

Zhanna Terechshenko

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I am a computational social scientist, interested in machine learning methods and text analysis with application to political and social information.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

New York University, Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP)

Postdoctoral Associate

EDUCATION & TECHNICAL SKILLS

The Pennsylvania State University

Ph.D. in Political Science and Social Data Analytics

2019

Relevant Coursework: Big Social Data, Data Mining, Network Analysis, Deep Learning, Introduction to Bayesian Methods, Modern Measurement

Nazarbayev University

BA in Political Science and International Relations

2015

Programming: Python, R, SQL, Stan

Quantitative methods: Deep Learning with focus on Natural Language Processing, Bayesian Statistics, Machine Learning, Network Analysis

Languages: Russian (native), English (advanced), French (upper-intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

SELECTED PROJECTS

Bot Detection with Data-Driven Feature Extraction

Present

- Contributed to the development of bot detection methodology using Twitter data in order to provide a definitive, open-scientific account of bot activity on Twitter during the 2016 and 2020 US presidential elections and major US policy discussions
- Trained and managed a group of 15 human coders
- Built a stance classifier using RoBERTa model

Influential Users in the Common Core and Black Lives Matter Conversations on Twitter

Present

- Analyzed what type of users were driving the conversation around Common Core and Black Lives Matter on Twitter over time in order to understand politicization of issues online
- Conducted data wrangling and data analysis of 14 million tweets. [Data Report](#)

Global vs Local Network Embeddings

Present

- Investigating Node2Vec, LINE, SINE, and GraphSage network embeddings methods and their abilities for political science tasks prediction, such as social media users' ideology and fake news
- Implementing GraphSage on Twitter data for users' ideology prediction

Text Classification Using a Transformer-Based Model

2020

- Compared the performance of transformer-based and traditional machine learning models across the various social media and political science datasets to provide guidelines for political scientists interested in using these models in their research
- Contributed to the wrapper for a stable version of RoBERTa language model. [Tutorial](#)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Zhanna Terechshenko. "Hot Under the Collar: a Latent Measure of Interstate Hostility". *Journal of Peace Research Journal of Peace Research* 57(6):764-776 (November 2020).

Zhanna Terechshenko, Charles Crabtree, Chris Fariss, and Kristine Eck. "Evaluating the Influence of International Norms and Shaming on State Respect for Rights: An Audit Experiment with Foreign Embassies". *International Interactions* 45(4):720-735 (September 2019).

PRESS & MEDIA

Zhanna Terechshenko, Megan Brown, Niklas Loynes, Tom Paskhalis, and Jonathan Nagler. “Biden and Sanders are debating tonight. What got Twitter users buzzing during past Democratic debates?” *The Washington Post, Monkey Cage Blog* (March 15, 2020)

WORKING PAPERS

Zhanna Terechshenko, Fridolin Linder, Vishakh Padmakumar, Leon Yin, Fengyuan Liu, Jonathan Nagler, Joshua A. Tucker, Richard Bonneau. “A Comparison of Methods for Transfer Learning in Political Science Text Classification.” Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3724644

Zhanna Terechshenko, Cody Buntain, Kevin Aslett, Tom Paskhalis, Richard Bonneau, Jonathan Nagler, Joshua A. Tucker. “Estimating Impacts of Ideology in Fake News Reports in a Recent Release of Differentially Private Facebook Data.” Social Science One.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Best Political Science Master’s Essay Award, The Pennsylvania State University	2017
Political Science Graduate Research Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University	2017
Steighton (Steve) A. Watts, Jr. Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University	2016
Robert W. Graham Endowed Graduate Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University	2015
Outstanding Student in Political Science and International Relations, Nazarbayev University	2014