

Alyssa Smith

Curriculum Vitae

Network Science Institute
Northeastern University
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🌐 Website
🐙 Github in LinkedIn

Research Interests

Sociotechnical systems, emergent behavior in networked contexts, (critical) social media studies, mixed methods, text as data.

Education

- 2021–2025 **PhD Candidate, Network Science, Northeastern University, Boston, MA.**
Supervisors: Brooke Foucault Welles & David Lazer
Dissertation: Emergent Power in Information Ecosystems on Social Media
- 2013–2017 **Bachelor of Science, Humanities and Engineering with Computer Science and Comparative Media Studies, MIT, Cambridge, MA.**
Thesis: The Discourse: An Online Debate

Professional Experience

Kayak Software Corporation

- 2019–2021 **Labs Data Scientist.**
Built data pipelines and machine learning models. Led the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group
- 2017–2019 **Kensho Technologies.**
Built data infrastructure for graph machine learning models

Publications

Journal Articles In Press

- March 2025 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith, Sagar Kumar, Yukun Yang, and Pranav Goel**, Locating the Asymmetry in Information Flow between Local and National Media on Transgender Discourses, *Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies*.

Journal Articles

- December 2023 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith, Adina Gitomer, and Brooke Foucault Welles**, You want a piece of me: Britney Spears as a case study on the prominence of hegemonic tales and subversive stories in online media, *First Monday*, December 2023.
- April 2025 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith, Jonathan Green, Brooke Foucault Welles, David Lazer**, Emergent structures of attention on social media are driven by amplification and triad transitivity, *PNAS Nexus*, April 2025.
- April 2025 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith**, It Has Been Handled: A Story about Ruling Relations and Power in the University Setting, *Journal of Autoethnography*, April 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- 2021 **Vibhu Bhatia, Vidya Prasad Akavoor, Sejin Paik, Lei Guo, Mona Jalal, Alyssa Smith, David Assefa Tofu, Edward Edberg Halim, Yimeng Sun, Margrit Betke, Prakash Ishwar, and Derry Tanti Wijaya**, OpenFraming: Open-sourced Tool for Computational Framing Analysis of Multilingual Data., in Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing: System Demonstrations, pages 242-250, Online and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, November 2021. Association for Computational Linguistics..

Fellowships & Awards

- 2024 **Network Science Institute NetSeed Grant Recipient.**
Granted \$10,000 for a year-long project titled "An Annotated Dataset of Local and National U.S. News Articles about Transgender Issues"
- 2023 **NSF GRFP Fellowship Awardee.**
in Social Sciences - Computationally Intensive Research. Awarded \$159,000 for five years of graduate study under Grant No. 1938052

Conference Presentations

- 2024 **Alyssa Smith**, *An Annotated Dataset of U.S. Transgender News For Determining Agenda-Setting & Information Flows*, Computation and Journalism Symposium, Boston, MA.
- 2024 **Alyssa Smith**, *Locating the Asymmetry in Information Flow between Local and National Media on Transgender Discourses.*, International Conference on Computational Social Science, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 **Rahul Bhargava, Hayden DelCiello, Zhen Guo, Alyssa Smith**, *Pardon Our Dust: Public Data Infrastructure Under Construction*, Digital Humanities Symposium, Cambridge, MA.
- 2023 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith**, *Attention Brokers: Adapting the Tertius Iungens to an Amplification Paradigm*, Sunbelt, Portland, OR.
- 2022 **Alyssa Hasegawa Smith**, *Attentional Cat-pital: Jorts The Cat's Disruption of Triad Closure Processes in Social Networks*, PaCSS (Politics and Computational Social Science, Cambridge, MA.

Posters

- 2024 **Alyssa Smith**, *An Analysis of the Ecosystems of Elites on American Twitter in 2020*, International Conference on Computational Social Science, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 **Alyssa Smith**, *Doing Data Science With Queer Identities*, PaCSS (Politics and Computational Social Science), Online.

Workshops

- 2021 **Layla Hashemi, Amy Magnus, Temitayo Osinubi, and Alyssa Smith**, *Infograffiti*, PaCSS (Politics and Computational Social Science), Online.

Teaching

- Fall 2024 **Co-instructor.**
PHYS 7332 (Network Science Data): This is a graduate-level course with 9 students enrolled. We focus on building competency in Python and related data science tools for network analysis, working with an eye towards scalability and reliability.
- Spring 2023 **Guest Lecturer.**
NULab Digital Humanities Project Seminar
- Spring 2022 **Guest Lecturer.**
SOCL 4600: Sociology Senior Seminar

Service to Profession

- 2025 **Reviewer**, ICWSM 2025.
- 2025 **Program Committee**, WebSci 2025.
- 2025 **Reviewer**, NetSci 2025.
- 2024 **Reviewer**, First Monday.
- 2023 **Reviewer**, Digital Humanities Quarterly.

Departmental Service

- 2024 - 2025 **Founded cross-disciplinary mentorship program now on its second cohort of mentorship pods**, Network Science Institute.
- 2024 **Led job interview practice group**, Network Science Institute.
- 2024 **Coordinated & moderated industry careers panel**, Network Science Institute.
- 2023–2024 **President**, Network Science Institute Graduate Student Association.
- 2022–2023 **Cohort Liaison**, Network Science Institute Graduate Student Association.