019, 2020)

ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT) (2017)

Workshops:

NECO Workshop at ICWSM (2017, 2018, 2020)

MIS2 Workshop at WSDM (2018)

**UTK SIS Committees:**

Social Media Week Ad-Hoc Committee (2021)

Undergraduate Program Committee (2020)

Professor of Practice Search Committee (2020)

**Society Memberships:**

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

Association for Information Systems (AIS)

Association for Computer Machinery (ACM)

## **OTHER RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Computer Science** Research Assistant, Fall 2014 - Spring 2020

**Army Research Labs**, Visiting Researcher, Summer 2017

**National Science Foundation GK-12**, Fellow, Summer 2015 - Fall 2016

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Computer Science** Teaching Assistant, Spring 2015

**Cornell University, Information Science** Undergraduate Researcher, Summer 2013

**Texas Tech University, Computer Science** Undergraduate Researcher, Summer 2012

**Steele Martin Jones and Company**, I.T. Administrator, Spring 2011 - Spring 2014

**Home Medical Products Inc.**, I.T. Technician, Spring 2011 - Summer 2011