

# 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 **natural language processing** (NLP) and **computational social science** (CSS). The primary goal is to **make computers understand and facilitate better communication** between people. My latest work centers on **explaining, predicting, and preventing** incivility in user-generated content. Specifically, I enhance the robustness of NLP systems in identifying **hate speech and counter speech**. Additionally, I develop reliable frameworks to **measure and forecast the incivility of conversations**, 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

**Assistant Professor of Practice**, Department of Computer Science  
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Aug. 2023 - present

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Information Science** (Data Science Concentration)

Jul. 2023

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)

**M.S. in Information Science**

May 2019

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

**B.S. in Library and Information Science**

May 2017

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

## PUBLICATIONS

**Xinchen Yu**, Hayden Arnold, Benjamin Su, Eduardo Blanco (2025). Measuring and Forecasting Conversation Incivility: the Role of Antisocial and Prosocial Behaviors. To Appear at ICWSM'25 (**Early acceptance rate: 9.2%**).

Xiaoying Song, Sharon Lisseth Perez, **Xinchen Yu**, Eduardo Blanco, Lingzi Hong (2025). Echoes of Discord: Forecasting Hater Reactions to Counterspeech. To Appear at Findings of NAACL'25.

**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.

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.

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.

**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.

HONORS AND AWARDS	UNT Margaret Irby Nichols Endowed Scholarship (\$1,000)	2023
	UNT Dewey E. Carroll Endowed Graduate Fellowship (\$4,000, top 1)	2022
	UNT Graduate Student Research Awards (\$1,200)	2021, 2022
	UNT Department of Information Science Travel Grant	2020, 2022
	UNT COVID-19 Student Success Award (\$1,000)	2020, 2021
	ZJU Excellent Student Awards	2014-2017
	ZJU Hengyi Scholarship (top 1/326)	2016
	ZJU Real Estate Fund Scholarship	2015

TEACHING	<b>Instructor of Record</b> at the University of Arizona.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSC 110: Introduction to Computer Programming I (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024)</li> <li>• CSC 380: Principles of Data Science (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Instructor of Record</b> at the University of North Texas.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INFO 4670: Data Analysis and Knowledge Discovery (Fall 2022)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> at the University of North Texas.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INFO 3010: Introduction to Data Science (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)</li> <li>• INFO 5709: Data Visualization and Communication (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)</li> </ul>	

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<b>Countering Hate Speech: Detection, Strategies, and Forecasting.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lucy Wang's Group Seminar, University of Washington, Oct. 2024</li> </ul>	

### **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.**

- Women in Data Science Worldwide Tucson Conference (WiDS-Tucson), Mar. 2024
- 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

## 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 Organizing**

- The 7th Women in Data Science Tucson Conference (WiDS-Tucson 2025)

### **Area Chairing**

- The 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025): Offensive Speech Detection and Analysis track

### **Reviewing**

- ACL Rolling Review (ARR Oct., emergency reviewer)
- 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
- Information Discovery and Delivery
- The Electronic Library

### **To University of Arizona**

- 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

## REFERENCE

### **Eduardo Blanco**

Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science  
College of Science  
University of Arizona  
Email: [eduardoblanco@arizona.edu](mailto:eduardoblanco@arizona.edu)  
Website: <https://eduardoblanco.github.io>

### **Lingzi Hong**

Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Science  
School of Information  
University of North Texas  
Email: [lingzi.hong@unt.edu](mailto:lingzi.hong@unt.edu)  
Website: <https://lingzihong.github.io>

### **Siqi Wu**

Assistant Professor in the Department of Information and Library Science  
Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Email: [swu2@iu.edu](mailto:swu2@iu.edu)  
Website: <https://avalanchesiqi.github.io>