Alexandros Efstratiou

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Profile

I am a computational social scientist with a background in social and behavioral psychology, and a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Washington's Information School. My research focuses on polarization especially on social media, and has been published in top-tier conferences like ACM WWW, ACM CSCW and AAAI ICWSM. In my current research agenda, I analyze how polarization and people's undestanding of reality relates to their online cultural and informational environments.

Education

University College London (UCL), Department of Computer Science   **London, UK**
PhD Computational Social Science (Center for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity)   *Sept 2020 – Oct 2024*
Thesis title:
Polarisation Dynamics and Emergent Information-Seeking Behaviours on Social Media
Advisors: Professor Emiliano De Cristofaro and Dr Tristan Caulfield.

Durham University, Department of Psychology   **Durham, UK**
MSc Behavioural Science, Distinction (79.20)/GPA 4.27   *Sept 2019 – Sept 2020*
Cohort top performer

University of East Anglia (UEA), School of Psychology   **Norwich, UK**
BSc Psychology, First Class Honours (78.85)/GPA 4.25   *Sept 2016 – July 2019*
Cohort top performer

Employment

University of Washington, Information School   **Seattle, WA**
Postdoctoral Scholar (Center for an Informed Public)   *Jan 2025 –*
Supervisors: Dr Martin Saveski and Dr Emma Spiro.

Grants and Funding

CIP Innovation Fund   **$21,000**
"Politicization and Polarization in Entertainment Media", Principal Investigator   *2025-2026*

Publications

- **Efstratiou, A.**, Duskin, K., Starbird, K., & Spiro, E. S. (2026). Rabble-Rousers in the New King's Court: Algorithmic Effects on Account Visibility in Pre-X Twitter. Forthcoming in *The 20th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '26)*.

- Duskin, K., Schafer, J., **Efstratiou, A.**, West, J. D., & Spiro, E. S. (2026). The Role of Follow Networks and Twitter's Content Recommender on Partisan Skew and Rumor Exposure during the 2022 U.S. Midterm Election. Forthcoming in *The 20th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '26)*.

- **Efstratiou, A.** (2025). On YouTube Search API Use in Research. Forthcoming in *ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC '25)*.

- **Efstratiou, A.**, Efstratiou, M., Yudhoatmojo, S., Blackburn, J., & De Cristofaro, E. (2024). "Here's Your Evidence": False Consensus in Public Twitter Discussions of COVID-19 Science. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '24)*.

- **Efstratiou, A.** (2024). Deliberate Exposure to Opposing Views and its Association with Behavior and Rewards on Political Communities. *In Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2024 (WWW '24)*.

- **Efstratiou, A.**, Blackburn, J., Caulfield, T., Stringhini, G., Zannettou, S., & De Cristofaro, E. (2023). Non-

polar Opposites: Analyzing the Relationship between Echo Chambers and Hostile Intergroup Interactions on Reddit. *In the 17th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* (*ICWSM '23*).

▷ **Efstratiou, A.**, & De Cristofaro, E. (2022). Adherence to Misinformation on Social Media Through Socio-Cognitive and Group-Based Processes. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* (*CSCW '22*).

▷ *Hughes, J. P., **Efstratiou, A.**, Komer, S., Baxter, L., Vasiljevic, M., & Leite, A. C. (2022). The Impact of Risk Perceptions and Belief in Conspiracy Theories on COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Behaviours. *PLoS One, 17*(2), e0263716.

*Joint first author.

Invited Research Talks and Conference Talks

▷ **UW Impact 2025:** Understanding and navigating political divides (panelist).
▷ **Oxford Internet Institute 2024:** From tribes to tropes: Network polarisation and false consensus around COVID-19 science (invited research talk).
▷ **Stanford University Scientists Speak Up 2024:** Panel on Misrepresenting Science (panelist).
▷ **CSCW 2024:** "Here's your evidence": False consensus in public Twitter discussions of COVID-19 science (conference talk).
▷ **UCL Information Security Research Group 2024:** What I see is all that's real: The dynamics of polarization and misinformation on social media platforms (invited research talk).
▷ **UCR LOGOS group 2024:** Uncovering a false consensus in public Twitter discussions of COVID-19 science (invited research talk).
▷ **ICWSM 2023:** Non-polar opposites: Analyzing the relationship between echo chambers and hostile intergroup interactions on Reddit (conference talk).
▷ **GESIS 2023:** Non-polar opposites: An examination of the interplay between echo chambers and hostile intergroup interactions online (invited research talk).
▷ **CSCW 2022:** Adherence to misinformation on social media through socio-cognitive and group-based processes (conference talk).
▷ **Academy of Management Annual Meeting 2021:** The leadership oversight bias in justice and hypocrisy evaluations of organisational diversity practices (conference talk).

Teaching

▷ Teaching assistant & Guest lecturer: Cybersafety and Online Harms (MSc Course), UCL, Spring 2023-24
▷ Teaching assistant: People and Security (MSc Course), UCL, Fall 2023-24
▷ Teaching assistant: Probability, Statistics, & Modeling (BSc Course), UCL, Fall 2023-24
▷ Teaching assistant & Guest lecturer: Evidence for Decision-Making (MPA Course), UCL, Fall 2022-23
▷ Guest lecturer: Social Cognition (BSc Course), Durham University, Spring 2019-20

Service

▷ Program Committee: ICWSM 2023-2026, WWW 2026, WebSci 2026
▷ Reviewer: CHI 2024-2026, PLoS One, CSCW 2023-2025, CCS 2024, DIS 2024, CogSci 2023, EPJ Data Science, S&P 2023, WWW 2023, NDSS 2023, IMC 2022, ICWSM 2022

Research Affiliations

eScience Institute, UW   **Seattle, WA**
Data Science Postdoctoral Fellow   *2025 –*

Security and Privacy Advanced Lab, UCR/UCL   **Riverside, CA/London, UK**
Doctoral Student   *2023 – 2024*

Digital Speech Lab, UCL   **London, UK**
Research Associate   *2023 – 2024*

National Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence Online **UK**
Doctoral Researcher   *2020 – 2024*

International Data-driven Research for Advanced Modeling and Analysis (iDRAMA) **Intl.**
Doctoral Researcher   *2020 – 2024*

Information Security Research Group (ISec), UCL   **London, UK**
Doctoral Student   *2020 – 2024*

Media Contributions

Tech Policy Press
Scientists Respond to FTC Inquiry into Tech Censorship (link)   *Mar 25, 2025*

Other experience

Fact-Check Cyprus (Part of CUT Social Computing Research Center) **Limassol, Cyprus (remote)**
Fact-checker; FCC is an official EDMO member and IFCN signatory.   *2021 – 2024*

Ogilvy UK   **London, UK**
Behavioural Science Practice Intern   *July 2019*

UEA School of Psychology   **Norwich, UK**
Research Intern   *June 2018 – July 2018*

Awards & Honors

▷ ICWSM 2025 Best Reviewers
▷ Kurt Lewin prize as top performer in the 2019-2020 MSc Behavioural Science cohort, Durham University.
▷ British Psychological Society Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Degree Performance as top performer of the BSc Psychology cohort at UEA in all three years of study.
▷ UEA School of Psychology prize for best undergraduate dissertation (overall) and best undergraduate dissertation (quantitative).