

THOMAS MAGELINSKI

Pittsburgh, PA · tmagelin@andrew.cmu.edu · (908) 967-4691
tmagelinski.github.io

SUMMARY OF INTERESTS

My research seeks to develop methods of better understanding the social dynamics of online communities. I develop new methodologies through graph machine learning and network approaches, leveraging state of the art techniques in natural language processing. I am particularly interested in methods which can promote healthy online communities and maintain the integrity of the information space. Broadly speaking, my interests are in the Responsible Social AI space.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA
PhD Societal Computing *GPA: 3.9* August 2017 - December 2022

Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA
Honors Baccalaureate Engineering Science and Mechanics *GPA: 3.9* August 2013 - May 2017
Minors in Math and Physics

University of Oxford Oxford, UK
Visiting Student January 2015 - April 2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CASOS Lab Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate Research Assistant August 2017 - Present

- Building an unsupervised heterogeneous graph representation system to contextualize Twitter discussions
- Developed a technique for mapping Twitter user self-descriptions to social community membership enabling the study of self-categorization theory on massive online communities
- Developed a scalable model to detect and characterize coordinated information operations on Twitter using multi-layer networks
- Developed techniques for detecting and characterizing changes in network communities. Tools were applied to Ukraine's parliament to understand political factions and their change over time
- Took a leadership role in a multi-university collaboration, leading to publications and talks with researchers across 5 universities

Spotify Research New York, NY
Research Scientist Intern June 2021 - September 2021

- Explored the implications of viewing podcasts as a heterogeneous social network of users, creators, and content
- Integrated heterogeneous social network embeddings into a transformer-based pipeline
- Demonstrated the potential of social signals to improve podcast search and recommendation

Ross Dynamics Lab Blacksburg, VA
Undergraduate Research Assistant November 2015 - May 2017

- Investigated sources of uncertainty in military airdrop results as measured by variance in simulated landing location using physical simulations

Mathematical Institute Oxford, UK
Undergraduate Research Assistant January 2015 - April 2015

- Built and coded a mechanical material stretcher, complete with GUI and image-based software to measure material stress and strain

Bio-Inspired Fluids Lab Blacksburg, VA
Undergraduate Research Assistant September 2014 - December 2014

- Collected and organized data from experiments to understand drinking mechanisms of dogs

AWARDS

Knight Foundation Fellow Fall 2020, Spring 2021
Tuition and stipend funding to support research on coordinated information campaigns on Social Media, particularly surrounding COVID-19 and the 2020 US Election

ARCS Foundation Scholar	August 2017 - August 2020
Supplemental funding to develop dynamic network analysis techniques to discover changes in community structure	
Outstanding Senior: Engineering Science and Mechanics	May 2017
Virginia Tech Rhode Scholar Nominee	November 2016
Virginia Tech Marshall Scholar Nominee	November 2016
Tau Beta Pi: Engineering Honors Society	September 2015 - May 2017

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Societal Computing Seminar Chair	September 2020 - Present
The SC seminar is a platform for PhD students to develop their public speaking skills, primarily through research talks. However I often organize talks on special topics such as panels on academic vs. industry jobs, and town halls meetings. This position also requires I represent the PhD students in faculty meetings, where I advocate on their behalf.	
Co-Organizer: Ethics for Technologists Lecture Series	November 2018 - November 2021
Our lecture series aims to equip technologists and engineers with tools and frameworks for handling the ethical aspects of their work. We have secured funding from the Dean's office to hold monthly talks from a wide range of speakers. The average attendance is 30 people.	
Faculty Hiring Committee Member	November 2020 - November 2021
PhD Applicant Mentor for Historically Underrepresented Minorities	Fall 2021
PhD Admissions Committee Member	2018, 2019
Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics Ambassador	August 2016 - May 2017

TEACHING AND DEMOS

Dynamic Network Analysis	Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2021
I led lectures in recitation, held office hours for homework help, and advised students for their project in the graduate-level course. I have updated syllabus's reading list to include relevant publications in social networks from the past year, and updated assignments.	
CASOS Summer Institute	Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2018-Present
The Summer Institute is a week-long course in Network Science tools and applications, with students from academia, industry, and government. I have lectured on Contextualized Network Analysis, Clustering, Community Detection, Network Robustness, Immediate Impact Analysis, Network Simulations, and Network Regression. I have given a case-study on finding factions with Ukrainian Voting Networks. In this role I also served as a mentor for student's research projects, spanning a wide-range of topics including social science studies, police-force optimization, and organizational management.	
Detecting Coordinated Actors on Twitter	Remote
<i>Knight Research Network Tool Demonstration Day</i>	October 2021
Bot Detection with BotHunter	Remote
<i>Demo at CMU IDEaS Institute Conference</i>	July 2021
Networked Time Series Analysis and Clustering	Remote
<i>Tutorial at SBP-BRiMS</i>	2020
This tutorial was co-instructed by myself and Mihovil Bartulovic.	
Undergraduate Engineering Courses	Remote
<i>Tutor</i>	2019-2021
Subjects covered include Calculus 1-3, Physics 1, and Linear Algebra.	

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

I believe serving as a peer reviewer is an important act of service as a researcher. I have reviewed multiple papers in Applied Network Science, Social Network Analysis and Mining, Quality & Quantity, PLOS ONE, ICWSM, Computer Networks, Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory, IEEE Access, and SBP-BRiMS.

Magelinski, T., Ng, L., & Carley, K. M. (2022). A Synchronized Action Framework for Detection of Coordination on Social Media. *Journal of Online Trust and Safety*.

- We give a highly scalable algorithm for the detection of communities exhibiting synchronized behaviour, potentially in order to manipulate online discussions. The method is multi-modal, allowing for the detection of groups coordinating along multiple modalities, e.g., those simultaneously targeting a collection of URLs, hashtags, and users in their information maneuver.

Magelinski, T., Bartulovic, M., & Carley, K. M. (2021). Measuring Node Contribution to Community Structure with Modularity Vitality. *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*.

- We give a highly scalable algorithm for calculating Modularity-Vitality, which measures centrality of nodes with respect to communities. MV improves the ranking of 1 million PA road intersections by a factor of 8, as measured by ability to fragment the road network, when comparing to techniques like pagerank.

Uyheng, J., **Magelinski, T.**, Villa-Cox, R., Sowa, C., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Interoperable pipelines for social cyber-security: assessing Twitter information operations during NATO Trident Juncture 2018. *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*.

- We advocate for interoperability when developing tools for analyzing information operations and apply one such pipeline to the discussion of the Trident Juncture Exercise. We identify several anti-NATO narratives painting it as brutal, incompetent, or unwanted by the public, and looked at how those narratives complemented that of Russian state-sponsored media.

Magelinski, T., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Community-based time segmentation from network snapshots. *Applied Network Science*.

- We give an algorithm for determining time segments of community stability. These segments can then be analyzed with static network analysis. Applied to the Ukrainian Parliament, we can see a massive change in political alliance following the revolution of 2014.

Magelinski, T., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Analytic Models of Roll Call Voting Dynamics. *IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems*.

- Ukrainian parliament has an interesting structure, where bills require many votes to pass. We show that this system is well-modeled with an ordinary differential equation, showing that the first 2 votes are indicative of the bill's fate.

Magelinski, T., Beskow, D. M., & Carley, K. M. (2020). Graph-Hist: Graph Classification from Latent Feature Histograms with Application to Bot Detection. In *AAAI* (pp. 5134-5141).

- We introduce a differentiable histogram layer to a deep graph-classification architecture written in PyTorch. Graph-Hist improves SotA graph-classification by 1-2% on Reddit Benchmarks. We show this leads to more generalizable, but less scalable bot-detection on Twitter.

Magelinski, T., Bartulovic, M., & Carley, K. M. (2020). Canadian Federal Election and Hashtags That Do Not Belong. In *International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation*. (pp. 161-170).

- We show that hashtags with the highest Modularity Vitality scores are more interpretable labels for hashtag clusters than existing measures like degree. We apply this method to the Canadian Election discussion with 3 networks of 10 million hashtags each and find that the both of the major players had strong social media presence during the election, but discussion quickly changed to specific policy problems afterward.

Magelinski, T., Stine, Z., Marcoux, T., Agarwal, N., & Carley, K.M (2020). Artifacts of Crisis: Textual Analysis of Euromaidan. In *International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation*. (pp. 329-339).

Magelinski, T., Hou, J., Mylovanov, T., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Detecting Disruption: Identifying Structural Changes in the Verkhovna Rada. In *International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation* (pp. 194-203).

Magelinski, T., & Carley, K. M. (2018). Legislative voting dynamics in Ukraine. In *International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation* (pp. 82-88).

- Magelinski, T.** & Carley, K. M. (2022). Contextualized Networks. Oral. Sunbelt 2022 (scheduled).
- Magelinski, T.** & Carley, K. M. (2022). Community Prototypes in Large Twitter Conversations. Oral. Sunbelt 2022 (scheduled).
- Magelinski, T.** & Carley, K. M. (2021). Discovering Prototypical Attributes of Online Communities Through MultiView Modularity Vitality. Oral. IDEaS Conference 2021.
- Magelinski, T.**, Ng, L., & Carley, K. M. (2021). A Synchronized Action Framework for Responsible Detection of Coordination on Social Media. Workshop paper. Responsible Social Media Mining - MAISON, Co-Located with IJCAI.
- Magelinski, T.** & Carley, K. M. (2021). Modularity Vitality for Bipartite Networks and Projections. Oral. Networks 21.
- Magelinski, T.** & Carley, K. M. (2020). Detecting Coordinated Behavior in the Twitter Campaign to Reopen America. Oral. IDEaS Conference on Social-Cybersecurity in Times of Crisis and Change.
- Angelopoulos, S., Brik, T., **Magelinski, T.**, & Carley, K. M. (2020). What you gonna do when they come for you? Network effect of information exposure on coalition formation. Sunbelt.
- Harder, N., Brashears, M., Brik, T., Carley, K.M., & **Magelinski, T.** (2020). Understanding and Predicting Legislative Behavior in the Verkhovna Rada through New Methods of Ecological Modeling. Sunbelt.
- Bhutani, M., **Magelinski, T.**, & Kolter, Z. (2019). Sinkhorn-Flow: Predicting Probability Mass Flow in Dynamical Systems Using Optimal Transport. Optimal Transport & Machine learning Workshop at NeurIPS.
- Uyheng, J., **Magelinski, T.**, Cox, R. V., Sowa, C., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Information Operations Analysis of NATO Trident Juncture Exercise 2018. International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation.
- Hou, J., **Magelinski, T.**, & Mylovanov, T. (2019). Minsk II Agreement between Russia and Ukraine and Polarization of the Ukrainian Parliament. Advancing Research through Computing Student Poster Contest. **Winning Entry.**
- Magelinski, T.**, Cruickshank, I., & Carley, K. M. (2018). Comparison of faction detection methods in application to Ukrainian parliamentary data. International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation.
- Magelinski, T.**, & Carley, K. M. (2019). Effects of Network Aggregation in Simple Diffusion Simulations. International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation.
- Magelinski, T.**, & Ross, S. (2016). Sources of uncertainty and inaccuracy in airdrop operations. Fall Fluid Mechanics Symposium.