Andy (Dandi) Zhao

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Education

Cornell University, Ithaca/New York, NY, USA
Computing and Information Science
Ph.D. student in Information Science, minor in Government
Advised by Prof. William Hobbs and Prof. Mor Naaman

2020 - 2025 (expected)

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
School of Computing and Information
Master of Science in Information Science   2017 - 2019 ("3+2" program)

Wuhan University, Wuhan, Hubei, China
School of Information Management
Bachelor of Management in Library Science   2014 - 2018 ("3+2" program)

Relevant Courses

Computer Science:
Machine Learning; Natural Language Processing; Artificial Intelligence; Data Mining; Advanced Database Management; Algorithm Design; Structure of Information Networks; Computer Vision

Social & Tech:
Social Computing; Natural Experiment (Causal Inference); Empirical Methods in Research; Large-scale Social Phenomenon; Technology & Law

Academic Works

- ***Chinese astroturf and the limits of computational propaganda on foreign social media*** (suspended project, first-authored joint work with Simon DeDeo)

- ***Variety, Velocity, Veracity, and Validity: Evaluating the Contributions of Crowdsourced and Professional Fact-checking*** (under review in CHI 2023, first-authored joint work with Mor Naaman)

- ***Let's report our rivals: how Chinese fandoms game content moderation to restrain opposing voices*** (under review in the Journal of Quantitative Description, first-authored joint work with Zhaodi Chen)
  - Poster in IC2S2 2022

- ***One platform, some jurors, and many reporters: how a triangular collaboration facilitates community-driven content moderation on Weibo*** (working paper, first-authored joint work with Lily Hu)

- ***Moderating Social Media: Misinformation Exposure and the Weibo Jury Community*** (work in progress with Alexandra Cirone)
  - Poster in APSA 2022

- ***Labor Market of Decentralized Censorship*** (work in progress with David Yang, Eddie Yang, and Leo Yang)

Work Experience

Data & Applied Scientist Intern   6/2022 – 8/2022
Microsoft   Bellevue, WA
- Responsible AI: Evaluating Measurement and Mitigation for Representational Fairness Harms in Suggested Reply and Beyond

Research Assistant 7/2019 - 6/2020
Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology *Cambridge, MA*
- Worked on a project about bureaucracy and innovation, which was led by MIT Prof. Daron Acemoglu and Harvard Prof. David Yang
- Collected publication data from academic databases
- Collected leader data and bureaucracy data from official university websites
- Calculated the similarities between papers of different authors based on text and topics
- Analyzed the impact of leadership on topic changes in a difference-in-difference approach

Data Analyst Intern 7/2017 - 8/2017
China Telecom *Chongqing, China*
- Assisted with user-based modeling for further service
- Evaluated the performance of a crawler and helped with the design process
- Joined department team in data analysis competition and won the champion

Specialized Skills

Programming:
Proficient in Python, R
Experienced in MATLAB, Java, SQL, Cypher

Languages:
Mandarin and southwestern Mandarin Chinese (native); English (proficient)

Project Experience

Coursework: Artificial Intelligence for Bubble Breaker 1/2019 - 4/2019
This is a group project for *Artificial Intelligence*, a grad-level course offered by Prof. Daqing He at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Designed an intelligent agent in Python to play a special game called "Bubble." It is a complicated search problem, but our solution won a full score.

Coursework: A Study on Merit-based Immigration: Prediction of Employer-Sponsored Immigration Certification
2/2018 - 4/2018
This is a group project for *Data Mining*, a grad-level course offered by Prof. Yu-Ru Lin at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Applied data mining skills and algorithms in R to analyze the visa data and predicted whether an application could get certified in the future.

Coursework: Identifying the event topics and participants' identities in collective action events through social media text
2/2018 - /2018
This is a personal course project for *Machine Learning*, a grad-level course offered by Prof. Milos Hauskrecht at the University of Pittsburgh.
Applied deep learning and natural language processing in Python to classify different social posts from a highly skewed distribution and predicted the class label of the collective actions in posts

TAing Experience

INFO 2950: Introduction to Data Science – *Prof. David Mimno at Cornell University*
Teaching assistant in Fall 2020
INFO 5430: Urban Data – *Prof. Emma Pierson at Cornell Tech*
Teaching assistant in Fall 2021 and Fall 2022
INFO 1260 / CS 1340: Choices and Consequences in Computing – *Prof. Jon Kleinberg and Prof. Karen Levy at Cornell University*
Teaching assistant in Spring 2022