Benjamin D. Horne

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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

Education

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute — Troy, NY
Ph.D. in Computer Science — *2014 – 2020*
Dissertation: Robust News Veracity Detection - Robert McNaughton Prize
Committee: Sibel Adalı, Lirong Xia, Stacy Patterson, Dorit Nevo, & Tamar Gordon

Union University — Jackson, TN
B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics - Academic Excellence Medal — *2010 – 2014*

Union University — Jackson, TN
B.S. in Business Administration, Concentration in Management — *2010 – 2014*

Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Center — Fremont, OH
Information Technology Fundamentals (Vocational Training) — *2008 – 2010*

Academic Appointments

University of Tennessee, Knoxville — 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*
Affiliate, National Security and Foreign Affairs, The Baker School of Public Policy — *2023 – Present*
Member, Center for the Dynamics of Social Complexity (DySoc) — *2024 – Present*

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute — 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*

Cornell University — Ithaca, NY
NSF Undergraduate Researcher, Information Sciences — *2013*

Texas Tech University — Lubbock, TX
NSF Undergraduate Researcher, Computer Science — *2012*

Relevant Industry/Government Experience

U.S. Army Research Laboratory — Adelphi, MD
Visiting Graduate Researcher, Network Science Research Laboratory — *2017*

Steele Martin Jones and Company — Jackson, TN
I.T. Administrator — *2011 – 2014*

Home Medical Products, Inc. Jackson, TN
I.T. Technician *2011*

Publications

Total citations (Google Scholar January 2025): 2116
H-Index (Google Scholar January 2025): 18

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 ^M
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

Journal Publications (peer-reviewed):

J1. Supply and Demand on Alt-Tech Social Media: A Case Study of BitChute ^M
Computational Communication Research 2025
Benjamin D. Horne, Myles Bowman*, Milo Z. Trujillo, Maurício Gruppi, and Cody Buntain

J2. Perceptible Climate Warming Amplifies How Education Increases Climate Concern in the US ^P
npj Climate Action 2025
R. Alexander Bentley and Benjamin D. Horne

J3. Response to Collective Threat: Russian Invasion Unifies Ukrainians Across Ethnic, Linguistic, Religious, and Geographic Lines ^P
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

J4. Perceived Social Influence on Vaccination Decisions: A COVID-19 Case Study ^P
Springer Nature Social Sciences (SNSS) 2024
Denise Yewell*, R. Alexander Bentley, and Benjamin D. Horne

J5. Russia Public Diplomacy Efforts to Influence Neighbors: Media Messaging Supports Hard Power Projection ^M
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

J6. Ethical and Safety Considerations in Automated Fake News Detection ^I
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

J7. Cultural Evolution, Disinformation and Social Division [P] [M]
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

J8. Is Disruption Decreasing, or Is It Accelerating?
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

J9. Climate Complacency Reflects Cultural Values of Nations [P]
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

J10. Generational Effects of Culture and Digital Media in Former Soviet Republics [P] [M]
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

J11. Forking Paths of Cultural Complexity: A Case Study of Research Paradigms
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

J12. Monitoring Event-driven Dynamics on Twitter: A Case Study in Belarus [M]
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

J13. The Reasoning Behind Fake News Assessments: A Linguistic Analysis [I]
AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction (THCI) 2022 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2)
Lydia Manikonda, Dorit Nevo, Benjamin D. Horne, Clare Arrington, and Sibel Adalı

J14. How Topic Novelty Impacts the Effectiveness of News Veracity Interventions [I]
Communications of the ACM (CACM) 2022 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2, JCR: 4, IF: 4.65)
Dorit Nevo and Benjamin D. Horne

J15. Partisanship over security: Public narratives via Twitter on Foreign Interferences in the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections [M] [P]
First Monday 2021 (ABDC: B, IF: 1.19)
Catherine Luther, Benjamin D. Horne, and Xu Zhang

J16. Tailoring Heuristics and Timing AI Interventions for Supporting News Veracity Assessments [I]
Computers in Human Behavior Reports (CHB Reports) 2020 (ABDC: A, AJG: 3, JCR: 11, IF: 6.83)
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, Sibel Adalı, Lydia Manikonda, Clare Arrignton
Media Coverage: IEEE Spectrum, RPI News, ACM TechNews, Electronics360, Tech Xplore, Scienmag, Newswise, The Next Web, Tech Monitor, Medical Device Network

J17. Effects of Priming Messages to Decrease Negativity in Online Learning Environments [I]
APA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology 2020
Hung-Tao Chen, Benjamin D. Horne, Dan Florrel, Megan Thomas

J18. Robust Fake News Detection Over Time and Attack [I]
ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST) 2019 (IF: 4.65)
Benjamin D. Horne, Jeppe Nørregaard, and Sibel Adalı

J19. **Uncertainty-based False Information Propagation in Social Networks** [M]
ACM Transactions of Social Computing (TSC) 2019 (IF: 1.60)
Jin-Hee Cho, Scott Rager, John O'Donovan, Sibel Adalı, and Benjamin D. Horne

J20. **Recognizing Experts on Social Media: A Heuristics Based Approach** [I]
The Data Base for Advances in Information Systems 2018 (ABDC: A, AJG: 2, JCR: 53)
Benjamin D. Horne, Dorit Nevo, and Sibel Adalı

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** [M]
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** [I]
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** [M]
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** [M]
14th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci) 2022 (AR: 32%)
Matthew C. Childs*, Milo Trujillo, Cody Buntain, and Benjamin D. Horne
Media Coverage: Reuters Special Report

C5. **Local News Online and COVID in the U.S.: Relationships among Coverage, Cases, Deaths, & Audience** [M]
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** [M]
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** [I]
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** [M]
The 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2019 (ICORE: A, AR: 21%)
Benjamin D. Horne, Jeppe Nørregaard, and Sibel Adalı
Other: Cited on Wikipedia pages for The Gateway Pundit and PoliticusUSA (01/2025)

C9. **Rating Reliability and Bias in News Articles: Does AI Assistance Help Everyone?** [I]
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** [M]
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
MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference (SSAC) 2017
John F. Drazan, Amy K. Loya, <u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, 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 [M]
Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM) 2016 (AR: 21%)
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, Sibel Adalı, and Kevin Chan

C13. Expertise in social networks: how do experts differ from other users? [I]
The 10th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2016 (ICORE: A, AR: 17%)
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, Dorit Nevo, Jesse Freitas, Heng Ji, 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 [I]
MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021
Mauricio Gruppi, <u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, and Sibel Adalı

W2. From Tweeting About News to Creating News Around Tweets: Characterizing Tweets Embedded in News Articles [M]
MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021
Mauricio Gruppi, Sibel Adalı, Matthew Salemi, and <u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>

W3. Do All Good Actors Look The Same? Exploring News Veracity Detection Across The U.S. and The U.K. [I]
ICWSM Data Challenge on Safety 2020
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, Mauricio Gruppi, and Sibel Adalı

W4. An Exploration of Verbatim Content Republishing by News Producers [M]
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u> and Sibel Adalı

W5. An Exploration of Misinformation Classification in Brazil and The U.S. [I]
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2018
Mauricio Gruppi, <u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, and Sibel Adalı

W6. Assessing the News Landscape: A Multi-Module Toolkit for Evaluating the Credibility of News [I]
The 27th ACM International Web Conference (WWW) Demo Track 2018 (ICORE: A*)
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, Will Dron, Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adalı
Other: 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 [I] [M]
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u> and Sibel Adalı
Media Coverage: Science News

W8. The Impact of Crowds on News Engagement: A Reddit Case Study [M]
The International Workshop on News and Public Opinion (NECO) at ICWSM 2017
<u>Benjamin D. Horne</u> and Sibel Adalı

W9. Exploring the Creative Destruction of 3D Printing Through an Analysis of Intellectual Property Issues
Emerging Researcher National (ERN) Conference 2013
Stephanie M. Santoso, <u>Benjamin D. Horne</u>, 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.[P]**
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 [P] [M]**
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 [P] [M] (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**
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 [M]**
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 [P] [M]**
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 [M] (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** [M] (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** [I] (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** [M]
The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018
Benjamin D. Horne, William Dron, and Sibel Adalı

c11. **The Multi-Domain Integration and Correlation Engine** [I]
The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018
Willaim Dron, Andrew Hunter, Ali Sydney, Siddharth Pal, John Hancock, Lisa Scott, Tarek Abdelzaher, 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** [M]
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**
Proceedings of the 32nt Text Retrieval Conference (TREC 2023)
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** [M]
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?** [I]
Information Matters Vol. 3 Issue 1 2023
Benjamin D. Horne

O2. Fake News Starts with the Title ^{M I}
Medium Post 2017 - Views: 3,500 Reads: 1,000
Benjamin D. Horne

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 (University of Bucharest)
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: J3. J5. J10. J12. c2. c3. c5. c6.
Related Talks: T10. T13., T4.

Awards

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)

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

Media Interviews, Quotes, and Coverage

M1. New Things Under The Sun Blog by Matt Clancy, 2024
Title: Science is getting harder
Related Publications: J8.

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: J6.

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: J9.

M6. Phys.org, 2023
Title: Innovation increasingly led by collaborative teams, not individual pioneers: Study
Syndicated By: Scienmag, Swift Telecast, My Droll
Related Publications: J8.

M7. UTK Research News, 2023
Title: Study Uncovers Effectiveness of Russian Propaganda
Related Publications: J10.

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: J16.

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: J16.

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: J16.

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

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

PhD Advisor:

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

PhD Committee Member:

Rohit Gunti, PhD Communications and Information, UTK (A. Rorissa, Chair) (2023 – present)

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)

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 Senior Program Committee Member/Associate Editor: ICWSM Posters, Demos, and Dataset Track (2025)

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)