

Rui Wang

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Areas of Research and Expertise

- Media Trust and AI as Solutions
- Politicization and Polarization
- Misinformation
- Social Bots
- Social Media Content and Effects
- Quantitative Methodology
- Computational Social Science

Education

Ph.D.	Communication <i>University at Buffalo, The State University of New York</i> Advisor: Yotam Ophir	Expected 2024
M.A.	Information and Communication Studies <i>Rutgers University – New Brunswick, The State University of New Jersey</i>	May, 2018
B.A.	Journalism <i>Anhui Normal University, China</i>	July, 2016

Employment

Graduate Assistantship University at Buffalo, Asia Research Institute	2023.8 -
Graduate Teaching Assistant University at Buffalo, Department of Communication	2021.9 – 2023.8
Lecturer, faculty Anhui Normal University, School of Journalism and Communication	2018.7 – 2020.12
Graduate Teaching Assistant Rutgers University – New Brunswick, School of Information and Communication	2017.1 – 2018.5

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Hu, J., **Wang, R.** (2023) Negative Awareness versus Empowering Awareness: The Relationship between Dating App Usage and Algorithm Perceptions via Algorithm Awareness. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*. [SSCI-indexed journal, 5Y IF: 4.503]
- Wang, R.**, Regulating Platforms by Flew Terry [book review]. *Mobile Media & Communication*. [SSCI-indexed journal, 5Y IF: 4.107]
- Suk, J., Zhang, Y., Yue, Z., **Wang, R.**, Dong, X., Yang, D., Lian, R. (2023) When the Personal Becomes Political: Unpacking the Dynamics of Sexual Violence and Gender Justice Discourses across Four Social Media Platforms. *Communication Research*, 00936502231154146. [SSCI-indexed journal, 5Y IF: 5.708]
- Ophir, Y., Pruden, M. L., Walter, D., Lokmanoglu, A. D., Tebaldi, C., & **Wang, R.** (2022). Weaponizing reproductive rights: a mixed-method analysis of White nationalists' discussion of abortions online. *Information, Communication & Society*, 1-26. [SSCI-indexed journal, 5Y IF: 6.3]

Papers Under Review

- Wang, R.**, Suresh, S., Ophir, Y. (under review) The Growing Politicization of a Non-political Space: A Mixed-method Analysis of News App Reviews on Google Play between 2009-2022
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (under review) Intentions to Engage with Automated Journalism: The Impact of Authorship Cues, Algorithmic Transparency, and Knowledge
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (under review) Behind the Black Box: The Moderating Role of the Machine Heuristic on the Effect of Transparency Information about Automated Journalism on Hostile Media Bias Perception
- Wang, R.**,* Ophir, Y.,* Walter, D*. (R&R) Not All Bots Are Created Equal: The Impact of Bots Classification Techniques on Identification of Discursive Behaviors Around the Covid-19 Vaccine and Climate Change

Book Chapters

- Ophir, Y., Liu, A., Shah, P., **Wang, R.**, Acosta, N., & Gillis, S. (Accepted, Exp. 2023). Science and Health Journalism and Its Effects on Audiences. In Walsh-Childers, K. & McKinnon, M. (Eds.). *The Palgrave Handbook of Health and Science Journalism*. Palgrave & McMillan Publishing.

Work in Progress

- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (in preparation) The Politicization of Online Discourses Surrounding "Fast Fashion": A Cross-Platform Study
- Wang, R.**, Zhang, Y. (in preparation) Charismatic Leader, Populist Rhetoric, and Media Attention: How Traditional Media and Partisan Influencers on Twitter Responded to Trump's Media Bashing
- Wang, R.**, Nikolaev, A., Semenov, A., Ophir, Y. (in preparation) The Engagement Capacity and Influences of Twitter Bots During the 2022 U.S. Midterm Election.
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (in preparation) Mitigating the Decline of News Trust: Examining the Efficacy of AI Fact Checkers in Defending Media Integrity Amidst Political Attacks
- Wang, R.**, Zhang, Y., Suk, J., Levin, H. S. (in preparation) A Horn or Halo Effect of Elon Musk's Twitter Buyout? User-dictated Governance and the Ebb and Flow of Digital Platforms.

Zhang, Y., Suk, J., Yue, Z., An, Z., Yang, D., **Wang, R.**, Dong, X. & Joseph, K. (in preparation) Mapping out Information Flow in the Social Media Ecosystem by Tracing Hyperlinks.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers and Presentations

- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (2023) Intentions to Engage with Automated Journalism: The Impact of Authorship Cues, Algorithmic Transparency, and Knowledge. Paper accepted for presentation at *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*, Washington, D.C., US.
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (2023) Behind the Black Box: The Moderating Role of the Machine Heuristic on the Effect of Transparency Information about Automated Journalism on Hostile Media Bias Perception. Paper accepted for presentation at *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*, Washington, D.C., US.
- Wang, R.**, Zhang, Y. (2023) How Traditional Media and Partisan Influencers on Twitter Responded to Trump's Media Bashing. Paper accepted for presentation at *American Political Science Association*, Los Angeles, CA, US.
- Wang, R.**, Nikolaev, A., Semenov, A., Ophir, Y. (2023) Examining the Influences of Twitter Bots During 2022 U.S. Midterm Election. Paper accepted for presentation at *American Political Science Association*, Los Angeles, CA, US.
- Zhang, Y., Suk, J., **Wang, R.**, Levin, S.H. (2023) Elon Musk, Platform Ownership, User Participation, and the Governance of Twitter. Paper accepted for presentation at *American Political Science Association*, Los Angeles, CA, US.
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (2023) An AI Shield from Political Attacks: Testing the Potential of Artificial Intelligence-Based Fact-checking to Ameliorate Distrust in Mainstream Media. Paper accepted for presentation at *73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Wang, R.**, Suresh, S., Ophir, Y. (2023) News Apps as Identity Politics: A Mixed-Method Analysis of the Politicized Online Reviews about News Apps on Google Play and Apple Store. Paper accepted for presentation at *73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Suk, J., Zhang, Y., **Wang, R.**, Yang, D., Dong, X., Levin, S.H. & Seo, J. (2023) Fleeting Public Attention and Stubborn Partisan Passion: Politicization of #MeToo on Twitter. Paper accepted for presentation at *73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Li, M., Suk, J., Sun, Y., Lian, R., Zhang, Y., Kwon, H., **Wang, R.**, Dong, X., Pevehouse, J., Shah, D. (2023) A Cross-platform Analysis of 2017-2020 #MeToo on Twitter, Facebook, and Reddit. Paper accepted for presentation at *73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y., Walter, D. (2022). Twitter Bots and Polarization of COVID-19 Vaccine. Paper accepted for presentation at *American Political Science Association*, Montréal, Québec, Canada.
- Wang, R.**, Ophir, Y. (2022). The Effect of Automated Journalism on Hostile Media Bias. Paper accepted for presentation at *American Political Science Association*, Montréal, Québec, Canada.
- Wang, R.** (2022). How COVID19 Vaccine Content Attributes Relate to Engagement and Why it Matters on TikTok? Paper accepted for presentation at *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*, Detroit, MI, US.
- Wang, R.**, Xu, X., Xie, X., Xu, W., Liu, Y., Liu, H. (2022). Period Poverty: How a Peripheral Public Health Issue is Discussed on TikTok in China. Paper accepted for presentation at *International Association of Media and Communication Research*, Beijing, China
- Suk, J., Zhang, Y., Yue, Z., **Wang, R.**, Dong, X., Yang, D., Lian, R., Kwak, N. (2022). "The personal is political": A cross-platform approach to how networked acknowledgment before and after #MeToo transforms into politicization. Paper accepted for presentation at *International Communication Association*, Paris, France.

Zhang, Y., Suk, J., An, Z., Yue, Z., Yang, D., **Wang, R.**, Dong, X., Joseph, K., Kwak, N. (2022). Mapping out Information Flow in the Social Media Ecosystem by Tracing Hyperlinks. Paper accepted for presentation at *National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, US.*

Teaching Experience

University at Buffalo, Department of Communication

Independent Lecturer

- COM337 Communication Theory (F22, S23)

Teaching Assistant

- COM337 Communication Theory (S23)
- COM101 Introduction to Communication (F21)

Anhui Normal University, School of Journalism and Communication

Faculty Lecturer

- Communication Theory in English (F18, F19, S20),
- Information Visualization and Communication (S19, S20)
- Web Development and Production (F18, F19)

Rutgers University, School of Information and Communication

Teaching Assistant

- COMM 101: Introduction to Information and Communication Processes (S17, F17, S18)

Research Experience

The Media Effects, Misinformation, and Extremism Lab, University at Buffalo

2020 – Present, P.I: Yotam Ophir

Communication and Emerging Media Lab, University at Buffalo

2021 – Present, P.I: Yini Zhang

AR/VR Research Assistant, Rutgers University

Jan 2018 – May 2018, P.I.: John Pavlik

Grants

Summer Research Funding, Department of Communication, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, United States. (\$4,000)

First Generation Scholars Travel and Accessibility Grant, 2022 American Political Science Association. (\$250)

Department Small Research Grant, Department of Communication, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, United States. (\$1,100)

Awards and Honors

Scholarships

- **Graduate Teaching Assistantship**, Department of Communication, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, NY, United States, 2020-2024.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistantship**, School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, NJ, United States, 2017-2018.

Awards

- 2023 Annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence Student Showcase at University at Buffalo.

Service Activities

Journal Reviews:

- Environmental Communication

Conference Reviews:

- National Communication Association (2023), Political Communication Division.
- International Communication Association (2023), Communication and Technology Division.
- International Communication Association (2022), Journalism Division.

Conference Services:

- **Onsite Graduate Assistant:** Digital Asia: Authenticity in Communication and Engaged Citizenry in 2023 International Communication Association pre-conference.

Undergraduate Thesis Mentor

- School of Journalism and Communication, Anhui Normal University, 2020 – 2021, 14 students

Invited Talks

Creating Compelling Research Presentations. Department of Communication Professional Development Workshop at University at Buffalo. Scheduled in Fall 2023.

Professional Affiliations and Memberships

International Communication Association

American Political Science Association

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Communication Technology Division

National Communication Association

Skills and Software

- **Methods:** Experimental design, Surveys, Automated text analysis, Topic modeling, Machine learning, Network analysis, Content Analysis
- **Statistical Software:** R (advanced), SPSS (advanced), Python (beginner).