

Alec McGail

computational analytical ethnomethodologist

Interests

opinion dynamics, evolution of language and culture, information cascades, networked game theory, statistical mechanics as applied to social systems, meaning systems and ethnomethodology

Education

since 2017	Ph.D. student in Sociology	Cornell University
2011-2014	Bachelor Degree in mathematics 3.98 GPA. Named top junior in Mathematics. Worked with Scott Feld identifying social network patterns in retweets, and with Burgess Davis to build continuous-time probabilistic models of social influence on decision making.	Purdue University

Recent Projects

belief structures (presented last: April 2018)

What do people believe? How are these beliefs justified? That is, what are their relations, their structure? I've been asking for many months now how we can measure, analyze, and understand the structure of belief systems.

who to reply to first? (presented last: March 2018)

I analyzed nearly 3 million emails from two medium-sized companies over multiple years. From the timing of responses to emails I identified response preferences. These preferences are easily generalized to interpersonal preferences, and a preference network. I identified the lexical covariates associated with such preferences.

Publications

McClure, J. E. and A. McGail. 2015. "An Elementary Treatment of the Construction of the Free Product of Groups." American Mathematical Monthly 122(7).

Work Experience

2014–2016	Perscio Big data consulting start-up, first employee. Data scientist, strategy consultant, (poor) salesman, and coder. Built and maintained varied technical solutions for Indiana businesses, including technical demos, marketing analytics, and internal statistical analyses.	Technical lead
2011–2014	Office of the Indiana State Chemist Built website for the office and the general public from the ground up, as well as form and business process management as replacement of paper bureaucracy.	Web developer