

ALEKSANDRA URMAN

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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral researcher Social Computing Group (Department of Informatics) University of Zurich	<i>Since September 2020</i>
Postdoctoral researcher Institute of Communication and Media Studies University of Bern	<i>Since July 2020</i>
Research assistant Institute of Communication and Media Studies University of Bern	<i>June 2018- June 2020</i>

EDUCATION

PhD (summa cum laude) Institute of Communication and Media Studies University of Bern <u>Dissertation Title: "Polarisation on Social Media in Different National Contexts"</u> Supervisor: Dr. Silke Adam; Second Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Peter Van Aelst	<i>June 2018- May 2020</i>
MA in Political Science Central European University, Budapest	<i>2016-2017</i>
BA in Asian Studies Higher School of Economics, Moscow	<i>2012-2016</i>

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

EuroCSS Datathon Challenge Winner Together with Stefan Katz, Neal Tsur The event took place at ETH Zurich	<i>September 2019</i>
Full grant for participation in SICSS Bamberg Alfred P. Sloan & Russell Sage Foundations	<i>August 2019</i>
Top Student Paper Award, ICA Political Communication Division of International Communication Association, ICA Annual Conference Washington, DC	<i>May 2019</i>
CEU Master's Scholarship Covering tuition fees, housing and a monthly stipend of 50,000 HUF	<i>2016-2017</i>
Jaguar-Landrover Scholarship for Extracurricular Activities Higher School of Economics & Jaguar-Landrover	<i>Spring 2015</i>
HSE Merit-based Scholarship Higher School of Economics Covering 100% of Tuition Fees	<i>2012-2016</i>

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Urman, A., Katz S. (2020). **What they do in the shadows: examining the far-right networks on Telegram.** Information, Communication & Society. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2020.1803946>

Makhortykh, M., *Urman, A.*, Ulloa, R. (2020). **How search engines disseminate information about the coronavirus and why they can do better.** Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-017>

Urman, A. (2019). **Context matters: political polarization on Twitter from a comparative perspective.** Media, Culture and Society. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0163443719876541>

Urman, A. (2019). **News Consumption of Russian Vkontakte Users: Polarization and News Avoidance.** International Journal Of Communication, 13, 25. Retrieved from <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/11161>

Urman, A., Makhortykh, M. (Accepted, Forthcoming). **There can be only one truth: Ideological segregation and online news communities in Ukraine.** Global Media and Communication.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Makhortykh, M., *Urman, A.*, Ulloa, R. (Accepted, forthcoming). **Detecting race and gender bias in visual representation of AI on web search engines.** Second International Workshop on Algorithmic Bias in Search and Recommendation (BIAS@ECIR2021)

Urman, A., Makhortykh, M., Ulloa, R. (Accepted, forthcoming). **Auditing source diversity bias in video search results using virtual agents.** Third Workshop on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Ethics and Society on the Web (FATES). Companion proceedings of the 2021 WWW Conference.

TEACHING

Blame it on the internet? How the world wide web changed the world in three decades. Instructor, course designer; Spring Semester 2021, Undergraduate course, University of Bern.

Political Communication and the Internet. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2019, Undergraduate course, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.75 out of 5.

Machine Learning for Social Science Research. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2019, Undergraduate course, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.69 out of 5.

Introduction to R for Communication Research. Co-Instructor (with Dr. Ueli Reber, Dr. Tom Haeussler, Dr. Marlene Kammerer); Fall Semester 2019; 2020, Block course, University of Bern.

Social Media Analysis Using R. Instructor, course designer; Fall Semester 2018, Undergraduate course, University of Bern. Average teaching evaluation score: 4.2 out of 5.

OTHER EDUCATION

Network Science Project *Spring 2020*
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Network Modeling *Fall 2019*
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science *August 2019*
University of Bamberg, Germany

Introduction to Agent-Based Modeling Workshop *July 2019*
IC2S2 Conference, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Text Mining with R *June 2019*
University of Hohenheim, Germany

Linguistic Temporal Trajectory Analysis Workshop *December 2018*
EuroCSS Symposium, GESIS, Cologne, Germany

Winter School on Data Analysis with R *January 2018*
Moscow, Russia

Global Business Journalism Program *Fall 2017*
Tsinghua University, China

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Trolls, Bots and Everyone else: Online Disinformation Campaigns and 2019 Presidential Elections in Ukraine** *September 2019*
Urman A. Makhortykh M.
EuroCSS, ETH Zurich
- Online Tracking Tools for Research Purposes: A Critical Review of Existing Approaches** *July 2019*
Urman A., Christner C., Adam S., Maier M.
IC2S2, University of Amsterdam
- It's All About Context: Political Polarization on Twitter and Electoral Systems** *May 2019*
Urman A.
69th Annual ICA Conference, Washington, DC
- East is East and West is West: Ideological Segregation and Online News Communities in Ukraine** *May 2019*
Urman A. Makhortykh M.
69th Annual ICA Conference, Washington, DC
- Political Polarization on Twitter Put Into Context** *December 2018*
Poster
Urman A.
EuroCSS, GESIS, Cologne

SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

BA Thesis: "Persuasion in Online Debates - A Study of the r/changemyview Subreddit" - by Seraina Kull; Department of Social Sciences, University of Bern (2020)

SKILLS

Research methods: Network analysis and modeling, quantitative text analysis, machine learning, web scraping, (basic) data visualization
Programming: R, basic Python
Languages: Russian (native); English (fluent); German (Goethe-Zertifikat B1), Spanish (DELE B1) and French (pre-intermediate).

INVITED TALKS

Russian Protests of 2021 on TikTok and Telegram. February 2021, Invited Speaker at the Virtual Event "Navalny and the Kremlin: Politics and Protest in Russia" co-hosted by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the New York University Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, the US

(Un)reliable and (un)interpretable narrators? How search engines represent COVID-19 via text and image search results. December 2020, Guest Lecture together with Dr. Mykola Makhortykh, University of Passau, Germany

Computational Methods for Social Science Research. November 2020, Guest Lecture, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Auditing Algorithmic Content Curation Using Virtual Agents. November 2020, Guest Lecture together with Dr. Mykola Makhortykh and Dr. Roberto Ulloa, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany

REVIEWER EXPERIENCE AND OTHER SERVICE

I have peer-reviewed for the following journals: Information, Communication and Society; Social Media and Society; New Media and Society; Journal of Information Technology and Politics; HKS Misinformation review.

I am a Mittelbau Board (a body representing early- and mid-career researchers) member at the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Bern.

MEDIA COVERAGE

My research on far-right communities on Telegram has been covered by Wired UK, The Economist and Le Temps.
My article about political polarization on Twitter was referenced by FiveThirtyEight.