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# Benjamin D. Horne

School of Information Sciences - The University of Tennessee Knoxville

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## ACADEMIC/RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

**The University of Tennessee Knoxville**, School of Information Sciences, Fall 2020 - present

*Assistant Professor of Information Sciences*

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, Department of Computer Science, Spring 2017 - Spring 2020

*Graduate Research Assistant*

**U.S. Army Research Laboratory**, Network Science Research Laboratory, Summer 2017

*Visiting Ph.D. Researcher*

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

*NSF Undergraduate Researcher*

**Texas Tech University**, Department of Computer Science, Summer 2012

*NSF Undergraduate Researcher*

## 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

**Total Citations (Google Scholar June 2022): 984**

**H-Index (Google Scholar June 2022): 15**

### 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

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## **Journals:**

1. **Forking Paths of Cultural Complexity: A Case Study of Research Paradigms**  
Advances in Complex Systems (ACS) 2022  
Joshua Borycz, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and R. Alexander Bentley
2. **Monitoring event-driven dynamics on Twitter: A case study in Belarus**  
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
3. **The Reasoning Behind Fake News Assessments: A Linguistic Analysis**  
AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction (THCI) 2022  
Lydia Manikonda, Dorit Nevo, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), Clare Arrington, and Sibel Adali
4. **How Topic Novelty Impacts the Effectiveness of News Veracity Interventions**  
Communications of the ACM (CACM) 2022  
Dorit Nevo and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
5. **Partisanship over security: Public narratives via Twitter on Foreign Interferences in the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections**  
First Monday 2021  
Catherine A. Luther, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Xu Zhang
6. **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, Tech Monitor
7. **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
8. **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
9. **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](#)
10. **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 (Archived Proceedings):**

1. **Characterizing YouTube and BitChute Content and Mobilizers During U.S. Election Fraud Discussions on Twitter**  
14th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci) 2022  
Matthew C. Childs, Milo Trujillo, Cody Buntain, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
2. **Local News Online and COVID in the U.S.: Relationships among Coverage, Cases, Deaths, and Audience**  
The 16th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022  
Kenneth Joseph, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), Jon Green, John P. Wihbey
3. **What is BitChute? Characterizing the "Free Speech" Alternative to YouTube**  
31st ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT'20) 2020

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Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)

**Media Coverage:** Mashable, Business Insider, YLE

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

**4. 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

**5. 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

**6. 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

**7. Models for Predicting Community-Specific Interest in News Articles**

The 37th Military Communications Conference (MILCOM) 2018

[Benjamin D. Horne](#), William Dron, and Sibel Adali

**8. 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](#)

**9. Assessing the News Landscape: A Multi-Module Toolkit for Evaluating the Credibility of News**

The 27th ACM International Web Conference (WWW) 2018

[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Will Dron, Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adali

**10. 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

**11. 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

**12. 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

**13. 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

**Peer-Reviewed Workshops (Archived Proceedings):**

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

MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021

Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali

**2. From Tweeting About News to Creating News Around Tweets: Characterizing Tweets Embedded in News Articles**

MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM 2021

Mauricio Gruppi, Sibel Adali, Matthew Salemi, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)

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3. **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
  4. **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
  5. **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
  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. **A Psycho-linguistic Analysis of BitChute: A Metadata Supplement to The MeLa BitChute Dataset**  
Technical Report 2022  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/KRD1VS>  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#)
2. **The MeLa BitChute Dataset**  
The 16th International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/KRD1VS>  
Milo Z. Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
3. **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  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/GFE66K>  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Mauricio Gruppi, Kenneth Joseph, Jon Green, John P. Wihbey, and Sibel Adali
4. **NELA-GT-2021: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2022  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RBKVBM>  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
5. **NELA-GT-2020: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2021  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/CHMUYZ>  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali

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6. **NELA-GT-2019: A Large Multi-Labelled News Dataset for the Study of Misinformation in News Articles**  
Technical Report 2020  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/O7FWPO>  
Mauricio Gruppi, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
  7. **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  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ULHLCB>  
Jeppe Norregaard, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), and Sibel Adali
  8. **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  
<https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZCXSKG>  
[Benjamin D. Horne](#), Sara Khedr, and Sibel Adali

#### **Peer-Reviewed Conferences, Workshops, and Abstracts (Non-Archival):**

1. **Russia Public Diplomacy Efforts to Influence Neighbors: Media Messaging Supports Hard Power Projection**  
72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference 2022  
Maureen Taylor, Natalie Rice, Oleg Manaev, Catherine Luther, Suzie Allard, Michael Fitzgerald, Brandon Prins, Joshua Borycz, R. Alexander Bentley, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
2. **Traditional and Social Media Usage and Pro-Russian versus Anti-Russian Attitudes in Belarus and Ukraine**  
72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference 2022  
Catherine Luther, Brandon Prins, Oleg Manaev, Natalie Rice, Maureen Taylor, Suzie Allard, Michael Fitzgerald, [Benjamin D. Horne](#), R. Alexander Bentley, and Joshua Borycz
3. **Role of Social Affinity on News Coverage of Disasters: Implications for Disaster Donations (Abstract)**  
Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) Annual Conference 2021  
Trilce Encarnacion, Jose Holguin-Veras, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
4. **Hateful YouTube: Characterizing the Social Video-hosting Platform BitChute (Abstract)**  
6th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2020  
Milo Trujillo, Mauricio Gruppi, Cody Buntain, and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)
5. **Effects of Priming on Online Discussion Behavior (Abstract)**  
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) International Annual Meeting 2018  
Hung-Tao Chen and [Benjamin D. Horne](#)

#### **AWARDS and FUNDING**

1. **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
2. **Robert McNaughton Prize** for outstanding graduate in Computer Science 2020
3. MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference **Best Research Paper Award** (\$10,000) 2017
4. **RPI Outstanding Research Poster Award** 2017
5. Union University **Academic Excellence Medal** in Computer Science 2014
6. Union University **Dr. Joe Tucker Scholarship** 2013

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## INVITED TALKS, PANELS, and GUEST LECTURES

1. Invited Speaker, Disinformation Countermeasures and Machine Learning (DisCoML) Workshop at ICML, 2022
2. Invited Speaker, The UTK Pre-College Programs & Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair, Virtual Science Club, 2022
3. Invited Co-speaker with Dr. Catherine Luther, U.S. DoD Basic Research Forum, 2021
4. Invited Speaker, iDRAMA Lab Seminar Series, 2021
5. Invited Speaker, IDEA Institute for Artificial Intelligence, 2021
6. Invited Co-speaker with Dr. Catherine Luther, U.S. Technology Leadership Council (USTLC), 2021
7. Co-Guest Lecture with Dr. Guy Harrison, CCI 620, Advice on the Academic Job Hunt, UTK, 2021
8. Moderator, The Rise of Extremist Movements on Social Media, UTK CCI Social Media Week, 2021
9. Guest Lecture, ECE 692 Adversarial Learning, UTK Tickle College of Engineering, 2021
10. Panelist, Power of Information: Information Science Graduate Programs Fair, iSchool's Inc. 2020

## TEACHING

### University of Tennessee Knoxville:

1. INSC 201 Foundations of Information Sciences (4 times between 2020 - 2022)
2. INSC 360 Programming for Info. Apps. (2 times between 2021 - 2022) - **Newly Created**
3. INSC 484 Database Applications (2 times between 2021 - 2022) - **Newly Created**
4. INSC 591 Indep Project/Research (4 times between 2020 - 2022)
5. INSC 594 Graduate Research Participation (2 times between 2021 - 2022)
6. INSC 493 Indep Project/Research (Spring 2022)

## SERVICE

### UTK Committees (University Level):

UTK Data Science Faculty Committee (Intercollegiate Data Science Program) (2021 - 2023)

### UTK School of Information Sciences Committees (School Level):

Undergraduate Program Committee (2020 - 2023)

Faculty and Doctoral Student Affairs Committee (2022 - 2023)

Social Media Week Ad-Hoc Committee (2021)

Professor of Practice Search Committee (2020)

### PC Member or Invited Reviewer (Academic Community Level):

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Conferences:

ICWSM (2019 - 2022)

ACM WebSci (2020 - 2022)

ICA Conference (2021)

ICIS (2021)

AMCIS (2017 - 2020)

ASONAM (2019)

Workshops:

MEDIATE Workshop at ICWSM (2022)

NECO Workshop at ICWSM (2017, 2018, 2020)

MIS2 Workshop at WSDM (2018)

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)

**Society Memberships:**

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

Association for Information Systems (AIS)

Association for Computer Machinery (ACM)

## **OTHER TEACHING AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

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

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

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

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