

# Xinchen Yu

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CONTACT INFORMATION	1040 E 4th St, Rm 829 Tucson, AZ 85719	xinchenyu@arizona.edu xinchenyu.github.io
RESEARCH INTERESTS	My research lies at the intersection of <b>natural language processing</b> (NLP) and <b>computational social science</b> (CSS). The primary goal is to <b>make computers understand and facilitate better communication</b> between people. My latest work centers on <b>explaining, predicting, and preventing</b> incivility in user-generated content. Specifically, I enhance the robustness of NLP systems in identifying <b>hate speech and counter speech</b> . Additionally, I develop reliable frameworks to <b>measure and forecast the incivility of conversations</b> , as well as bridge the gap between computer science and computational social science to facilitate the use of cutting-edge AI models in other disciplines, including communication and social science.	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>Assistant Professor of Practice</b> , Department of Computer Science University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ	Aug. 2023 - present
EDUCATION	<b>Ph.D. in Information Science</b> (Data Science Concentration) University of North Texas, Denton, TX Committee: Lingzi Hong (Chair), Eduardo Blanco, Junhua Ding, Diyi Yang Thesis: Countering Hate Speech: Modeling User-generated Web Content Using Natural Language Processing (NLP)	Jul. 2023
	<b>M.S. in Information Science</b> University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	May 2019
	<b>B.S. in Library and Information Science</b> Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China	May 2017
HONORS AND AWARDS	UNT Margaret Irby Nichols Endowed Scholarship (\$1,000) UNT Dewey E. Carroll Endowed Graduate Fellowship (\$4,000, top 1) UNT Graduate Student Research Awards (\$1,200) UNT Department of Information Science Travel Grant UNT COVID-19 Student Success Award (\$1,000) ZJU Excellent Student Awards ZJU Hengyi Scholarship (top 1/326) ZJU Real Estate Fund Scholarship	2023 2022 2021, 2022 2020, 2022 2020, 2021 2014-2017 2016 2015
PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS	Note: NAACL and EMNLP are recognized as top-tier conferences in natural language processing (NLP). ICWSM is a leading venue in computational social science (CSS). ASIS&T is a prominent conference for research focusing on information science and technology. The average acceptance rate for all these conferences is approximately 20–30%.  <b>Xinchen Yu</b> , Hayden Arnold, Benjamin Su, Eduardo Blanco (2025). Measuring and Forecasting Conversation Incivility: the Role of Antisocial and Prosocial Behaviors. In <i>Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'25)</i> . Vol. 19, pp. 2167-2181. Copenhagen, Denmark ( <b>Early acceptance rate: 9.2%</b> ).	

**Xinchen Yu**, Yan Zhang, Wonchan Choi, Annie T. Chen (2025). Researching Health Information Behaviors: Landscape, AI's Role and Its Impact. In *Proceedings of the 88th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T'25)*.

Xiaoying Song, Sharon Lisseth Perez, **Xinchen Yu**, Eduardo Blanco, Lingzi Hong (2025). Echoes of Discord: Forecasting Hater Reactions to Counterspeech. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2025 (NAACL'25)*, pages 4892–4905, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Xinchen Yu**, Eduardo Blanco, Lingzi Hong (2024). Hate Cannot Drive out Hate: Forecasting Conversation Incivility following Replies to Hate Speech. In *Proceedings of the 18th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'24)*. Vol. 18, pp. 1740-1752. Buffalo, NJ, USA.

**Xinchen Yu**, Ashley Zhao, Eduardo Blanco, Lingzi Hong (2023). A Fine-Grained Taxonomy of Replies to Hate Speech. In *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP'23)*. pp. 7275–7289. Singapore.

**Xinchen Yu**, Zhuoli Xie, Afra Mashhadi, Lingzi Hong (2022). Multi-task Models for Multi-faceted Classification of Pandemic Information on Social Media. In *Proceedings of the 14th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'22)*. pp. 327-335. Barcelona, Spain.

**Xinchen Yu**, Eduardo Blanco, Lingzi Hong (2022). Hate Speech and Counter Speech Detection: Conversational Context Does Matter. In *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL'22)*. pp. 5918–5930. Seattle, WA, USA.

**Xinchen Yu**, Jeremy Boy, Rene Clausen Nielsen, Lingzi Hong (2022). Linguistic Characteristics of Social Media Messages Spreading across Geographic and Linguistic Boundaries. In *Proceedings of the 9th European Conference on Social Media (ECSM'22)*. pp. 211-218. Virtual.

**Xinchen Yu**, Afra Mashhadi, Jeremy Boy, Rene Clausen Nielsen, Lingzi Hong (2022). Causal Impact Model to Evaluate the Diffusion Effect of Social Media Campaigns. In *Proceedings of 20th European Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (EUSSET'22)*. Vol. 6, no. 1. Coimbra, Portugal.

**Xinchen Yu**, Daida Shashidhar Reddy, Lasya Bentula, Lingzi Hong (2020). Characteristics of Information Spreading across Nations. In *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T'20)*. Vol 57:e309. Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

**Xinchen Yu**, Shashidhar Reddy Daida, Jeremy Boy, Lingzi Hong (2020). The Effect of Structural Affinity on the Diffusion of a Transnational Online Movement: The Case of #MeToo. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo'20)*. pp. 447-460. Virtual.

#### JOURNAL PAPERS

Lingzi Hong, William Moen, **Xinchen Yu**, Jiangping Chen (2021). The Disciplinary Research Landscape of Data Science Reflected in Data Science Journals. In *Journal of Information Discovery and Delivery*. Vol. 49, pp. 287-297.

Alexander Kahanek, **Xinchen Yu**, Lingzi Hong, Ana Cleveland, Jodi Philbrick (2021). Temporal Variations and Spatial Disparities in Public Sentiment Toward COVID-19 and Preventive Practices in the United States: Infodemiology Study of Tweets. In *JMIR Infodemiology*. 2021;1(1):e31671.

#### TEACHING

**Instructor of Record** at the University of Arizona.

- CSC 110: Introduction to Computer Programming I (Fall 2023 - Fall 2025)
- CSC 380: Principles of Data Science (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

**Instructor of Record** at the University of North Texas.

- INFO 4670: Data Analysis and Knowledge Discovery (Fall 2022)

**Teaching Assistant** at the University of North Texas.

- INFO 3010: Introduction to Data Science (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- INFO 5709: Data Visualization and Communication (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

## SERVICE

**Mentoring and Advising**

- Hayden Arnold, UofA, undergraduate student → KAIST
- Benjamin Su, UofA, undergraduate student → USC
- Selina Lu, UofA, undergraduate student → CMU
- Ashley Zhao, TAMS, high school student → Cornell

**Conference and Workshop Organizing**

- Area Chair of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025): Offensive Speech Detection and Analysis track
- Organizer of the 7th Women in Data Science Tucson Conference (WiDS-Tucson 2025), [wids-tucson.github.io](https://wids-tucson.github.io)
- Organzier and Moderator of the 2025 Workshop on Considering Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in AI Applications, [cald-ai.github.io](https://cald-ai.github.io)

**Reviewing**

- ACL Rolling Review
- The 2026 International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM 2026)
- The First Workshop on Bridging NLP and Public Opinion Research (NLPOR 2025)
- The Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2024)
- The Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2023, 2024)
- The Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING 2024)
- The ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2024)
- Computational Linguistics
- Computer Standards & Interfaces
- Information Discovery and Delivery
- The Electronic Library

**To University of Arizona**

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| • Faculty Advisor, Women in Information and Computer Science | Fall 2023-Spring 2025 |
| • Member, Transfer Student Support Committee                 | Fall 2023-Spring 2024 |
| • Member, Intro Sequence Committee                           | Spring 2025           |
| • Member, Career-Track Evaluation Committee                  | Spring 2025           |

## INVITED TALKS

### **Countering Hate Speech: Detection, Strategies, and Forecasting.**

- Lucy Wang's Group Seminar, University of Washington, Oct. 2024

### **Forecasting Conversation Incivility following Replies to Hate Speech.**

- ICWSM, Jun. 2024

### **A Fine-Grained Taxonomy of Replies to Hate Speech**

- EMNLP, Dec. 2023

### **Hate speech and counter speech detection.**

- AJCAI Workshop on Toxic Language Detection (TLD), Dec, 2022
- NAACL, *Oral Presentation*, Aug. 2022

### **Multi-Faceted Classification of Pandemic Information.**

- WebSci, *Oral Presentation*, Jun. 2022

### **Characteristics of Information Spreading across Nations.**

- ASIS&T, *Oral Presentation*, Oct. 2020