

Danaja Maldeniya

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RESEARCH INTERESTS I'm interested in understanding the mechanisms that support sustainable large-scale collaboration dynamics. In particular, I am exploring the interactions between mechanisms at different scales of behavior, such as individuals, teams, and the community, and linking them to outcomes. I use a computational social science approach which combines theory driven frameworks with innovative computational methods from network analysis and causal modeling among others, that leverage large-scale observational datasets.

EDUCATION

PhD in Information Science University of Michigan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisor: Daniel Romero	2016 - TBD
BSc. in Computer Science & Engineering (First Class) University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	2011

EMPLOYMENT

Research Intern USC Information Sciences Institute	May 2020 - Aug 2020 Los Angeles, CA
Research Assistant University of Michigan, School of Information	Jan 2018 - Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Student Instructor University of Michigan, School of Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SI 301 - Models of Social Information Processing	Sep 2017 Dec 2017 Ann Arbor, MI
Research Intern Bell Laboratories, Social Dynamics Team	Jun 2017 - Aug 2017 Cambridge, UK
Research Assistant University of Michigan, School of Information	Sep 2016 - May 2017 Ann Arbor, MI
Research Fellow LIRNEasia	Aug 2016 - present Colombo, Sri Lanka
Senior Researcher LIRNEasia, Big Data for Development Team	Apr 2015 - Aug 2016 Colombo, Sri Lanka
Researcher LIRNEasia, Big Data for Development Team	Apr 2014 - March 2015 Colombo, Sri Lanka
Senior Software Engineer CodeGen International	Jan 2014 - Apr 2015 Colombo, Sri Lanka
Software Engineer CodeGen International	Dec 2011 - Dec 2013 Colombo, Sri Lanka

SELECTED
PUBLICATIONS

D. Maldeniya, C. Budak, L. Robert, and D.M. Romero. “Herding a Deluge of Good Samaritans: How GitHub Projects Respond to Increased Attention.” Proc. of The Web Conference (WWW), 2020.

J.E. Blumenstock, **D. Maldeniya**, and S. Lokanathan. “Understanding the Impact of Urban Infrastructure: New Insights from Population-Scale Data”. The 9th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD), 2017

D. Maldeniya, A. Varghese, T. Stuart, and D.M. Romero. “The Role of Optimal Distinctiveness and Homophily in Online Dating.” Proc. 11th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2017

R. Samarajiva, S. Lokanathan, K. Madhawa, G. Kriendler, **D. Maldeniya**, “Big data to improve urban planning”, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. L, No. 22, 2015.

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

D. Maldeniya, A. Kumarage, S. Lokanathan, G. Kriendler, K. Madhawa, “Where did you come from? Where did you go? Robust policy relevant evidence from mobile network big data”, CPRSouth, 2015.

K. Madhawa, S. Lokanathan, **D. Maldeniya**, R. Samarajiva, “Using mobile network data for land use classification”, CPRSouth, 2015.

K. Madhawa, S. Lokanathan, R. Samarajiva, **D. Maldeniya**, “Understanding communities using mobile network big data”, CPRSouth, 2015.

D. Maldeniya, S. Lokanathan, A. Kumarage, “Origin-Destination matrix estimation for Sri Lanka using mobile network big data”, 13th International Conference on Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, 2015.

K. Madhawa, S. Lokanathan, **D. Maldeniya**, R. Samarajiva, “Land use classification using call detail records” (Poster Abstract), NetMob, 2015.

N. de Silva, A. Perera, **D. Maldeniya**, “Semi-supervised Algorithm for Concept Ontology Based Word Set Expansion”, International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTER), 2013.

SCHOLARLY
PRESENTATIONS

“Herding a Deluge of Good Samaritans: How GitHub Projects Respond to Increased Attention.”, MIDAS Symposium 2020

“Psychological Response of Communities affected by Natural Disasters in Social Media”, UMTweetCon2019

“Psychological Response of Communities affected by Natural Disasters in Social Media”, MIDAS Symposium 2018 (Award for Most Innovative Use of Data)

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

Reviewing: EPJ Data Science, IC2S2 2020, ICWSM 2020, WWW 2020, WSDM 2020, ICDM 2020, Nature Scientific Reports, WWW 2018, WSDM 2018

Mentoring: Kaifeng Chen (Masters Student), Stella Choi (Masters Student), Jiaxin Ye (Undergraduate Student), Eric Lian (Undergraduate Student)

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor

Sep 2017 Dec 2017

University of Michigan, School of Information
• SI 301 - Models of Social Information Processing

Ann Arbor, MI