

# Kai-Cheng Yang

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CONTACT INFORMATION **Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering**  
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EDUCATION Ph.D., Informatics, Complex Systems track, Indiana University August 2017—  
M.S., Theoretical Physics, Lanzhou University (China) June 2017  
B.S., Theoretical Physics, Lanzhou University (China) June 2014

## AWARDS

- IU Luddy Outstanding Research Award (\$500) 2021
- IU School of Public Health Big Idea Challenge (\$250) 2020
- IU Informatics Ph.D. Student Conference Travel Awards (\$1000) 2020
- IU GISA Conference Travel Awards (\$700) 2019
- IU Informatics Ph.D. Student Conference Travel Awards (\$1000) 2019
- **NSF Research Trainee scholarship** in Complex Networks and Systems (\$5000) 2018

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### **Social Media** PI: **Filippo Menczer**

- Social bot detection [C1, C2, J7], human perception of bots [J6]
- Misinformation [J1, P2, W3, J5, J10]
- Abusive behaviors [P5]
- Social media ecosystem bias [P3, P6]

### **Opioid Epidemic** PIs: **Brea Perry, Yong-Yeol Ahn**

- High-risk patient detection [P1, P4, J8]
- Policy effects [J2]

### **Network Science**

- Network embedding [J3, J4]
- Spreading phenomena [J9, J11]

## PUBLICATIONS **Journal Articles**

- J1. **Yang, K.-C.**, Pierri, F., Hui, P.-M., Axelrod, D., Torres-Lugo, C., Bryden, J. & Menczer, F. The COVID-19 Infodemic: Twitter versus Facebook. *Big Data & Society* **8**, 20539517211013861 (2021).
- J2. Lee, B., Zhao, W., **Yang, K.-C.**, Ahn, Y.-Y. & Perry, B. L. Systematic Evaluation of State Policy Interventions Targeting the US Opioid Epidemic, 2007-2018. *JAMA network open* **4**, e2036687 (2021).
- J3. Yoon, J., **Yang, K.-C.**, Jung, W.-S. & Ahn, Y.-Y. Persona2vec: A Flexible Multi-role Representations Learning Framework for Graphs. *PeerJ Computer Science* **7**, e174 (2021).
- J4. Zhang, Y.-J., **Yang, K.-C.** & Radicchi, F. Model-free hidden geometry of complex networks. *Physical Reviews E* **103**, 012305 (2021).

- J5. Pasquetto, I. V., Swire-Thompson, B., Amazeen, M. A., Benevenuto, F., Brashier, N., Bond, R. M., Bozarth, L. C., Budak, C., Ecker, U. K., ... & **Yang, K.-C.** Tackling misinformation: What researchers could do with social media data. *The Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review* **1** (2020).
- J6. Yan, H., **Yang, K.-C.**, Menczer, F. & Shanahan, J. Asymmetrical Perceptions of Partisan Political Bots. *New Media & Society*. doi:[10.1177/1461444820942744](https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820942744) (2020).
- J7. **Yang, K.-C.**, Varol, O., Davis, C. A., Ferrara, E., Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. Arming the public with artificial intelligence to counter social bots. *Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies*, e115 (2019).
- J8. Perry, B. L., **Yang, K.-C.**, Kaminski, P., Odabas, M., Park, J., Martel, M., Oser, C. B., Freeman, P. R., Ahn, Y.-Y. & Talbert, J. Co-prescription network reveals social dynamics of opioid doctor shopping. *PLoS ONE* **14**, e0223849 (2019).
- J9. Zhang, Y.-J., Wu, Z.-X., Holme, P. & **Yang, K.-C.** Advantage of Being Multicomponent and Spatial: Multipartite Viruses Colonize Structured Populations with Lower Thresholds. *Physical Reviews Letters* **123**. (Editors' Suggestion), 138101 (2019).
- J10. Shao, C., Ciampaglia, G. L., Varol, O., **Yang, K.-C.**, Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. The spread of low-credibility content by social bots. *Nature Communications* **9**, 4787 (2018).
- J11. **Yang, K.-C.**, Wu, Z.-X., Holme, P. & Nonaka, E. Expansion of cooperatively growing populations: Optimal migration rates and habitat network structures. *Physical Reviews E* **95**, 012306 (2017).

#### Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- C1. **Yang, K.-C.**, Varol, O., Hui, P.-M. & Menczer, F. *Scalable and Generalizable Social Bot Detection through Data Selection* in *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)* **34** (New York, NY, USA, 2020), 1096–1103.
- C2. Sayyadiharikandeh, M., Varol, O., **Yang, K.-C.**, Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. *Detection of Novel Social Bots by Ensembles of Specialized Classifiers* in *Proceedings of the 29th ACM International Conference on Information & Knowledge Management (CIKM)* (Virtual, 2020), 2725–2732.

#### Peer-reviewed Workshop/Demo/Dataset/Software Papers

- W1. DeVerna, M. R., Pierri, F., Truong, B. T., Bollenbacher, J., Axelrod, D., Loynes, N., Torres-Lugo, C., **Yang, K.-C.**, Menczer, F. & Bryden, J. *CoVaxxy: A Collection of English-Language Twitter Posts About COVID-19 Vaccines* in *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)* **15** (2021), 992–999.
- W2. **Yang, K.-C.**, Aronson, B. & Ahn, Y.-Y. BiRank: Fast and Flexible Ranking on Bipartite Networks with R and Python. *Journal of Open Source Software* **5**, 2315 (2020).
- W3. **Yang, K.-C.**, Torres-Lugo, C. & Menczer, F. *Prevalence of Low-Credibility Information on Twitter During the COVID-19 Outbreak* in *Proceedings of the ICWSM International Workshop on Cyber Social Threats (CySoc)* (Virtual, 2020).
- W4. Hui, P.-M., **Yang, K.-C.**, Torres-Lugo, C. & Menczer, F. *BotSlayer: DIY Real-Time Influence Campaign Detection* in *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)* **14** (Virtual, 2020), 980–982.
- W5. **Yang, K.-C.**, Hui, P.-M. & Menczer, F. *Bot Electioneering Volume: Visualizing Social Bot Activity During Elections* in *Companion Proceedings of The 2019 World Wide Web Conference (WWW)* (San Francisco, CA, USA, 2019), 214–217.

- W6. Hui, P.-M., **Yang, K.-C.**, Torres-Lugo, C., Monroe, Z., McCarty, M., Serrette, B., Pentchev, V. & Menczer, F. BotSlayer: real-time detection of bot amplification on Twitter. *Journal of Open Source Software* **4**, 1706 (2019).

### Working Papers

- P1. **Yang, K.-C.**, Aronson, B., Odabas, M., Ahn, Y. Y. & Perry, B. L. Comparing Measures of Centrality in Bipartite Social Networks: A Study of Drug Seeking for Opioid Analgesics (2021).
- P2. Pierri, F., Perry, B., DeVerna, M., **Yang, K.-C.**, Flammini, A., Menczer, F. & Bryden, J. The impact of online misinformation on U.S. COVID-19 vaccinations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2104.10635* (2021).
- P3. **Yang, K.-C.**, Hui, P.-M. & Menczer, F. How Twitter Data Sampling Biases U.S. Voter Behavior Characterizations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.01447* (2020).
- P4. Perry, B. L., Odabas, M., **Yang, K.-C.**, Lee, B., Kaminski, P., Aronson, B. & Ahn, Y.-Y. New means, new measures: Assessing traditional and social network indicators of prescription drug seeking behavior over ten years of the opioid epidemic. *In submission* (2020).
- P5. Torres-Lugo, C., **Yang, K.-C.** & Menczer, F. The Manufacture of Political Echo Chambers by Follow Train Abuse on Twitter. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2010.13691* (2020).
- P6. Wen, C., Pacheco, D., **Yang, K.-C.** & Menczer, F. Neutral Bots Reveal Political Bias on Social Media. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.08141* (2020).

### TOOLS

#### Observatory on Social Media (OSoMe)

- Botometer<sup>®</sup> [C2, J7], BotometerLite [C1]: popular bot detection tools with 250,000 daily requests from researchers, journalists, and social media users
- BotSlayer [W4, W6], BEV [W5], Hoaxy<sup>®</sup>: bot amplification detection & visualization tools with thousands of users
- OSoMeTweet (GitHub, PyPI): Python library for accessing Twitter's V2 API
- CoVaxxy [W1]: dashboard for COVID-19 vaccine Twitter discussion

#### Network Science

- Persoan2vec (GitHub) [J3]: multi-role representations embedding for networks
- BiRank (GitHub, PyPI, CRAN) [W2]: bipartite network PageRank

### PRESENTATIONS Tutorials

- Identifying Social Media Manipulation with OSoMe Tools (video)  
IC<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup> 2020 (Virtual) Jul. 2020

#### Talks

- The COVID-19 Infodemic: Twitter versus Facebook [J1]  
Computation + Journalism Symposium — C+J 2021 (Virtual) Feb. 2021  
The 3rd North American Social Networks Conference — NASN 2021 (Virtual) Jan. 2021
- Bipartite Network Centrality Comparison: A Study of Opioid Doctor Shopping [P1]  
IC<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup> 2020 (Virtual) Jul. 2020
- Prevalence of Low-Credibility Information on Twitter During the COVID-19 Outbreak [W3]  
CySoc 2020 (Virtual) Jun. 2020
- BotometerLite [C1]  
IC<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup> 2020 (Virtual) Jul. 2020  
AAAI 2020 (New York, USA) Feb. 2020

- Bot Electioneering Volume [W5]  
CyberSafety 2019 (San Francisco, USA) May 2019
- Expansion of Cooperatively Growing Populations on Networks [J11]  
Chinese Physical Society Fall Meeting 2016 (Beijing, China) Sep. 2016

**WORKING EXPERIENCE**

**TikTok Inc. (ByteDance)**, Mountain View CA, USA  
Security engineer intern Summer 2021

**Indiana University**, Bloomington IN, USA  
Research Assistant, doctor shopping project Fall 2018 – Spring 2021

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Indiana University**, Bloomington IN, USA  
Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Computing (UROC) mentor Spring 2021

**Indiana University**, Bloomington IN, USA  
Associate Instructor, I590 Applied Data Science Fall 2017, Spring 2018

**SERVICE**

**Journal Reviewer**  
Social Network Analysis and Mining; ACM Digital Threats: Research and Practice; IEEE Internet Computing; PeerJ Computer Science; Humanities & Social Sciences Communications; IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering; Information Processing & Management; Online Social Networks and Media; Information, Communication and Society; PLoS ONE

**Conference Reviewer**  
ICWSM'20, '21

**IN THE PRESS**

**Selected Media Coverage**

- Using **OSoMe tools** to track inauthentic actors and spread of misinformation online  
*AXIOS (May 2021); USA Today (Mar. 2021); IndyStar (Mar 2021); AXIOS (Feb. 2021); Scientific American (Jan. 2021); Bloomberg News (Nov. 2020); The New York Times (Oct. 2020); Newsweek (Oct. 2020); Bloomberg News (Mar. 2020); The National Interest (Nov. 2019); The Conversation (Nov. 2019); IU news (Sep. 2019); IDS news (Sep. 2019); Science Node (Sep. 2019); Reuters (Nov. 2018)*
- Low-credibility information on Twitter during the COVID-19 outbreak [W3]  
*IEEE Spectrum (Jul. 2020)*
- Asymmetrical perceptions of partisan political bots [J6]  
*IU the Media School Report (Jul. 2020)*
- The spread of low-credibility content by social bots [J10]  
*Salon (Sep. 2020), IU news (Nov. 2018), ScienceNews (Nov. 2018)*

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