Will Orr

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Education

2021 - 26:   University of Southern California, Annenberg School of Communication, PhD (exp.)
Creating Data Quality: The Practices and Politics of Evaluating Artificial Intelligence Datasets
Committee: Mike Ananny (chair), Christina Dunbar-Hester, Jennifer Petersen, Paul Dourish

2019 - 20:   Australian National University, Master of Applied Data Analytics

2018 - 18:   Australian National University, School of Sociology, Honours Degree in Sociology

2015 - 17:   University of Melbourne, Faculty of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (major: sociology and politics)

Publications

Articles

Kang, E. B., & **Orr, W.** (Under review) Measuring AGI: Against the psychometric turn in AI benchmarks. *Big Data & Society.*

Cruz, I. F., & **Orr, W.** (Accepted) Evaluating metrics of fairness: A critical analysis of AI in hiring practices. *Information Communication & Society.*

Orr, W. (2025). Ghosts in the data: The contested politics of absence in data infrastructures. *Social Science Computer Review.* https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393251365277

Orr, W., & Kang., E. B. (2024). AI as a sport: On the competitive epistemologies of benchmarking. *The 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency.* June 3 - 6, 2024. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. https://doi.org/10.1145/3630106.3659012

Orr, W., & Crawford, K. (2024a). The social construction of datasets: On the practices, processes, and challenges of dataset creation for machine learning. *New Media & Society,* 26(9), 4955-4972. https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241251797

Orr, W., & Crawford, K. (2024b). Building better datasets: Seven recommendations for responsible design from dataset creators. *Journal of Data-centric Machine Learning Research (DMLR), 1*(1)*,* 1-21. https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.00252

Orr, W. (2024). Counting on stability: The social construction of the Los Angeles homeless count. *International Journal of Communication, 18*(2024), 808-815.

Orr, W., Henne, K., Lee, A., Harb, J. I., & Alphonso, F. C. (2023). Necrocapitalism in the gig economy: The Case of Platform Food Couriers in Australia. *Antipode, 55*(1), 200–221. https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12877

Orr, W., & Davis, J. L. (2020). Attributions of ethical responsibility by artificial intelligence practitioners. *Information, Communication & Society*, *23*(5), 719–735. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2020.1713842

Book chapters

Lee, A., **Orr, W.,** Johnson, W. G., Harb, J. I., & Henne, K. (2023). Barriers to regulating AI: Critical observations from a fractured field. *Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence.* Edward Elgar Publishers.

Book reviews

Henne, K., & **Orr, W**. (2023). Review of *Taxis vs. Uber: Courts, Markets, and Technology in Buenos Aires* by J. del Nido. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review 46 (1), 10-12.*

Conference presentations

Cruz, I., & **Orr, W.** (2024). Evaluating metrics of fairness: A critical analysis of AI in hiring practices. National Communication Association 110th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA.
    – Top Paper Award in Communication and the Future Division

Orr, W. (2024). The multiplicity of data quality: The case of Common Crawl. Design Justice AI Institute 2024, Pretoria, South Africa, June 30 – July 13, 2024.

Orr, W. (2024) The grey economy of datasets: Uncovering the public-to-private pipeline. International Communication Association Conference 2024, Gold Coast, Australia.

Orr, W. (2023). Tracing Common Crawl: Origins, tensions, repair. Society for the Social Studies of Science 2023, Honolulu, HI.

Orr, W. & Crawford, K. (2023). Manufacturing datasets: Dataset creators on the challenges of making data for machine learning. International Communication Association Conference 2023, Toronto, Canada.

Orr, W. (2022). 'Cleaning' data: The reproductive labor of curation. Society for the Social Studies of Science/Esocite 2022, Cholula, Mexico.

Orr, W. (2022). Accounting for absences in data: SQL and the construction of truth. Special Interest Group for Computing, Information and Society, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Orr, W., Henne, K., Lee, A., Harb, J. I., & Alphonso, F. C. (2022). Necrocapitalism in the gig economy: The case of platform food couriers. International Communication Association Conference 2022, Paris, France.

Editorials

Orr, W. (2023). 9 Ways To See A Dataset: Datasets as sociotechnical artifacts — The case of 'Colossal Cleaned Common Crawl' (C4), *Knowing Machines,* https://knowingmachines.org/publications/9-ways-to-see/essays/c4

Ortiz Freuler, J., Brandusescu, Ana., & **Orr, W.** (2023, August 24). Unpacking funder influence over digital rights nonprofits: Reflections from a workshop (Part I), *Open Global Rights,* https://www.openglobalrights.org/unpacking-funder-influence-digital-rights-nonprofits/

Ortiz Freuler, J., Brandusescu, Ana., & **Orr, W.** (2022, August 28). How to grapple with undue funder influence: Recommendations from a workshop (Part II), *Open Global Rights,* https://www.openglobalrights.org/how-grapple-with-undue-funder-influence/

Ortiz Freuler, J., **Orr, W**., & Brandusescu, Ana. (2022, August 5). How do funders shape the digital rights agenda? Notes from the field (Part I), *Open Global Rights,* https://www.openglobalrights.org/how-do-funders-shape-the-digital-rights-agenda-part-i/

Ortiz Freuler, J., **Orr, W.**, & Brandusescu, Ana. (2022, August 22). Funding and the digital rights nonprofit space. Experiences and recommendations (Part II), *Open Global Rights,* https://www.openglobalrights.org/funding-and-the-digital-rights-nonprofit-space-part-ii/

Research positions

Knowing Machines, University of Southern California | Research Assistant (2022 – 2024)

Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics (FATE) Group, Microsoft Research | Intern (2022)

Justice and Technoscience Lab (JusTech), ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance | Research Assistant (2020 – 2021)

Infosys, Bangalore | Research Intern (2019)

Teaching positions

University of Southern California

Communication and Technology (Summer 2025) – Instructor of record

Communication Management Pro-Seminar (Spring 2025) – Teaching Assistant

Communication and Social Science (Fall 2024) – Teaching Assistant

Australian National University

Self and Society (Spring 2019) – Teaching Assistant

Analysing the Social World: Introduction to Social Psychology (Fall 2018) – Teaching Assistant

Grants

Annenberg Advanced Continuing Fellowship, 2025-2026

Science, Technology and Public Life (STPL) Summer Stipend, 2025.

International Communication Association (ICA) Travel Grant, Gold Coast, Australia, 2024.

Science, Technology and Public Life (STPL) Summer Stipend, 2023.

Media Industries Special Interest Group (MISIG) Travel Grant, ICA Toronto, 2023.

SIGCIS Travel Grant, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), New Orleans, 2022