

Colin Henry, PhD

Researcher, Improving Online Discourse Project
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2023.
Dissertation: "Governance, Competition, & Extremism: How the Structure of Social Media Platforms Radicalizes Communities."
Advised by: Jennifer Larson (co-chair), Cassy Dorff (co-chair), Emily Ritter, and Anita Gohdes (Hertie School).

RESEARCH FOCUS

Computational social scientist studying the interaction between social and political communities and digital communications technologies. Interested in the interaction between socio-technical systems, political violence, and extremism; complex communities and emergent forms of private governance; combining computational and digital ethnographic methods.

EMPLOYMENT

2024– Researcher, Improving Online Discourse Project, University of Zurich.
2023–2024 Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Dynamic Online Networks Lab. George Washington University.

RESEARCH

Peer-reviewed

2022 Colin Henry, Anita Gohdes, and Cassy Dorff. "Digital Footprints and Data-Security Risks for Political Scientists" *PS: Political Science*, 55: (4), 804-808. doi:10.1017/S1049096522000543
2022 Cassy Dorff, Colin Henry, and Sandra Ley. "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence From Mexico" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 67: (6), 1218-1247. doi:10.1177/00220027221128307

In progress

Colin Henry, Sean Long, Rick Sear, Nicholas Johnson, Stefan Wuchty, Neil Johnson, & Yonatan Lupu. "When Do Social Media Platform Intervene in Online Hate Communities?"
Revise and resubmit, Journal of Politics.

Colin Henry. "Content and Competition: Structural Sources of Online Extremism."
Accepted for review.

Colin Henry, Sean Long, Rick Sear, Nicholas Johnson, Stefan Wuchty, Neil Johnson, & Yonatan Lupu. "Ecologies of Hate: Indiscriminate Targeting of Online Hate Speech" *Accepted for review.*

Colin Henry. "Foreign Fighters and War-time Sexual Violence." *Accepted for review.*

Colin Henry, Sean Long, Rick Sear, Nicholas Johnson, Stefan Wuchty, Neil Johnson, & Yonatan Lupu. "The Effects of Offline Events on the Intensity and Volume of Online Hate Speech" *Draft available.*

Colin Henry. "Community Sorting Across the Digital Platforms." *Draft available*.

Colin Henry. "The Origins of Digital Order: Varieties of Platform Governance." *Draft available*.

Public writing

2022 Cassy Dorff, Colin Henry, and Sandra Ley. "How violence against journalists affects the news." *Political Violence at a Glance*, December 2022. [Link](#).

Interviews

2024 *USA Today*, "Trump admits he lost in 2020, leading white nationalist Nick Fuentes to disavow him." [Link](#).

2024 *Washington Post*, "Far-right influencers turn against Trump campaign." [Link](#).

2023 *Washington Post*, "Violent videos and 'brutal voyeurism' are redefining modern war." [Link](#).

2023 *Weird Machine*, "What are these violent videos doing to us?" [Link](#).

SOFTWARE

2023 *netify*: R package for modeling network data. Ha Eun Choi, Colin Henry, Cassy Dorff, and Shahryar Minhas. *Forthcoming on CRAN*.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference participation

2023 "Content and Competition: Structural Sources of Online Extremism." Political Networks Conference. Los Angeles, California. August 31.

2023 "Community Formation on Multimodal Platforms: #DiedSuddenly on TikTok." (Poster) Society of Political Methodology Annual Conference. Stanford, California. July 9–11.

2022 "Multi-Platform Networked Extremism." Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois. April 6–9.

2020 "Foreign Fighters and War-time Sexual Violence." Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

2018 "Using machine learning to estimate the prevalence of sexual violence." (Poster) Society of Political Methodology Annual Conference. Provo, Utah. July 18–21.

2017 "Measuring Sexual Violence: A Comparison of Existing Measures and Sources." Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois. April 6–9.

2017 "Water Provision Institutions and Intrastate Conflict." International Studies Association Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. February 22–25.

2016 "Measuring Sexual Violence: A Comparison of Existing Measures and Sources." International Studies Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. March 16–19.

2015 Participant, Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research. Albuquerque, New Mexico. October 19–20.

Meetings organized

2023 Vanderbilt Graduate Idea Symposium II (co-founder and organizer). Nashville, Tennessee. April 12.

2021 Vanderbilt Graduate Idea Symposium I (co-founder and organizer). Nashville, Tennessee. December 3.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Intro to Natural Language Processing.” Data Science Institute, Vanderbilt University.
2022 “Machine Learning and Text Analysis.” Methods Workshop Series, Vanderbilt University.
2019 “Intro to Natural Language Processing.” Data Science Institute, Vanderbilt University.

LANGUAGES

Proficient *R, python, Javascript.*

Familiar *Lisp, Go, Rust, Swift, C++, PHP*

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

- 2023 Travel Grant (\$1,600). Society of Political Methodology Annual Conference.

Internal

- 2022 GATEways: Gifted and Talented Education Project (\$6,000). Data Science for Social Good, Vanderbilt Data Science Institute.
2021 Digital Humanities Research Grant (\$5,000). The Center for Digital Humanities, Vanderbilt University
2020 Travel and Professionalization Grant (\$1,000, returned due to COVID-19). Graduate School, Vanderbilt University.
2018 Graduate Teaching Improvement Grant (\$2,400). University of New Mexico.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of New Mexico, Instructor of Record

Introduction to International Relations. Undergraduate, Political Science. Spring 2019.
Advanced Statistics for Political Scientists. PhD Seminar, Political Science. Spring 2019.
Introduction to Statistics for Political Scientists. PhD Seminar, Political Science. Fall 2018.
Introduction to Political Methodology. Undergraduate, Political Science. Fall 2018.

SERVICE

Service to the University

Natural Language Processing Workshop. Vanderbilt University, 2019–22.
Computational Social Science Workshop Series. University of New Mexico, 2018–19.
Network Analysis Workshop. University of New Mexico, 2017.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2012–15 Software Development Consultant; Missoula, Montana; Chicago, Illinois.
2013–15 App Developer, SpotMe Inc.; Chicago, Illinois.
2011–13 IT Security, University of Montana; Missoula, Montana.

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