

# Benjamin D. Horne

School of Information Sciences  
440B Communications Building  
1345 Circle Park, Knoxville TN 37996

<https://benjamindhorne.github.io>  
bhorne6@utk.edu  
865-974-6916

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## Research Focus

**Media ecosystems, information interventions, trust, disinformation, computational social science**

I study various facets of media ecosystems, the humans who consume that media, and interventions in between

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## Education

<b>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</b>	Troy, NY
Ph.D. in Computer Science	2014 – 2020

*Dissertation:* Robust News Veracity Detection - **Robert McNaughton Prize**

*Committee:* Sibel Adali, Lirong Xia, Stacy Patterson, Dorit Nevo, & Tamar Gordon

<b>Union University</b>	Jackson, TN
B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics - <b>Academic Excellence Medal</b>	2010 – 2014

<b>Union University</b>	Jackson, TN
B.S. in Business Administration, Concentration in Management	2010 – 2014

<b>Vanguard-Sentinel Career &amp; Technology Center</b>	Fremont, OH
Information Technology Fundamentals (Vocational Training)	2008 – 2010

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## Academic Appointments

<b>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</b>	Knoxville, TN
CCI Board of Visitors Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences	2024 – Present
Assistant Professor (Joint), Data Science and Engineering, The Bredesen Center	2023 – Present
Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences	2020 – 2024

– – **Other UTK Affiliations and Working Groups** – –

Founding Fellow, CCI Information Integrity Institute ( $I^3$ )	2023 – Present
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Affiliate, National Security and Foreign Affairs, The Baker School of Public Policy	2023 – Present
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Member, Center for the Dynamics of Social Complexity (DySoc)	2024 – Present
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<b>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</b>	Troy, NY
Graduate Research Assistant, Computer Science	2014, 2017 – 2020
NSF GK-12 Teaching Fellow, Science and Technology Studies	2015 - 2016
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Computer Science	2015

<b>Cornell University</b>	Ithaca, NY
NSF Undergraduate Researcher, Information Sciences	2013

<b>Texas Tech University</b>	Lubbock, TX
NSF Undergraduate Researcher, Computer Science	2012

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## Relevant Industry/Government Experience

<b>U.S. Army Research Laboratory</b>	Adelphi, MD
Visiting Graduate Researcher, Network Science Research Laboratory	2017

<b>Steele Martin Jones and Company</b>	Jackson, TN
I.T. Administrator	2011 – 2014

## Publications

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**Total citations** (Google Scholar December 2024): 2085

**H-Index** (Google Scholar December 2024): 17

**Paper Themes:** I: Information Interventions M: Media Ecosystems P: People and Public Opinion

**Notes:** I publish across multiple disciplines, each with different practices in terms of author order and venue importance. Here are some contextual indicators: \* indicates UTK student authors; **IF** indicates Impact Factor of journal at the time of acceptance, if known; **ICORE** indicates a conference rating (A\*, A, B, C) from Computing Research and Education, if available; **AR** indicates acceptance rate of conference or journal, if known; **ABDC** indicates a rating (A\*, A, B, C) from Australian Business Deans Council, if applicable; **AJG** indicates a rating (4\*, 4, 3, 2, 1) from the Academic Journal Guide by Chartered Association of Business Schools, if applicable, **JCR** indicates Journal Citation Reports ranking within Subject Field, if applicable.

## Book Chapters:

### BC1. Fake News Starts with the Title <sup>M</sup>

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

## Refereed Computing Conferences (peer-reviewed):

**Notes:** Conference proceedings are considered top-tier publication venues for computing. These conferences are heavily refereed and highly selective venues for top archival research, often exceeding many journals in their selectivity, visibility, and impact.

### C1. "A Growing Sense of Alienation": Spirals of Silence and Suppression of Structural Circumstances of Suicide in News <sup>M</sup>

The 19th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2025 (ICORE: A)  
Jasmine C. Foriest, Mini Jain, Benjamin D. Horne, and Munmun De Choudhury

### C2. Does the Source of a Warning Matter? Examining the Effectiveness of Veracity Warning Labels Across Warners <sup>I</sup>

The 19th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2025 (ICORE: A)  
Benjamin D. Horne

### C3. News Media and Violence Against Women: Understanding Framings of Stigma <sup>M</sup>

The 18th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2024 (ICORE: A, AR: 35%)  
Shravika Mittal, Jasmine C. Foriest, Benjamin D. Horne, and Munmun De Choudhury

### C4. Characterizing YouTube and BitChute Content and Mobilizers During U.S. Election Fraud Discussions on Twitter <sup>M</sup>

14th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci) 2022 (AR: 32%)  
Matthew C. Childs\*, Milo Trujillo, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne  
<sup>Media Coverage:</sup> Reuters Special Report

### C5. Local News Online and COVID in the U.S.: Relationships among Coverage, Cases, Deaths, & Audience <sup>M</sup>

The 16th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022 (ICORE: A, AR: 21%)  
Kenneth Joseph, Benjamin D. Horne, Jon Green, John P. Wihbey

### C6. What is BitChute? Characterizing the "Free Speech" Alternative to YouTube <sup>M</sup>

31st ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT'20) 2020 (AR: 29%)  
Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne

**Media Coverage:** Mashable, Business Insider, YLE, Reuters Special Report

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

- C7. **Trustworthy Misinformation Mitigation with Soft Information Nudging**<sup>I</sup>  
IEEE Conference on Trust, Privacy & Security in Intelligent Systems (TPS) 2019  
Benjamin D. Horne, Mauricio Gruppi, and Sibel Adalı
- C8. **Different Spirals of Sameness: A Study of Content Sharing in Mainstream and Alternative Media**<sup>M</sup>  
The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019 (ICORE: A, AR: 21%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Jeppe Nørregaard, and Sibel Adalı
- C9. **Rating Reliability and Bias in News Articles: Does AI Assistance Help Everyone?**<sup>I</sup>  
The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019 (ICORE: A, AR: 21%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, John O'Donovan, Jin-Hee Cho, and Sibel Adalı
- C10. **Identifying the Social Signals that Drive Online Discussions: A Case Study of Reddit Communities**<sup>M</sup>  
International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks (ICCCN) 2017 (AR: 30%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Sibel Adalı, and Sujoy Sikdar
- C11. **From Sports to Science: Using Basketball Analytics to Broaden the Appeal of Math and Science Among Youth**<sup>O</sup>  
MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference (SSAC) 2017  
John F. Drazan, Amy K. Loya, Benjamin D. Horne, and Ron Eglash  
**Best Research Paper Award (\$10,000 prize)**  
**Media Coverage:** NBA Enrichment Program, Denver Stiffs Podcast, RPI News, Fansided, SB Nation, Vice Sports, Harvard Sports Analytics Blog
- C12. **Impact of message sorting on access to novel information in networks**<sup>M</sup>  
Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM) 2016 (AR: 21%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Sibel Adalı, and Kevin Chan
- C13. **Expertise in social networks: how do experts differ from other users?**<sup>I</sup>  
The 10th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2016 (ICORE: A, AR: 17%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, Jesse Freitas, Heng Ji, and Sibel Adalı

#### Journal Publications (peer-reviewed):

- J1. **Response to Collective Threat: Russian Invasion Unifies Ukrainians Across Ethnic, Linguistic, Religious, and Geographic Lines**<sup>P</sup>  
Royal Society Open Science 2025 (IF: 2.9)  
Joshua Borycz, Benjamin D. Horne, Catherine Luther, Garriy Shteynberg, Suzie Allard, Brandon Prins, and R. Alexander Bentley
- J2. **Perceived Social Influence on Vaccination Decisions: A COVID-19 Case Study**<sup>P</sup>  
Springer Nature Social Sciences (SNSS) 2024  
Denise Yewell\*, R. Alexander Bentley, and Benjamin D. Horne
- J3. **Russia Public Diplomacy Efforts to Influence Neighbors: Media Messaging Supports Hard Power Projection**<sup>M</sup>  
International Journal of Communication (IJoC) 2024 (IF: 1.8)  
Maureen Taylor, Natalie M. Rice, Oleg Manaev, Catherine A. Luther, Suzie L. Allard, R. Alexander Bentley, Joshua Borycz, Benjamin D. Horne, and Brandon C. Prins
- J4. **Ethical and Safety Considerations in Automated Fake News Detection**<sup>I</sup>  
Behaviour & Information Technology (BIT) 2023 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2, JCR: 38, AR: 13%, IF: 3.7)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, and Susan L. Smith  
**Media Coverage:** RPI News, TiiSys Japan, TechExplore, NewsWise

- J5. Cultural Evolution, Disinformation and Social Division** <sup>P M</sup>  
 Adaptive Behavior 2023 (IF: 1.6)  
 R. Alexander Bentley, Benjamin D. Horne, Joshua Borycz, Simon Carrignon, Garriy Shteynberg, Blai Vidiella, Sergi Valverde, Michael J. O'Brien
- J6. Is Disruption Decreasing, or Is It Accelerating?** <sup>O</sup>  
 Advances in Complex Systems (ACS) 2023 (IF: 0.7, AR: 17%)  
 R. Alexander Bentley, Sergi Valverde, Joshua Borycz, Blai Vidiella, Benjamin D. Horne, Salva Duran-Nebreda, Michael J. O'Brien  
**Media Coverage:** ScienMag, Phys.org, Swift Telecast, New Things Under The Sun Blog
- J7. Climate Complacency Reflects Cultural Values of Nations** <sup>P</sup>  
 Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology (CRESP) 2023 (IF: 2.50)  
 R. Alexander Bentley, Joshua Borycz, and Benjamin D. Horne  
**Media Coverage:** Daily Kos
- J8. Generational Effects of Culture and Digital Media in Former Soviet Republics** <sup>P M</sup>  
 Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (HSSCOMMS) 2023 (IF: 3.5)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Natalie Rice, Catherine Luther, Damian Ruck, Joshua Borycz, Suzie L. Allard, Michael Fitzgerald, Oleg Manaev, Brandon C. Prins, Maureen Taylor, R. Alexander Bentley  
**Media Coverage:** UTK Research News
- J9. Forking Paths of Cultural Complexity: A Case Study of Research Paradigms** <sup>O</sup>  
 Advances in Complex Systems (ACS) 2022 (IF: 0.7, AR: 17%)  
 Joshua Borycz, Benjamin D. Horne, and R. Alexander Bentley  
**#1 Most Read ACS Paper Between 2019 and 2022**
- J10. Monitoring Event-driven Dynamics on Twitter: A Case Study in Belarus** <sup>M</sup>  
 Springer Nature Social Sciences (SNSS) 2022  
 Natalie M. Rice, Benjamin D. Horne, Catherine Luther, Joshua Borycz, Suzie L. Allard, Damian J. Ruck, Michael Fitzgerald, Oleg Manaev, Brandon C. Prins, Maureen Taylor, and R. Alexander Bentley
- J11. The Reasoning Behind Fake News Assessments: A Linguistic Analysis** <sup>I</sup>  
 AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction (THCI) 2022 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2)  
 Lydia Manikonda, Dorit Nevo, Benjamin D. Horne, Clare Arrington, and Sibel Adali
- J12. How Topic Novelty Impacts the Effectiveness of News Veracity Interventions** <sup>I</sup>  
 Communications of the ACM (CACM) 2022 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2, JCR: 4, IF: 4.65)  
 Dorit Nevo and Benjamin D. Horne
- J13. Partisanship over security: Public narratives via Twitter on Foreign Interferences in the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections** <sup>M P</sup>  
 First Monday 2021 (ABDC: B, IF: 1.19)  
 Catherine Luther, Benjamin D. Horne, and Xu Zhang
- J14. Tailoring Heuristics and Timing AI Interventions for Supporting News Veracity Assessments** <sup>I</sup>  
 Computers in Human Behavior Reports (CHB Reports) 2020 (ABDC: A, AJG: 3, JCR: 11, IF: 6.83)  
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, Tech Monitor, Medical Device Network
- J15. Effects of Priming Messages to Decrease Negativity in Online Learning Environments** <sup>I</sup>  
 APA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology 2020  
 Hung-Tao Chen, Benjamin D. Horne, Dan Florrel, Megan Thomas
- J16. Robust Fake News Detection Over Time and Attack** <sup>I</sup>  
 ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST) 2019 (IF: 4.65)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Jeppe Nørregaard, and Sibel Adali

- J17. Uncertainty-based False Information Propagation in Social Networks** <sup>M</sup>  
ACM Transactions of Social Computing (TSC) 2019 (IF: 1.60)  
Jin-Hee Cho, Scott Rager, John O'Donovan, Sibel Adalı, and Benjamin D. Horne
- J18. Recognizing Experts on Social Media: A Heuristics Based Approach** <sup>I</sup>  
The Data Base for Advances in Information Systems 2018 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2, JCR: 53)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, and Sibel Adalı

Refereed Workshops, Demo Tracks, and Data Challenges (peer-reviewed):

- W1. Tell Me Who Your Friends Are: Using Content Sharing Behavior for News Source Veracity Detection** <sup>I</sup>  
MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021  
Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı
- W2. From Tweeting About News to Creating News Around Tweets: Characterizing Tweets Embedded in News Articles** <sup>M</sup>  
MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021  
Mauricio Gruppi, Sibel Adalı, Matthew Salemi, and Benjamin D. Horne
- W3. Do All Good Actors Look The Same? Exploring News Veracity Detection Across The U.S. and The U.K.** <sup>I</sup>  
ICWSM Data Challenge on Safety 2020  
Benjamin D. Horne, Mauricio Gruppi, and Sibel Adalı
- W4. An Exploration of Verbatim Content Republishing by News Producers** <sup>M</sup>  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018  
Benjamin D. Horne and Sibel Adalı
- W5. An Exploration of Misinformation Classification in Brazil and The U.S.** <sup>I</sup>  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018  
Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı
- W6. Assessing the News Landscape: A Multi-Module Toolkit for Evaluating the Credibility of News** <sup>I</sup>  
The 27th ACM International Web Conference (WWW) Demo Track 2018 (ICORE: A\*)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Will Dron, Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adalı  
<sup>Other</sup>: Cited on Wikipedia page for Occupy Democrats (01/2023), Cited by Patent Application EP-4195072-A1 (06/2023)
- W7. This Just In: Fake News Packs a Lot in Title, Uses Similar, Repetitive Content in Text Body, More Similar to Satire than Real News** <sup>I M</sup>  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017  
Benjamin D. Horne and Sibel Adalı  
<sup>Media Coverage</sup>: Science News
- W8. The Impact of Crowds on News Engagement: A Reddit Case Study** <sup>M</sup>  
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017  
Benjamin D. Horne and Sibel Adalı
- W9. Exploring the Creative Destruction of 3D Printing Through an Analysis of Intellectual Property Issues** <sup>O</sup>  
Emerging Researcher National (ERN) Conference 2013  
Stephanie M. Santoso, Benjamin D. Horne, and Stephen B. Wicker

Published Datasets (peer-reviewed):

- D1. NELA-PS: A Dataset of Pink Slime News Articles for the Study of Local News Ecosystems**  
The 18th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2024 (AR: 46%)  
Benjamin D. Horne and Mauricio Gruppi
- D2. The MeLa BitChute Dataset**  
The 16th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022 (AR: 64%)  
Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne

- D3. NELA-Local: A Dataset of U.S. Local News Articles for the Study of County-level News Ecosystems**  
The 16th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022 (AR: 64%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Mauricio Gruppi, Kenneth Joseph, Jon Green, John P. Wihbey, and Sibel Adalı
- D4. 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 (AR: 52%)  
Jeppe Nørregaard, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı
- D5. 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 (AR: 55%)  
Benjamin D. Horne, Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adalı

**Other Conferences, Workshops, and Abstracts (peer-reviewed, less rigorous than computing conferences):**

- c1. Experience of Warming Increases Education's Effect on Climate Concern in the U.S.**<sup>P</sup>  
Seventeenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses 2025  
R. Alexander Bentley and Benjamin D. Horne
- c2. Media Trust and Opinions Regarding Russia's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine Amongst Russian-speaking Populations in Belarus and Ukraine - Pre and Post Invasion**<sup>P M</sup>  
10th Annual Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics 2024  
Catherine Luther, Joshua Borycz, Benjamin D. Horne, Garriy Shteynberg, Suzie Allard, Brandon Prins, and R. Alexander Bentley
- c3. War in Ukraine: Russian Propaganda and Geopolitical Attitudes in FSU**<sup>P M</sup>(Abstract)  
American Political Science Association (ASPA) Annual Meeting 2023  
Natalie Rice, Oleg Manaev, Catherine Luther, Suzanne Allard, R. Alexander Bentley, Benjamin D. Horne, Damian Ruck, Joshua Borycz, Maureen Taylor, Michael Fitzgerald, Brandon Prins
- c4. Automated Parsing of Personal Identity Facets for a Collection of Visual Images**<sup>O</sup>  
International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (DC) 2022  
Brian Dobreski, Melissa Resnick, and Benjamin D. Horne
- c5. Russia Public Diplomacy Efforts to Influence Neighbors: Media Messaging Supports Hard Power Projection**<sup>M</sup>  
72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA) 2022 (AR: 43%)  
Maureen Taylor, Natalie Rice, Oleg Manaev, Catherine Luther, Suzie Allard, Michael Fitzgerald, Brandon Prins, Joshua Borycz, R. Alexander Bentley, and Benjamin D. Horne
- c6. Traditional and Social Media Usage and Pro-Russian versus Anti-Russian Attitudes in Belarus and Ukraine**<sup>P M</sup>  
72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA) 2022 (AR: 43%)  
Catherine Luther, Brandon Prins, Oleg Manaev, Natalie Rice, Maureen Taylor, Suzie Allard, Michael Fitzgerald, Benjamin D. Horne, R. Alexander Bentley, and Joshua Borycz
- c7. Role of Social Affinity on News Coverage of Disasters: Implications for Disaster Donations**<sup>M</sup> (Abstract)  
Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) Annual Conference 2021  
Trilce Encarnacion, Jose Holguin-Veras, and Benjamin D. Horne
- c8. Hateful YouTube: Characterizing the Social Video-hosting Platform BitChute**<sup>M</sup> (Abstract)  
6th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2020  
Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne
- c9. Effects of Priming on Online Discussion Behavior**<sup>I</sup> (Abstract)  
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) International Annual Meeting 2018  
Hung-Tao Chen and Benjamin D. Horne
- c10. Models for Predicting Community-Specific Interest in News Articles**<sup>M</sup>  
The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018  
Benjamin D. Horne, William Dron, and Sibel Adalı



**c11. The Multi-Domain Integration and Correlation Engine <sup>I</sup>**

The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018

Willaim Dron, Andrew Hunter, Ali Sydney, Siddharth Pal, John Hancock, Lisa Scott, Tarek Abdelzاهر, Jiawei Han, Sibel Adalı, and Benjamin D. Horne

**Technical Reports and White Papers (not peer-reviewed):**

**TR1. Embedding Elites: Examining the Use of Tweets Embedded in Online News Articles across Reliable and Fringe Outlets <sup>M</sup>**

MeLa Lab Preliminary Findings Report 2024

<http://arxiv.org/abs/2401.16572>

Benjamin D. Horne, Summer Phillips\*, and Nelia Koontz\*

**TR2. CrisisFACTS 2023 – Overview Paper <sup>O</sup>**

Proceedings of the 32nd Text Retrieval Conference (TREC 2023)

[https://trec.nist.gov/pubs/trec32/papers/Overview\\_crisis.pdf](https://trec.nist.gov/pubs/trec32/papers/Overview_crisis.pdf)

Cody Buntain, Benjamin D Horne, Amanda Hughes, Muhammad Imran, Richard McCreadie, Hemant Purohit

**TR3. Examining the Production of Co-active Channels on YouTube and BitChute <sup>M</sup>**

MeLa Lab Preliminary Findings Report 2023

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.07861>

Matthew C. Childs\* and Benjamin D. Horne

**TR4. NELA-GT-2022: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2023 (Dataset Update)

Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı

**TR5. A Psycho-linguistic Analysis of BitChute: A Metadata Supplement to The MeLa BitChute Dataset**  
Technical Report 2022 (Dataset Update)

Benjamin D. Horne

**TR6. NELA-GT-2021: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2022 (Dataset Update)

Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı

**TR7. NELA-GT-2020: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2021 (Dataset Update)

Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı

**TR8. NELA-GT-2019: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2020 (Dataset Update)

Mauricio Gruppi, Benjamin D. Horne, and Sibel Adalı

**Other Significant Research Dissemination (commentary, essays, op-eds, etc.):**

**O1. Is Automated Content Moderation Going to Solve Our Misinformation Problems? <sup>I</sup>**

Information Matters Vol. 3 Issue 1 2023

Benjamin D. Horne

**O2. Fake News Starts with the Title <sup>M I</sup>**

Medium Post 2017 - Views: 3,500 Reads: 1,000

Benjamin D. Horne

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*Funding*

Note: Co-PIs at UTK unless stated otherwise

**Internal Funding:**

**IF1. CCI Board of Visitors Professorship**

**PI:** Benjamin D. Horne

**Funding:** \$27,000

**Duration:** 2024 – 2027

**IF2. CCI Faculty Research and Innovation Fund (FRIF)**

**Title:** Measuring the Efficacy of Content Warning Labels in Extremist Populations

**PI:** Benjamin D. Horne

**Funding:** \$4,000

**Duration:** 2024 – 2025

**IF3. Bonnie Carroll and Roy Cooper Faculty Enrichment Award**

**PI:** Benjamin D. Horne

**Funding:** \$2,500

**Duration:** 2023

**External Funding:**

**EF1. Minerva Defense Education and Civilian University Research Partnership, United States Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research**

**Title:** Identifying Patterns of Russia’s Malign Influence Operations in Online Spaces and Their Influences on Russian-Speaking Populations and Russian Diasporas

**PI:** Catherine Luther

**Co-PI:** Benjamin D. Horne, Suzie Allard, R. Alexander Bentley, Garriy Shteynberg, Jahara Matisek (U.S. Naval War College), Olga Chiriac (Modern War Institute at West Point)

**Funding:** \$350,000

**Duration:** 2024 - 2026

**EF2. Minerva Research Initiative, United States Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research**

**Title:** Monitoring the Content and Measuring the Effectiveness of Russian Disinformation and Propaganda Campaigns in Selected Former Soviet Union States

**PI:** Catherine Luther

**Co-PI:** Benjamin D. Horne, Suzie Allard, R. Alexander Bentley, Michael Fitzgerald, Brandon Prins, Maureen Taylor (University of Technology Sydney), Garriy Shteynberg (added in 2024)

**Funding:** \$2.6 Million

**Duration:** 2019 - 2026 (added as a Co-PI in 2021)

**Related Publications:** J1. J3. J8. J10. c2. c3. c5. c6.

**Related Talks:** T10. T13., T4.

*Awards*

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**CCI Board of Visitors (BOV) Professorship (\$27,000)**

Endowed Professorship made possible by CCI’s Board of Visitors (3-year term)

2024 – 2027

**Bonnie Carroll and Roy Cooper Faculty Enrichment Award (\$2,500)**

Annual research award in UTK’s School of Information Sciences

2023

**Robert McNaughton Prize**

Outstanding Ph.D. graduate in Computer Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

2020

**Best Research Paper Award (\$10,000)**

MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference, for paper C11.

2017

**Outstanding Research Poster Award**

RPI Graduate Research Symposium, for paper W7.

2017

**Academic Excellence Medal in Computer Science**

Highest GPA at graduation in Union University’s Computer Science Department

2014

**Dr. Joe Tucker Scholarship**

Scholarship within Union University’s Math and Computer Science Departments

2013



*Invited Talks, Panels, and Guest Lectures (not including conference paper presentations)*

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- T1.** Guest Lecture  
**Title:** Information Interventions: How Effective are They? Should We Automate Them? What Could Go Wrong?  
CSCI 4970/6970 Sensemaking and Computation, RPI Department of Computer Science, 2024
- T2.** Panelist  
**Title:** Finding Your Research Focus  
CCI 620 Communication and Information Professional Development Seminar, 2024
- T3.** Co-speaker with Catherine Luther, Maria Hoy, Mike Kotowski, and Martin Riedl  
**Title:** AI, Deep Fakes, Online Influencers & Political Communication  
Truth and Consequences Symposium with Knox County Public Library 2024  
**Media Coverage:** WBIR-TV Channel 10 Knoxville
- T4.** Co-speaker with Catherine Luther  
**Title:** Monitoring the Content and Measuring the Effectiveness of Russian Disinformation and Propaganda Campaigns in Selected Former Soviet Union States  
Minerva Meeting 2024
- T5.** Speaker  
**Title:** Should We Let AI Tell Us What Is True?  
UT Mic/Nite Spring 2024
- T6.** Speaker  
**Title:** Does the Source of Warning Matter?  
46th Annual CCI Research Symposium, Information Integrity Institute Session, 2024
- T7.** Panelist  
**Title:** A Multi-modal Research Agenda  
Images in Online Political Communication (PhoMemes) Workshop at ICWSM 2023
- T8.** Invited Speaker  
**Title:** Learning News Outlet Veracity using Relationship Graphs + My thoughts on Future Directions  
Disinformation Countermeasures and Machine Learning (DisCoML) Workshop at ICML 2022
- T9.** Invited Speaker  
**Title:** What is Machine Learning?  
The UTK Pre-College Programs & Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair, 2022
- T10.** Invited Co-speaker with Catherine Luther  
**Title:** Exploring the Impact of Russian Propaganda and Disinformation on Russian-speaking populations in post-Soviet States  
U.S. DoD Basic Research Forum, 2021
- T11.** Invited Speaker  
**Title:** Tailoring Heuristics and Timing AI Interventions for Supporting News Veracity Assessments  
iDRAMA Lab Seminar Series, 2021
- T12.** Invited Speaker  
**Title:** AI for Misinformation  
IDEA Institute for Artificial Intelligence, 2021
- T13.** Invited Co-speaker with Catherine Luther  
**Title:** Exploring the Impact of Russian Propaganda and Disinformation on Russian-speaking populations in post-Soviet States  
U.S. Technology Leadership Council (USTLC), 2021
- T14.** Co-Guest Lecture with Guy Harrison  
**Title:** Advice on the Academic Job Hunt  
CCI 620 Communication and Information Professional Development Seminar, 2021

- T15.** Panel Moderator  
**Title:** The Rise of Extremist Movements on Social Media with Jeremy Blackburn (Binghamton), Cody Buntain (Maryland), and Joan Donovan (Harvard)  
 UTK CCI Social Media Week, 2021
- T16.** Guest Lecture  
**Title:** Robust News Veracity Detection With Some Adversarial Attacks  
 ECE 692 Adversarial Learning, UTK Tickle College of Engineering, 2021
- T17.** Panelist  
**Title:** Power of Information: Information Science Graduate Programs  
 iSchool's Inc. Information Science Graduate Programs Fair, 2020

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*Media Interviews, Quotes, and Coverage*

- M1.** New Things Under The Sun Blog by Matt Clancy, 2024  
**Title:** Science is getting harder  
**Related Publications:** J6.
- M2.** WBIR-TV Channel 10 Knoxville, 2024  
**Title:** 'There will be a huge increase in deep fakes in politics' | Knox Co. Public Library to host event series on AI and politics
- M3.** RPI News, 2024  
**Title:** Automated Fake News Detection: A Simple Solution May Not Be Feasible  
**Syndicated By:** TiiSys Japan, TechExplore, NewsWise  
**Related Publications:** J4.
- M4.** WBIR-TV Channel 10 Knoxville, 2023  
**Title:** 2023 Winter Weather Outlook: Social-Media-ologists
- M5.** Daily Kos, 2023  
**Title:** The greatest obstacle to combatting climate change will be our own complacency  
**Related Publications:** J7.
- M6.** Phys.org, 2023  
**Title:** Innovation increasingly led by collaborative teams, not individual pioneers: Study  
**Syndicated By:** Scienmag, Swift Telecast, My Droll  
**Related Publications:** J6.
- M7.** UTK Research News, 2023  
**Title:** Study Uncovers Effectiveness of Russian Propaganda  
**Related Publications:** J8.
- M8.** Reuters Special Report, 2022  
**Title:** SkewTube: New breed of video sites thrive on misinformation and hate  
**Related Publications:** C4. TR5. C6.
- M9.** Tech Monitor, 2021  
**Title:** AI vs misinformation: Fighting lies with machines  
**Related Publications:** J14.
- M10.** Yleisradio Oy (YLE), 2021  
**Title:** Conspiracies and the Bible: Youtube offers conspiracy theories and Bible interpretations for Finns seeking information about coronary vaccines. (English Translation)  
**Related Publications:** C6.
- M11.** IEEE Spectrum, 2021  
**Title:** Can AI Stop People From Believing Fake News?  
**Related Publications:** J14.

- M12.** RPI News, 2021  
**Title:** When a Story is Breaking, AI Can Help Consumers Identify Fake News  
**Syndicated By:** ACM TechNews, Electronics360, Tech Xplore, Scienmag, Newswise, The Next Web  
**Related Publications:** J14.
- M13.** Business Insider, 2021  
**Title:** Following Trump's YouTube ban, it is feared his supporters are migrating to a 'Wild West' of video-sharing, mingling with far-right and neo-Nazi terror groups  
**Related Publications:** C6.
- M14.** Mashable, 2020  
**Title:** BitChute welcomes the dangerous hate speech that YouTube bans  
**Related Publications:** C6.
- M15.** Science News, 2018  
**Title:** People are bad at spotting fake news. Can computer programs do better?  
**Related Publications:** W7.
- M16.** RPI News, 2017  
**Title:** Turning Basketball Courts Into DIY Science Labs  
**Related Publications:** C11.
- M17.** FanSided, 2017  
**Title:** Nylon Calculus: Previewing the 2017 MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference  
**Related Publications:** C11.
- M18.** Vice Sports, 2017  
**Title:** At The Sloan Sports Analytics Conference The Jocks are Becoming the Nerds  
**Related Publications:** C11.
- M19.** Harvard Sports Analytics Blog, 2017  
**Title:** Review of The 2017 Sloan Sports Analytics Conference  
**Related Publications:** C11.
- M20.** SB Nation: One Foot Down, 2017  
**Title:** Report From MIT Sloan Sports Conference  
**Related Publications:** C11.

### *Teaching*

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

##### **INSC 201 Foundations of Information Sciences**

Taught 5 times between 2020 – 2022

##### **INSC 260 (formerly 360) Programming for Information Applications (taught with Python) (Newly Created)**

Taught 8 times between 2021 – 2024

##### **INSC 484 Database Applications (taught with Python and SQL) (Newly Created)**

Taught 4 times between 2021 – 2024

##### **INSC 590/395 Introduction to Network Science (Newly Created)**

Taught 1 time in 2025

##### **INSC 493 Independent Project/Research**

Taught 9 times between 2022 – 2024

##### **INSC 591 Independent Project/Research**

Taught 6 times between 2020 – 2024

##### **INSC 594 Graduate Research Participation**

Taught 5 times between 2021 – 2023

##### **CCI 697 Communication & Information Independent Study**

Taught 2 time between 2023 – 2024

## **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:**

### **CSCI 2300 Introduction to Algorithms**

Spring 2015 as a Graduate Teaching Assistant

## *Student Mentoring*

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### **PhD Advisor:**

Rohit Gunti, PhD Communications and Information, UTK (co-advised with A. Rorissa) (2023 – present)

Namrita Varier, PhD Communications and Information, UTK (2022 – present)

### **PhD Committee Member:**

Katie Knight, PhD Communications and Information, UTK (S. Allard, Chair) (2021 – 2024) - **Continued job: Oak Ridge National Laboratory**

### **Masters Research Mentor:**

Myles Bowman, MSIS, UTK (2023) - **First job: University of Tennessee Libraries**

Jeremy Horner, MSIS, UTK (2022) - - **Continued job: U.S. Air Force**

Matt Childs, MSIS, UTK (2021 – 2022) - **First job: Booz Allen Hamilton**

Denise Yewell, MSIS, UTK (2022) - **First job: Somerville Fayette County Library**

Rohit Srivastava, MSIS, UTK (2021) - **First job: Oak Ridge National Laboratory**

Nelia Koontz, MSIS, UTK (2021) - **First job: University of Wyoming Libraries**

Summer Phillips, MSIS, UTK (2020 – 2022) - **First job: Carnegie Mellon University Libraries**

### **Undergraduate Research Mentor:**

Holly Sarah Liban, Information Sciences, UTK (2023 – 2024) **First job: Shelton Group**

Caleb Ellis, Haslam Scholars Program, Information Sciences, UTK (2023 – 2024) - **First job: Edgewater Federal Solutions, Inc.**

Sawyer Smith, Information Sciences, UTK (2023 – 2024) - **First job: UTK MSIS student**

Diego Lourenco, College Scholars Program, Data Science, UTK (2021 – 2023)- **First job: Ignite Reading**

Taylor Rogers, Computer Science, UTK (2022) - **First job: MLB's Texas Rangers Baseball Club (R&D)**

## *Service*

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### **Information Integrity Institute ( $I^3$ ) Public Outreach:**

Girl Scouts Digital Leadership Workshop (2024, 2025)

Truth and Consequences Symposium with Knox County Public Library (2024)

### **UTK Minerva Research Group:**

Chair, Postdoc Search Committee (2024)

### **University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) Service:**

Member, Center for Dynamics of Social Complexity (DySoc) Adhoc Planning Committee (2024 – 2025)

Member, UTK Intercollegiate Data Science Program Curriculum Committee (2021 – 2024)

Member, UTK Proposal for Chancellor's Cluster Hiring Initiative: Data-Driven Society Team (2022)

**UTK College of Communication and Information (CCI) Service:**

Member, CCI I3 Postdoc Search Committee (2024)

Proxy Member, UTK Undergraduate Council Curriculum Meetings (2023)

Member, CCI Social Media Week Ad-Hoc Committee (2021)

**UTK School of Information Sciences (SIS) Service:**

Member, Tenure-track Faculty Search Committee, PHE Cluster (2024 – 2025)

Member, Faculty and Doctoral Student Affairs Committee (2022 – 2025)

Member, Adhoc iLab Construction Group (2023)

Faculty Participant, College Connect Event (2023)

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee (2020 – 2023)

Member, Professor of Practice Search Committee (2020)

**Academic Community Service:**

**Co-Chair:** ICWSM Posters, Demos, and Dataset Track (2024)

**Co-Organizer:** NIST Text Retrieval Conference (TREC) CrisisFACTS Track (2023)

**Journal Reviewer:** Nature Scientific Reports (2022 – 2024), EPJ Data Science (2023 – 2024), Behaviour & Information Technology (BIT) (2023), European Journal of Information Systems (EJIS) (2023), Nature Scientific Data (2023), Digital Journalism (2022 – 2023), Information Processing and Management (IPM) (2021), Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review (2020), International Journal of Communications (IJoC) (2019 – 2020), ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT) (2017)

**Conference Program Committee Member:** ICWSM (2019 – 2025), ACM WebSci (2020 – 2025), ACM FAccT (2025), CIKM (2023), ICA Conference (2021), ICIS (2021), AMCIS (2017 – 2020), ASONAM (2019)

**Workshop Program Committee Member:** MEDiate Workshop at ICWSM (2022), NECO Workshop at ICWSM (2017, 2018, 2020), MIS2 Workshop at WSDM (2018)