

Marcos Oliveira

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Research Interests

My research interests stem from my desire to understand the emergence of complex phenomena. I am interested in understanding real-world complex systems using data-driven approaches, with a focus on cities, human dynamics, and self-organizing mechanisms. My work explores how urban crime emerges and exhibits regularities in cities. I also investigate the mechanisms underlying inequality in urban areas and social environments.

keywords: complex systems | computational social science | city science | swarm intelligence

Education

- 2013–2017 Ph.D. Computer Science, *Florida Institute of Technology*, USA
Dissertation: “The Growth, Structure, and Dynamics of Crime in Cities”
- 2011–2013 M.Sc. Computer Engineering, *Universidade de Pernambuco*, Brazil
- 2006–2011 B.Sc. Computer Engineering, *Universidade de Pernambuco*, Brazil

Academic Positions

- 2020 – present Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in City Science & Analytics
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK
- 2018 – 2021 Postdoctoral researcher
GESIS–Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne, Germany
- 2017 – 2017 Graduate Research Assistant
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

Administrative Responsibilities

- 2020 – present Director of Global Development, Computer Science, University of Exeter, UK

Grants

- 2021-2022 “News diets & citizenship: A study combining web tracking data and surveys.” (co-PI) Facebook Foundational Integrity & Impact Research: Misinformation and Polarization, Facebook Inc, \$50,000.
- 2021-2022 “Lockdown on the Web: The unequal impact of the COVID19 pandemic on people’s web browsing behaviour.” (co-PI) Independent Research Grant, Universität Konstanz, €10,000.
- 2020-2021 “Automated Model Build for Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience.” (co-PI) Innovate UK grant with City Science Ltd., UKRI, £265,561.

Selected Publication

Complete list at [Google Scholar](#). Total citations: 295, h-index: 11, i10-index: 12 (January 2022).

Journal

- **Oliveira, M.** [More crime in cities? On the scaling laws of crime and the inadequacy of per capita rankings—a cross-country study](#). *Crime Science* (2021) **10**:27.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Pinheiro, D., Macedo, M., Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Uncovering the social interaction network in swarm intelligence algorithms](#). *Applied Network Science* (2020) **5**:24.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Ribeiro, E., Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Spatio-temporal variations in the urban rhythm: the travelling waves of crime](#). *EPJ Data Science* (2018) **7**:29.
 - Highlight on [SpringerBlog](#), [EPJ.org](#), and [PLOS Complexity Channel](#)
- **Oliveira, M.**, Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [The scaling of crime concentration in cities](#). *PLOS ONE* (2017) **12**(8): e0183110. • Highlight on [Florida Tech’s Blog](#)

Conference (refereed)

- Kulshrestha, J., **Oliveira M.**, Karaçalık, O., Bonnay, D., and Wagner, C. [Web Routineness and Limits of Predictability: Investigating Demographic and Behavioral Differences Using Web Tracking Data](#).

In: *Proceedings of AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*, 2021.

- Barbosa, H., **Oliveira, M.**, Pacheco, D., Menezes, R., and Goshal, G. “The Influence of the Circadian and Ultradian Rhythms to Human Mobility: Empirical Evidences from Location-Based Check-Ins” In: *First Northeast Regional Conference on Complex Systems*, 2018. Binghamton, NY, USA.
- Pacheco, D., **Oliveira, M.**, and Menezes, R. [Towards a framework to assess social disorganization in neighborhoods using social media: a case study on football supporters in the United Kingdom](#). In: *AI4BigData at the 30th International FLAIRS Conference*, 2017. Marco Island, Florida, USA.
- Elliott, D., Tomasini, M., **Oliveira, M.**, and Menezes, R. [Tippers and Stiffers: an Analysis of Tipping Behavior in Taxi Trips](#). In: *IEEE Ubiquitous Intelligence and Computing*, 2017. San Francisco, California, USA.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Pinheiro, D., Macedo, M., Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Better Exploration–Exploitation Pace, Better Swarm: Examining the Social Interactions](#). In: *4th IEEE Latin American Conference on Computational Intelligence (LA-CCI)*, 2017. Arequipa, Peru.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Pinheiro, D., Andrade, B., Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Communication Diversity in Particle Swarm Optimizers](#) In: *Tenth International Conference on Swarm Intelligence (ANTS)*, 2016. Brussels, Belgium.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Serrano, H., Yehle, T., White, S., and Menezes, R. [From Criminal Spheres of Familiarity to Crime Networks](#). In: *The 6th Workshop on Complex Networks (CompleNet)*, 2015. New York, USA.
- White, S., Yehle, T., Serrano, H., **Oliveira, M.**, and Menezes, R. [The Spatial Structure of Crime in Urban Environments](#). In: *The 6th International Conference on Social Informatics. First Workshop on Criminal Network Analysis and Mining*, 2014. Barcelona, Spain.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Towards a Network-based Approach to Analyze Particle Swarm Optimizers](#). In: *Proceedings of IEEE Swarm Intelligence Symposium*, 2014. Orlando, USA.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Political Social Networks Reveal Strong Party Loyalty in Brazil and Weak Regionalism](#) In: *The Sixth ASE International Conference on Social Computing*, 2014. Stanford, USA.
- **Oliveira, M.**, Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. [Using Network Science to Define a Dynamic Communication Topology for Particle Swarm Optimizers](#). In: *The 3rd Workshop on Complex Networks (CompleNet)*, 2012. Melbourne, Florida, USA.
- Bastos-Filho, C., **Oliveira, M.**, Nascimento, D., and Ramos, A. [Impact of the Random Number generator quality on particle swarm optimization algorithm running on graphic processor units](#) In: *Proceedings of the Tenth IEEE International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems*, 2010. Atlanta, USA.

Book Chapter

- Schaible, J., **Oliveira, M.**, Zens, M., and Génois, M. [Sensing close-range proximity for studying face-to-face interaction](#). In: *Handbook of Computational Social Science*. Routledge, 2021.
- **Oliveira, M.**, and Menezes, R. “Spatial concentration and temporal regularities in crime” To appear in: *Understanding Crime through Science* (Springer, 2022). [\[arxiv\]](#)

Manuscripts

Under Review

- **Oliveira, M.**, Karimi, F., Zens, M., Schaible, J., Génois, M., and Strohmaier, M. “Group mixing drives inequality in face-to-face gatherings” (*manuscript submitted for publication*) [\[arxiv\]](#)
- Pacheco, D., **Oliveira, M.**, Chen, Z., Barbosa, H., Foucault-Welles, B., Ghoshal, G., and Menezes, R. “Predictability states in human mobility” (*manuscript submitted for publication*) [\[arxiv\]](#)

In Press

- Santana, C., **Oliveira, M.**, Bastos-Filho, C., and Menezes, R. “Beyond exploitation: measuring the impact of local search in swarm-based memetic algorithms through the interactions of individuals in the population” (*accepted for publication in Swarm and Evolutionary Computation*)

Supervision

- 2021 Postdoctoral researcher: Dr. Ned Taylor (co-supervision)
UKRI/Innovate UK project: “Automated Model Build for Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience”
- 2021 PhD student: Sima Farokhnejad (co-supervision)
Project: “Modelling the movement of livestock trade under uncertain conditions”
- 2020- MSc students: supervision of 10 students’ 4-month projects. Highlights:
2021 Wenkai Zeng. “On the scalability limits of particle swarm optimizers” (2021 Best Project Award)
Daniel Griffiths. “The privacy bounds of web-browsing datasets”

Teaching Experience

- 2020- *Social and Professional Issues of the Information Age* (University of Exeter)
2021 Module in the CS programme (received 4.2/5 total rating from student evaluations)
- 2021 *Human dynamics and city science*
Online mini-module at the Exeter School on Urban Analytics, Exeter, UK
- 2019 *Introduction to Python’s graph-tool*
Tutorial at the 4th European Conference on Social Networks, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2019 *Introduction to Social Network Science with Python*
GESIS Methodenseminar, Cologne, Germany
- 2018 *Performing embarrassingly parallel data analysis with IPython*
Tutorial at Complexity72h, Lucca, Italy

Professional Service

- Sustainability Summer Programme (co-organizer) • Highlight on [Excelence in Education blog](#)
- 2021 Summer school on sustainability at the University of Exeter, Exeter, UK
- CompleNet—International Conference on Complex Networks
- 2021 12th CompleNet Live 2021 (as a co-organizer) [\[proceedings\]](#)
- 2020 11th CompleNet, Exeter, UK (as the poster chair) [\[proceedings\]](#)
- Social Complex Networks (co-organizer)
- 2019 Session at the 4th European Conference on Social Networks, Zürich, Switzerland
- NetCrime—Symposium on the Structure and Mobility of Crime (co-organizer)
- 2019 Satellite workshop at NetSci 2019, Burlington, USA (27 May)
- 2018 Satellite workshop at NetSci 2018, Paris, France (11 June)
- 2017 Satellite workshop at NetSci 2017, Indianapolis, USA (19 June)
- 2015 Satellite workshop at NetSci 2015, Zaragoza, Spain (1 June)

Reviewing & Editing

- Ad Hoc Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of the Royal Society Interface, EPJ Data Science,
Reviewer IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, PLOS One, Applied Network Science, He-
liyon, Engineering Optimization, IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine, MethodsX.
- Guest Editor Applied Network Science journal, special issue: “Structure and dynamics of crime.”

Awards

- 2017 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, Florida Institute of Technology
- 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, Florida Institute of Technology

Personal

Birthplace Recife, Brazil Current city Exeter, UK