

# SICSS-Montréal

June 7 to June 25, 2021 | Université du Québec à Montréal | Virtual event

## Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)

Vissého Adjiwanou, PhD

Sociologie UQAM

### Calendrier des conférenciers / Agenda of Speakers

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**JUNE 14**

**3:30-  
5 PM**

#### The Cultural Structure of Online Platforms

BY ASHTON ANDERSON

The cultural makeup of an online community is difficult to understand, given the large-scale nature of online discussions. This talk will provide an overview of how researchers are making strides in understanding the cultural structure of online platforms, specifically Reddit communities. It will highlight some exciting work describing the impact of the current political environment on Reddit communities and revealing counterintuitive findings on the polarization of the internet.

[PRESENTATION SLIDES](#) (coming)

[SUMMARY](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

**JUNE 15**

**3:30-  
5 PM**

## **Computational Approaches to Studying Anti-Social Behavior in Social Media**

**BY ANATOLIY GRUZD**

In recent years, social media research has become more focused on understanding antisocial behavior in online communities. This presentation will discuss how to use automated content analysis and machine learning to study anti-social behavior in online discourse. It will also introduce and demonstrate Communalitics, a novel research tool for studying social media communities. [PRESENTATION SLIDES \(coming\)](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

**JUNE 16**

**3:30 –  
5 PM**

## ***Machine Learning Algorithms and Statistical Models***

**BY ERIC LACOURSE**

This talk presents a framework for reviewing and choosing between statistical models. The framework incorporates the concepts of *regularization* and *penalization* in machine learning: two critical tools for selecting the best statistical model given a huge number of variables. The talk will highlight the strengths of such methods in generating reproducible research and provide various examples to illustrate their use in practice.

[PRESENTATION SLIDES \(coming\)](#)

*This presentation will be held in French*

[SUMMARY](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

**JUNE 17**

**3:30 –  
5:30 PM**

## **Culture, Knowledge, and Data**

**BY PETER MCMAHAN**

Computational social science is making inroads into the study of culture and knowledge. Studies of activists, academics, artists, and others have shown that computational methods can help us understand how people make sense of and come to understand the world around them. This presentation will discuss how computational approaches can be used in these domains using careful construction of reflexive models and substantial engagement with social theory. [PRESENTATION SLIDES \(coming\)](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

**JUNE 18**

**3:30 –  
4:30 PM**

## **Fairness in Machine Learning**

**BY GOLNOOSH FARNADI**

Machine learning tools are being used in many domains to make decisions that affect peoples' lives. This practice raises concerns of bias and algorithmic discrimination, which motivate the development of fairness-aware mechanisms in the machine learning community. This presentation will show how to measure bias and define fairness as well as strategies to ensure fairness at different stages of the machine learning pipeline. [PRESENTATION SLIDES \(coming\)](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)