

# Kai-Cheng Yang

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CONTACT INFORMATION     **Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering**  
**Indiana University Bloomington**  
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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 [C2, C3, J11], human perception of bots [J5], role of bots [P2]
- Misinformation [J2, P4, W3, J9, J14]
- Abusive behaviors [C1]
- Social media ecosystem bias [P5, J10]

**Public Health**     PIs: **Brea Perry, Yong-Yeol Ahn**

- Opioid epidemic in the U.S. [P1, P3, J3, J4, J12]
- COVID-19 pandemic [J1]

**Network Science**

- Network embedding [J6–J8]
- Spreading phenomena [J13, J15]

PUBLICATIONS     **Journal Articles**

- J1. **Yang, K.-C.**, Lee, B., Ahn, Y.-Y. & Perry, B. L. Use of and Comorbidities Associated With Diagnostic Codes for COVID-19 in US Health Insurance Claims. *JAMA Network Open* **4**, e2124643 (2021).
- J2. **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).
- J3. 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).
- J4. Perry, B. L., Odabas, M., **Yang, K.-C.**, Lee, B., Kaminski, P., Aronson, B., Ahn, Y.-Y., Oser, C. B., Freeman, P. R. & Talbert, J. C. New means, new measures: Assessing prescription drug seeking indicators over ten years of the opioid epidemic. *Addiction* (2021).

- J5. Yan, H., **Yang, K.-C.**, Menczer, F. & Shanahan, J. Asymmetrical Perceptions of Partisan Political Bots. *New Media & Society* **23**, 3016–3037 (2021).
- J6. 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).
- J7. Zhang, Y.-J., **Yang, K.-C.** & Radicchi, F. Model-free hidden geometry of complex networks. *Physical Reviews E* **103**, 012305 (2021).
- J8. Zhang, Y.-J., **Yang, K.-C.** & Radicchi, F. Systematic comparison of graph embedding methods in practical tasks. *Physical Reviews E* **104**, 044315 (2021).
- J9. 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).
- J10. Wen, C., Pacheco, D., **Yang, K.-C.** & Menczer, F. Neutral bots probe political bias on social media. *Nature Communications* **12**, 5580 (2020).
- J11. **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).
- J12. 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).
- J13. 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).
- J14. 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).
- J15. **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. Torres-Lugo, C., **Yang, K.-C.** & Menczer, F. *The Manufacture of Partisan Echo Chambers by Follow Train Abuse on Twitter* in (Forthcoming) *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)* (2022).
- C2. **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.
- C3. 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** (Virtual, 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. *In submission* (2021).
- P2. Duan, Z., Li, J., Lukito, J., **Yang, K.-C.**, Chen, F., Shah, D. V. & Yang, S. Algorithmic Communicators in the Hybrid Media System: How Social Bots Selectively Promoted Polarized Issues during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *In submission* (2021).
- P3. Lee, B., **Yang, K.-C.**, Kaminski, P., Ahn, Y.-Y., Peng, S., Odabas, M., Gupta, S., Green, H. & Perry, B. L. Substitution of physical therapy with longer and stronger doses of opioid prescriptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. *In submission* (2021).
- P4. 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).
- P5. **Yang, K.-C.**, Hui, P.-M. & Menczer, F. How Twitter Data Sampling Biases U.S. Voter Behavior Characterizations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.01447* (2020).

### TOOLS

#### Observatory on Social Media (OSoMe)

- **Botometer**<sup>®</sup> [C3, J11], **BotometerLite** [C2]: 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

- **Persona2vec** (**GitHub**) [J6]: multi-role representations embedding for networks
- **BiRank** (**GitHub**, **PyPI**, **CRAN**) [W2]: bipartite network PageRank

### PRESENTATIONS Tutorials and Demos

- Introduction to **Botometer**<sup>®</sup>  
*Knight Research Network Tool Demonstration Day* (Virtual)

Oct. 2021

- 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 [[J2](#)]  
*Social Media Lab Guest Speaker Series (Virtual)* Oct. 2021  
*IC<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup> 2021 (Virtual)* Jul. 2021  
*NetSci 2021 (Virtual)* Jul. 2021  
*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 [[C2](#)]  
*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 [[J15](#)]  
*Chinese Physical Society Fall Meeting 2016 (Beijing, China)* Sep. 2016

#### WORKING EXPERIENCE

**TikTok Inc. (ByteDance), CA, USA**

Security engineering intern

Summer 2021

**Indiana University, IN, USA**

Research assistant, doctor shopping project

Fall 2018 – Fall 2021

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Indiana University, IN, USA**

Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Computing mentor

Spring 2021, Fall 2021

**Indiana University, IN, USA**

Associate instructor, I590 Applied Data Science

Fall 2017, Spring 2018

#### SERVICE

##### Journal Reviewer

Social Network Analysis and Mining (2020); ACM Digital Threats: Research and Practice (2020); IEEE Internet Computing (2020); PeerJ Computer Science (2020); Humanities & Social Sciences Communications (2020); IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (2020); Information Processing & Management (2021); Online Social Networks and Media (2021); Information, Communication and Society (2021); PLoS ONE (2021); Big Data & Society (2021); International Communication Gazette (2021); International Journal of Data Science and Analytics (2021); Computers & Security (2021);

##### Conference Reviewer

ICWSM ('20,'21,'22); CIKM ('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 Conversation* (Jan. 10, 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);
- Neutral bots probe political bias on social media [J10]  
*Futurity* (Oct. 2021);
  - Systematic evaluation of state policy interventions targeting the US opioid epidemic [J3]  
*U.S. Pharmacist* (Mar. 9, 2021); *Newsbreak* (Feb. 18, 2021);
  - COVID-19 Infodemic on Twitter and Facebook [J2]  
*The Conversation* (Jul. 29, 2021);
  - Low-credibility information on Twitter during the COVID-19 outbreak [W3]  
*IEEE Spectrum* (Jul. 2020);
  - Asymmetrical perceptions of partisan political bots [J5]  
*IU the Media School Report* (Jul. 2020);
  - The spread of low-credibility content by social bots [J14]  
*Salon* (Sep. 2020); *IU news* (Nov. 2018); *ScienceNews* (Nov. 2018);

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