

Zarine Kharazian

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington, 2021–
B.A. Government and French & Francophone Studies, *summa cum laude and highest honors*,
College of William & Mary, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Journals and Archival Conference Proceedings

- 2025 Miyashita, Naomi, **Zarine Kharazian**, Laura De Backer, and Kate Starbird. “How Disinformation Affects U.N. Peacekeeping Operations: Two Case Studies from the Central African Republic.” *International Peacekeeping*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2025.2470342>
- 2024 **Kharazian, Zarine**, Kate Starbird, and Benjamin Mako Hill. “Governance Capture in a Self-Governing Community: A Qualitative Comparison of the Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, and Serbo-Croatian Wikipedias.” *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* 8, CSCWI, Article 61 (April 2024), 36 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3637338>
- 2023 Prochaska, Stephen, Kayla Duskin, **Zarine Kharazian**, Carly Minow, Stephanie Blucker, Sylvie Venuto, Jevin West, and Kate Starbird. “Mobilizing Manufactured Reality: How Participatory Disinformation Shaped Deep Stories to Catalyze Action during the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.” *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* 7, CSCWI, Article 140 (April 2023), 39 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3579616>
- 2017 **Kharazian, Zarine**. “Yet Another French Exception: The Political Dimensions of France’s Support for the Right to be Forgotten.” *European Data Protection Law Review* 3.4. <https://doi.org/10.21552/edpl/2017/4/7>

Book Chapters

- 2025 Keijzer, Marijn, Lukas Erhard, **Zarine Kharazian**, and Manika Lamba. “Studying Cohesion and Polarization On YouTube: Structural Differences in the Recommendation Graph.” *Forthcoming in the Springer Handbook of Computational Social Science of Social Cohesion and Polarization*.

Selected Reports, Research Memos, and Other Public Scholarship

- 2024 Election Rumor Research Team. “Rapid Research Memo November 8: Post Election Rumors.” <https://uwcip.substack.com/p/rapid-research-memo-november-8-post>
- 2024 Election Rumor Research Team. “Rumors rapidly spreading about reissued Department of Defense Directive 5240.01.” Center For an Informed Public Rapid Research Note. <https://www.cip.uw.edu/2024/10/18/rumors-defense-department-directive-5240-01/>

- 2024 Election Rumor Research Team. “Examining rumors that Democrats are trying to commit voter fraud via the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).” Center For an Informed Public Substack.
<https://uwcip.substack.com/p/examining-rumors-that-democrats-are>
- 2024 **Kharazian, Zarine**, Madeline Jalbert, and Saloni Dash. “Our field was built on decades-old bodies of research across a range of disciplines. It wasn’t invented by a ‘class of misinformation experts’ in 2016.” Center For an Informed Public.
<https://www.cip.uw.edu/2024/01/24/misinformation-field-research/>
- 2022 Prochaska, Stephen, Kayla Duskin, Sarah Nguyen, **Zarine Kharazian**, Joey Schafer, Kate Starbird, and Mike Caulfield. “Voting Rights Legislation Framed to Support Election Conspiracy Theories About Non-citizens Voting.” Election Integrity Partnership.
<https://www.eipartnership.net/blog/non-citizen-voting-conspiracy-theory>
- 2021 Kargar, Simin, and **Zarine Kharazian**. “How U.S. election disinfo fueled foreign policy falsehoods across the Middle East.” DFRLab. Mar. 18. <https://dfrlab.org/2021/03/18/how-u-s-election-disinfo-fueled-foreign-policy-falsehoods-across-the-middle-east/>
- 2020 **Kharazian, Zarine**, and Tessa Knight. “Facebook removes inauthentic assets linked to the Philippine military.” DFRLab. Sep. 22. <https://dfrlab.org/2020/09/22/facebook-removes-inauthentic-assets-linked-to-the-philippine-military/>
- 2020 **Kharazian, Zarine** “Patriotic astroturfing in the Azerbaijan-Armenia Twitter war.” DFRLab. Jul. 21.
<https://dfrlab.org/2020/07/21/patriotic-astroturfing-in-the-azerbaijan-armenia-twitter-war/>
- 2020 **Kharazian, Zarine** “Walkthrough: Tracking the spread of the debunked Plandemic video.” DFRLab Data Memo. <https://dfrlab.github.io/Plandemic/>
- 2020 Brooking, Emerson, Alyssa Kann, and **Zarine Kharazian**. “Disinformation about ‘antifa’ provides fodder for foreign propagandists.” DFRLab. Jun. 10.
<https://dfrlab.org/2020/07/17/disinformation-about-antifa-provides-fodder-for-foreign-propagandists/>
- 2020 **Kharazian, Zarine**, and Tessa Knight. “Why the debunked COVID-19 conspiracy video ‘Plandemic’ won’t go away.” DFRLab. May 14. <https://medium.com/dfrlab/why-the-debunked-covid-19-conspiracy-video-plandemic-wont-go-away-c9dd36c2037c>
- 2019 **Kharazian, Zarine** and Alyssa Kann. “Bot-like Turkish accounts complement military operation in Syria.” DFRLab. Oct. 16. <https://medium.com/dfrlab/bot-like-turkish-accounts-wage-anti-kurdish-hashtag-campaign-9b1a2908f5b3>
- 2019 **Kharazian, Zarine**. “The Cloud Act: Arguments For and Against.” *International Enforcement Law Reporter* 34.4.
- 2017 **Kharazian, Zarine**. “Justice Department and Microsoft Set to Square Off in Supreme Court Before Landmark Data Privacy Case.” *International Enforcement Law Reporter* 34.4.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Online Influence Operations and Participatory Disinformation.” Topics in Social Informatics and User Experience Design: Online Communities. Online. Nov. 29. Guest speaker (undergraduate class taught by Dr. Nathan TeBlunthuis at UT-Austin).
- 2024 “Protecting Information Integrity: Election Rumor Research at the UW Center for an

- Informed Public.” UW Democracy in Focus Lecture Series. Seattle, WA. October 8. Panelist.
- 2023 “Chasing shadows: Responding to Mis-/Disinformation in Peace Operations.” Center for International Peace Operations. Berlin, Germany. November 16. Panelist.
- 2023 “Fête de la Recherche.” William & Mary Department of French & Francophone Studies. Williamsburg, Virginia. October 27. Alumni Guest Speaker.
- 2023 “Explaining Country-Level Variation in Governments’ Takedown Requests to Google, 2011-2022.” Stanford Trust & Safety Research Conference 2023. Stanford, CA. September 28. Lightning Talk.
- 2023 “What makes some wiki communities more subject to governance capture?” Wikimania 2023. Online. Aug 15. Lightning Talk.
- 2023 “Governance Capture in a Self-Governing Community: A Qualitative Analysis of Serbo-Croatian Wikipedias.” Wiki Workshop 2023. Online. May 11.
- 2021 “Vaccines as an Instrument of Influence.” Panelist. Digital Communication Network. Online. Apr 22.
- 2021 “Analyzing Disinformation Campaigns.” Online. Feb 5. April 19. Ethics in Data Science. Guest speaker (undergraduate class taught by Dr. Jaime Settle at William & Mary).
- 2021 “Anti-Western, Anti-Liberal Moods in the Caucasus in 2020.” Panelist. Media Initiatives Center. Online. Feb 5.
- 2020 “The domestic disinformation campaign on ‘antifa’ and its interactions with foreign influence operations.” Understanding Information Operations with Twitter Data Workshop Series, Carnegie Partnership for Countering Influence Operations. Online. Nov 17.
- 2020 “Debunked! How Investigators at BuzzFeed and DFRLab Use CrowdTangle to Hunt Misinfo.” Panelist. Annual Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference. Online. Sep 21-25.
- 2018 “The Political Dimensions of France’s Support for the Online Right to be Forgotten.” Computers, Data Protection, and Privacy Conference. Brussels, Belgium. Jan 24-26.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Directed Research Groups

I have led or co-led the following “Directed Research Groups” (DRGs) within the Department of Human-Centered Design & Engineering. DRGs are organized as small, project-based classes students enroll in for 2-3 credits.

- 2023 Directed Research Group on political communication and mobilization on Telegram during the 2022 U.S. midterm elections. 2 students; organized with Kate Starbird; HCDE 496/596. Fall Quarter
- 2022 Directed Research Group on disinformation risks on Wikipedia language editions. 4 students; organized with Benjamin Mako Hill; HCDE 496/596. Spring Quarter

Mentorship

- 2024-25 Nandita Raman, UW undergraduate.
- 2025- Celestine Le, UW undergraduate.

Facilitated Workshops and Public Trainings

I have developed and conducted the following interactive workshops on online open-source investigation and analysis for journalists, members of civil society, and researchers.

- 2021 “Tracking Disinformation in an Armenian Context.” Bellingcat Digital Showcases. Online. Apr. 20.
- 2020-21 DFRLab Digital Sherlocks 360/OS Sessions. Online.
 - Information Operations 101
 - Social Network Visualization in Gephi
 - Intro to R and RStudio
 - Investigating Information Operations on Facebook
 - Investigating Information Operations on Twitter

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Awards and Honors

- 2018 Young Scholar’s Award Finalist, European Data Protection Law Review
- 2017 Phi Beta Kappa
- Dean’s List, every semester

Grants and Fellowships

- 2024 Center for an Informed Public Innovation Fund. (\$19,487). Co-applicant for “Identifying and Modeling Information Integrity Threats to Online Knowledge Commons” with PI Benjamin Mako Hill
- 2016–17 McCormack Reboussin Scholarship. (\$12,000). William & Mary French Department. Awarded to an outstanding French major to fund senior honors thesis research
- 2014 Charles Center Research Scholarship (\$3,000). William & Mary. Funded summer research in political psychology

SERVICE

- 2025 Postdoctoral Scholar Hiring Committee, Center for an Informed Public
- 2023 Senior Research Scientist Hiring Committee, Center for an Informed Public
- 2023– Reviewer, ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), PNAS Nexus

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2021– UW Center for an Informed Public (graduate student research assistant)
- 2021– Community Data Science Collective (graduate student affiliate)
- 2023– UNC Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (graduate student affiliate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019–21 **Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council**, Washington, D.C.
Associate Editor, 2021
Assistant Editor, 2019–20
- 2017–19 **Berliner Corcoran & Rowe LLP**, Washington, D.C.
Legal Assistant/Editor
- 2014–17 **Social Networks and Political Psychology Lab**, Williamsburg, VA
Research Assistant
- 2016 **Center of International Studies, Sciences-Po**, Paris, France
Spring Research Intern
- 2014 **Mark Warner for Senate**, Alexandria, VA
Summer Research Fellow

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2022 BIGSSS Summer School in Computational Social Science: Social Cohesion. Department of Sociology, University of Groningen. Groningen, Netherlands. Jul 4–15.

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2024 *The New York Times*. “On Telegram, a Violent Preview of What May Unfold on Election Day and After.”
- 2024 *Arizona Mirror*. “Maricopa County is Ground Zero for election misinformation in 2024.”
- 2024 *The Daily*. “UW Center for an Informed Public presents ‘Election Rumor Research.’”
- 2021 *Civilnet*. “Is it Time for Facebook & Armenia’s Government to Divorce?”
- 2020 *CNBC*. “How the 2020 election war on bots and trolls differs from 2016.” Oct 27.
- 2020 *Washington Post*. “Facebook deletes several fake Chinese accounts targeting Trump and Biden, in first takedown of its kind.” Sep 22.
- 2020 *CNN Brazil*. “QAnon group spreads theories to aid Donald Trump’s reelection.” Sep 19.
- 2020 *The New York Times*. “A playbook for combating QAnon.” Aug 20.
- 2020 *European Science Media Hub*. “Infodemic Exclusive Interviews: Zarine Kharazian from Digital Forensic Research Lab about research on Covid-19 disinformation.” Jul 23.
- 2020 *CBC*. “How a debunked COVID-19 video kept spreading after Facebook and YouTube took it down.” May 21.

Updated March 2025