Hussam Habib

Research Associate,
New York University
Brooklyn, New York

hussam-habib@uiowa.edu
www.hussamhabib.com

Research Interests

Computational Social Science; Online User Behavior; Algorithm Audits; Online Personalization.

Work Experience

New York University	2024-Present
Research Associate, under Prof. Rachel Greenstadt	
University of Iowa	2019-2024
Research Associate, under Prof. Rishab Nithyanand	
Lahore University of Management Sciences	2018-2019
Research Assistant, under Prof. Fareed Zaffar	

Higher Education

Ph.D. Computer Science, University of Iowa	2019-Present
Advisor: Rishab Nithyanand	
Thesis: How do social media platforms influence user behavior?	
B.S. Computer Science, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences	2014-2018

Honors & Awards

Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, University of Iowa	2022
Dare to Discover Feature, University of Iowa	2022
Dean's Honor List, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences	2018
	2017
Travel Grants, PETS'23	2023

Publications

CSCW 2022	**Making a Radical Misogynist**	
	How online social engagement with the Manosphere influences traits of radicalization.	
	Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand, Padmini Srinivasan	

ICWSM 2022   **Act or React**
Investigating Proactive Strategies for Online Community Moderation.
Hussam Habib, Maaz Bin Musa, Fareed Zaffar, Rishab Nithyanand

ICWSM 2022   **Reactive Moderation**
Exploring the magnitude and effects of media influence on Reddit moderation
Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand

ICWSM 2023   **The Morbid Realities of Social Media:**
An Investigation into the Misinformation Shared by the Deceased Victims of COVID-19
Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand

Under Review   **Algorithmic amplification of biases on Google Search**
How Partisan Audiences on Google Search Induce an Abortion-Related Filter Bubble Effect
Hussam H, Ryan S, Brian E, Andrew H, Ashley P, Rishab N

Under Review   **YouTube Recommendations Reinforce Negative Emotions**
Auditing Algorithmic Bias with Emotionally-Agentic Sock Puppets
Hussam H, Rishab N.

Under Review   **Uncovering the Interaction Equation**
Quantifying the Effect of User Interactions on Social Media Homepage Recommendations
Hussam H, Ryan S, Raven M-L, Brian E, Rishab N.

ICA 2022   **Vaccination Attitudes:**
Relationships among vaccination attitudes, social media use, and activism.
Ryan S, Andrew H, Ashley P, Kathryn B, Raven M, Rishab N, Brian E, Timothy H, Hussam H, & John T

Open-Source Contributions

Warning Behavior Analysis Toolkit • [link]
A computational framework using social science theories to measure warning behaviors indicative of radicalization in online platforms.

Online Community Health Monitor • [link]
Active monitoring of subreddits to flag online communities—using interpretable machine learning—as they adopt and exhibit problematic behavior.

Emotionally-Agentic YouTube Sock Puppets • [link]
YouTube Sock Puppets powered by LLMs consuming YouTube videos and selecting videos replicating psychological rule-based system.

Characterizing Platform Behavior • [github]
A platform audit system designed to measure, replicate, and taxonomize platform behavior. Currently supporting Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube.

Teaching

Machine Learning Workshop, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)	Summer 2023
CS:2820 • Object-Oriented Software, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant	Fall 2020
CS:2520 • Human-Computer Interaction, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant	Spring 2020
CS:2230 • Data Structures, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant	Fall 2019

Invited Talks

Social media platforms and their influence user behavior.   Fall 2024
Washington University in St. Louis

Social media platforms and their influence user behavior.   Fall 2024
Denison University

The radicalization pathways towards misogyny through the Manosphere.   Spring 2024
Nothing to hide (podcast)

Does Google serve different results to users with opposing opinions?   Fall 2024
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Social media platforms and their influence user behavior.   Fall 2023
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Social media platforms and their influence user behavior.   Fall 2023
University of Iowa

Investigating Proactive Strategies for Online Community Moderation.   Fall 2020
Lahore University of Management Sciences

Service

Reviewer
AEJMC'23, ICWSM'24, ICWSM'25, CSCW'24, IEEE'24

Research Mentoring

Ritik Roongta, Graduate Student, NYU **Stuart Aldrich,** Graduate Student, WashU	2024
Amol Bhagavathi, Undergraduate, University of Iowa	2024
Luke Aschenbrenner, Visiting REU, Benedictine College **Tiziana Hernandez,** Visiting REU, Stonehill College	2023
Nick Cardenas, Visiting REU, Grinnell College **Jordan Pollard,** Visiting REU, St. Ambrose University	2022