**Rui Wang**

Department of Communication, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

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716-981-9934, [rwang38@buffalo.edu](mailto:rwang38@buffalo.edu)

[ruiwang-ub.github.io](https://t.co/CvTNYrJIsI)

## **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**

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

## **Employment**

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

## **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.

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## **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 CommunicationProfessional 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).