

# Bao Tran Truong

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[btrantruong.github.io](https://btrantruong.github.io)

Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering  
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## Education

- 2019–25\* **Ph.D. Candidate in Informatics**  
(Complex Networks and Systems, Minor in Computer Science)  
Indiana University (IU), Bloomington, IN, USA  
Advisor: [Filippo Menczer](#)
- 2014–2018 **B.Sc. in Technological Systems Management** (Minor in Computer Science)  
Stony Brook University (SBU), NY, USA

## Awards & Honors

- 2024 Finalist, UC Berkeley Center for Human-Compatible AI's Prosocial Ranking Challenge (\$6,000)
- 2024 Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship (\$5,000)
- 2022–2023 Ostrom Workshop Fellowship (\$49,150)
- 2021–2022 Knight Foundation Research Fellowship at the Observatory on Social Media
- 2021 Luddy PhD Summer Research Award, IU (\$5,000)
- 2019–2020 National Science Foundation Research Trainee (NSF-NRT) Fellowship
- 2017 First Place at the IEEE Student Paper Competition, Seoul, South Korea
- 2017 Excellence Award, POSTECH Creative ICT Convergence Forum, Seoul, South Korea
- 2014–2018 Full merit scholarship, SUNY, South Korea (around \$120,000)

## Publications

 [Google Scholar](#)

† → Equal contribution

## Journal Articles

- J1. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Allen, O. M. & Menczer, F. Account credibility inference based on news-sharing networks. *EPJ Data Science* **13**, 1–19. <https://rdcu.be/dxt25> (2024).
- J2. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Lou, X., Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. Quantifying the vulnerabilities of the online public square to adversarial manipulation tactics. *PNAS Nexus* **3**, pgae258. issn: 2752-6542. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae258> (June 2024).

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\*Expected.

## Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- C1. Aiyappa<sup>†</sup>, R., DeVerna<sup>†</sup>, M. R., Pote<sup>†</sup>, M., **Truong<sup>†</sup>, Bao Tran**, Zhao<sup>†</sup>, W., Axelrod, D., Pesianzadeh, A., Kachwala, Z., Kim, M., Seckin, O. C., *et al.* A multi-platform collection of social media posts about the 2022 US midterm elections in *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* **17** (2023), 981–989. <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/22205>.
- C2. DeVerna<sup>†</sup>, M. R., Pierri<sup>†</sup>, F., **Truong<sup>†</sup>, Bao Tran**, Bollenbacher, J., Axelrod, D., Loynes, N., Torres-Lugo, C., Yang, K.-C., Menczer, F. & Bryden, J. CoVaxxy: A collection of English-language Twitter posts about COVID-19 vaccines in *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* **15** (2021), 992–999. <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/18122>.
- C3. Pacheco, D., Hui, P.-M., Torres-Lugo, C., **Truong, Bao Tran**, Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. Uncovering coordinated networks on social media: methods and case studies in *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* **15** (2021), 455–466. <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/18075>.
- C4. **Truong, Bao Tran**. Cognitive presence in Minecraft online discussion forums: how question framing affects subsequent discussions. in *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Association for Computing Machinery, Denver, Colorado, USA, 2017), 190–195. ISBN: 9781450346566. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3027063.3048432>.

## Manuscripts in Preparation

- W1. Can Seckin<sup>†</sup>, O., **Truong<sup>†</sup>, Bao Tran**, Menczer, F. & Flammini, A. *Identifying sparks of productive conflict in social media discussions*.
- W2. Muralidharan, R., **Truong, Bao Tran** & Ahn, Y.-y. *Community governance at scale: How server size shapes rule design on Mastodon*
- W3. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Kim, S., Samieyan Sahneh, E., Nogara, G., Verdolotti, E., Just, N., Saurwein, F., Luceri, L., Giordano, S. & Menczer, F. *Delayed takedown of illegal content on social media makes moderation futile*.

## Presentations

### Talks

- T1. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Lou, X., Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. *Vulnerabilities of the online public square to manipulation*. International Conference on Computational Social Science (Copenhagen, Denmark). July 2023.
- T2. Pacheco, D., Hui, P.-M., Torres-Lugo, C., **Truong, Bao Tran**, Flammini, A. & Menczer, F. *Uncovering coordinated networks on social media: methods and case studies*. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (Virtual). Apr. 2021.
  - International Conference on Computational Social Science (Virtual). July. 2020
  - NetSci (Virtual). Sept. 2020.
- T3. **Truong, Bao Tran**. *Question Structures in a Minecraft Online Discussion Forum*. HCI Korea (Gangwon, South Korea). Mar. 2017.

## Posters

- P1. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Kim, S., Groesch, S., Verdolotti, E., Giordano, S., Just, N., Saurwein, F. & Menczer, F. *Quantifying the effects of time delay in illegal content takedown*. International Conference on Computational Social Science (Philadelphia, PA, USA). July 2024.
- P2. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Allen, O. M. & Menczer, F. *News-sharing networks expose information polluters on social media*. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (Virtual). July 2022.

## Demonstrations & Tutorials

- D1. Nascimento, F. S., Yang, K., **Truong, Bao Tran** & Zhao, W. *Exploring emerging social media: acquiring, processing, and visualizing data with Python and OSoMe Web tools*. International Conference on Computational Social Science (Philadelphia, PA, USA). July 2024.
- D2. **Truong, Bao Tran**, Kim, S. & Nascimento, F. S. *Navigating the social media maze: recent research on social media*. [Media Literacy Week](#) (virtual). Nov. 2024.

## Selected Media Coverage

- 2024      The New York Times, [The Anti-Vaccine Movement's New Frontier](#). (CoVaxxy) [C2]  
2024      AP News, [How a Kennedy built an anti-vaccine juggernaut amid COVID-19](#). (CoVaxxy) [C2]

## Research Experience

- 2023–      **Swiss NSF CARISMA grant**, remote  
            *Research assistant* under Filippo Menczer and Silvia Giordano  
2020–      **Observatory on Social Media**, Bloomington, IN, USA  
            *Research assistant* under Filippo Menczer

## Teaching

- 2021 –2020    **Data Fluency**, INFO-123, IU  
                    Assistant instructor — 50 students in 2020 edition; 57 students in 2021 edition  
2022          **Social media manipulation 101**, IU  
                    Guest lecturer — *Web tool to visualize US Midterm Elections Cross-platform data*  
2021          **Data Fluency**, INFO-123, IU  
                    Guest lecturer — *Machine learning methods to detect social media manipulation*  
2018          **Computer Programming Design**, CSE219, SBU  
                    Assistant instructor — around 20 students  
2017          **Foundations of Computer Science**, CSE215, SBU  
                    Assistant instructor — around 25 students

## Academic Advising

2023 [Oliver Melbourne Allen](#), now graduate student @Northeastern University

## Academic Service

Ad-hoc reviewer	Scientific Reports, ACM Transactions on the Web, PeerJ Computer Science, EPJ Data Science
PC member	ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci) 2025, WebSci 2024, WebSci 2023 International Conference on Computational Social Science ( $IC^2S^2$ ) 2024 International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2023, ICWSM 2022

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