

# Meysam Alizadeh

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Digital Democracy Lab Department of Political Science University of Zurich Affolternstrasse 56, AFL-H-353 8050 Zürich, Switzerland	<a href="mailto:alizadeh@ipz.uzh.ch">alizadeh@ipz.uzh.ch</a>  <a href="http://www.malizad.github.io">www.malizad.github.io</a>  <a href="https://twitter.com/MeysamAlizadeh">@MeysamAlizadeh</a>  <a href="https://github.com/malizad">github.com/malizad</a>  +(1)443-255-8736 
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>University of Zurich</b> Senior Researcher, Digital Democracy Lab, Department of Political Science, Sep 2021 - Present, <i>Adviser: Fabrizio Gilardi</i>	
	<b>Harvard University</b> Data Science Fellow, Technology and Social Change Project (TaSC), Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, Sep 2020 - August 2021, <i>Adviser: Joan Donovan</i>	
	<b>Princeton University</b> Associate Research Scholar, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Oct 2019 - August 2020, <i>Adviser: Jacob Shapiro</i>	
	<b>Princeton University</b> Postdoctoral Research Associate, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Sep 2018 - Sep 2019, <i>Adviser: Jacob Shapiro</i>	
	<b>Indiana University Bloomington</b> Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research (CNetS), School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, Sep 2016 - Aug 2018, <i>Adviser: Santo Fortunato</i>	
EDUCATION	<b>George Mason University</b> Ph.D. in Computational Social Science, 2016 * Committee: Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (Chair), Andrew Crooks, Naoru Koizumi * Lab: Center for Social Complexity	
	<b>University of Pittsburgh</b> M.Sc. in Information Science, 2012 * <i>Adviser: Michael Lewis</i> * Affiliation with Agent-Robotics Technology Lab at Carnegie Mellon University	
	<b>Amirkabir University of Technology</b> M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, 2009 B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, 2007	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	<i>Substantive:</i> Content Moderation, Political Framing, Online Influence Operations, Misinformation, Social Contagion, Political Extremism, Intergroup Relations, Opinion Dynamics.  <i>Methodological:</i> Machine Learning, Text-as-data, Causal Inference, Network Science, Agent-based Modeling.	

- Meysam Alizadeh, Alicia Chen, Jacob Shapiro (2023) [“Russian Information Operations May Have Caused Hate Crimes”](#). Submitted to *Science Advances*.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Mael Kubli, Zeinab Samei, Shirin Dehghani, Juan Diego Bermeo, Maria Korobeynikova, & Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) [“Open-Source Large Language Models Outperform Crowd Workers and Approach ChatGPT in Text-Annotation Tasks”](#). arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.02179.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Emma Hoes, Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) [“Monetization of social media engagements increases the sharing of false \(and other\) news but penalization moderates it”](#). *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 13703.
- Fabrizio Gilardi, Meysam Alizadeh, Mael Kubli (2023) [“ChatGPT outperforms crowd-workers for text-annotation tasks”](#). *PNAS*, 120 (30), e2305016120.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Darya Zare, Mael Kubli, Sarvenaz Ebrahimi, Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) Comparing Methods of Creating a Random Sample of Twitter Users from a Country. Under Review in *Social Science Computer Review*.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Emma Hoes, Nahema Marchal, Mael Kubli, Jonathan Kaluser, and Fabrizio Gilardi (2022) [“Content Moderation as a Political Issue: The Twitter Discourse Around Trump’s Ban”](#), *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 2.
- Veronika Batzdorfer, Holger Steinmetz, Marco Biella, Meysam Alizadeh (2022) [“Conspiracy theories on Twitter: emerging motifs and temporal dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic”](#), *International journal of data science and analytics*, 13 , 315–333.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Jacob Shapiro, Cody Buntain, and Joshua Tucker (2020) [“Content-based features predict social media influence operations”](#), *Science Advances*, 6 (3), eabb5824.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Ingmar Weber, Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, Santo Fortunato, and Michael Macy (2019) [“Psychology and Morality of Political Extremists: Evidence from Twitter Language Analysis of Alt-Right and Antifa”](#), *EPJ Data Science*, 8:17.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, and Andrew Crooks (2017) [“Generating Spatial Social Networks”](#), *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*, 23(3), 362-390.
- Mohsen Gharakhani, Fatemeh Nasiri, and Maysam Alizadeh (2016) [“A Utility Theory Approach for Insurance Pricing”](#), *Accounting*, 2(4), 151–160.
- Meysam Alizadeh and Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (2015) [“Activation Regimes in Opinion Dynamics: Analyzing Asynchronous Updating Schemes”](#). *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, 23 (1), 76–91.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, and Andrew Crooks (2015) [“The Effect of In-Group Favoritism on the Collective Behavior of Individuals’ Opinions”](#). *Advances in Complex Systems*, 18, 1550002.
- Meysam Alizadeh, Alin Coman, Michael Lewis, and Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (2014) [“Intergroup Conflict Escalation Leads to more Extremism”](#). *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, 17 (4), 4.

Meysam Alizadeh, Fariborz Jolai, Majid Aminnayeri, and Roy Rada (2012) “[Comparison of different input selection algorithms in neuro-fuzzy modeling](#)”. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 39(1), 1536–1544.

Meysam Alizadeh, Roy Rada, Fariborz Jolai, and Elnaz Fotoohi (2011) “[An Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy System for Stock Portfolio Analysis](#)”. *International Journal of Intelligent Systems*, 26 (2), 99–114.

Meysam Alizadeh, Mohsen Gharakhani, Elnaz Fotoohi, and Roy Rada (2011) “[Design and Analysis of Experiment in ANFIS Modelling for Stock Price Prediction](#)”. *International Journal of Industrial Engineering and Computation*, 2 (2), 409–418.

CONFERENCE  
PAPERS

Meysam Alizadeh and Jacob Shapiro (2023) “Few-Shot Information Operation Detection Using Active Learning Approach”. In Proceedings of the *16th International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling & Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation (SBP-BRiMS)*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, 20-22 September.

Meysam Alizadeh and Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (2014) “[Distributions of Opinion and Extremist Radicalization: Insights from Agent-Based Modeling](#)”. In Proceedings of the *6th International Conference on Social Informatics*, Barcelona, Spain, 10-13 November.

Meysam Alizadeh, Michael Lewis, M Hossein Fazel Zarandi, and Fariborz Joali (2011) “[Determining Significant Parameters in the Design of ANFIS](#)”. In Proceedings of the *0th North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society Annual Conference*, El Paso, TX, USA.

Meysam Alizadeh, Ehsan Safavieh, Elnaz Fotoohi, and Vahid Roshanaei (2009) “[Clustering based Fuzzy Particle Swarm Optimization](#)”. In Proceedings of the *28th North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society Annual Conference*, Cincinnati, OH, USA.

Meysam Alizadeh, Roy Rada, Akram Khaleghi, and Mir M. Seyed Esfahani (2009) “[Forecasting Exchange Rates: A Neuro-Fuzzy Approach](#)”. In Proceedings of the *International Fuzzy Systems Association World Congress*, Lisbon, Portugal.

BOOK  
CHAPTERS

M. Hossein Fazel Zarandi, Milad Avazbeigi, and Meysam Alizadeh (2012) “[A Neuro-Fuzzy Expert System Trained by Particle Swarm Optimization for Stock Price Prediction](#)”. In *Cross-Disciplinary Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition: Advancing Technologies*, (Eds.) Vijay Kumar Mago and Nitin Bhatia. Information Science Reference, IGI Global.

Meysam Alizadeh (2009) “[Facility Location in Supply Chain](#)”. In *Facility Location: Concepts, Models, Algorithms and Case Studies*, (Eds.) Reza Zanjirani Farahani and Masoud Hekmatfar. Physica-Verlag Heidelberg, Springer.

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

Meysam Alizadeh, Zeinab Samei, Mael Kubli, Fabrizio Gilardi. “The Effectiveness of Framing on the Diffusion of Political Content”.

Meysam Alizadeh, Mael Kubli, Fabrizio Gilardi. “Political Frames and How to Find them”.

Natalia Umanski, Mael Kubli, Meysam Alizadeh, Fabrizio Gilardi. “The Politics of Encryption: Framing Cryptocurrency on Reddit”.

Nahema Marchala, Emma Hoes, Jonathan Klüser, Felix Hamborg, Meysam Alizadeh, Maël Kubli, Christian Katzenbac. “Social media platforms are more likely to change their user policies following negative news coverage”.

Roland Adorjani, Jacob Shapiro, Meysam Alizadeh, and Alicia Chen (2021) Top-Down Management Leaves Detectable Patterns in Influence Operation Topic Choices.

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS  
(NON-ARCHIVAL)

Meysam Alizadeh, Alicia Chen, Jacob Shapiro (2023) “Russian Information Operations May Have Caused Hate Crimes”. *119th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition (APSA 2023)*, Los Angeles, California, USA, August 31 - September 3.

Meysam Alizadeh, Darya Zare, Zeinab Samei, Mael Kubli, Sarvenaz Ebrahimi, Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) “Comparing Methods of Creating a Random Sample of Twitter Users from a Country”. *119th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition (APSA 2023)*, Los Angeles, California, USA, August 31 - September 3.

Meysam Alizadeh, Zeinab Samei, Mael Kubli, Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) “The Effectiveness of Framing on the Diffusion of Political Content”. *119th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition (APSA 2023)*, Los Angeles, California, USA, August 31 - September 3.

Meysam Alizadeh, Darya Zare, Mael Kubli, Sarvenaz Ebrahimi, Fabrizio Gilardi (2023) “Comparing Methods of Creating a Random Sample of Twitter Users from a Country”. *The 9th Annual International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2 2023)*, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2023.

Meysam Alizadeh, Emma Hoes, Fabrizio Gilardi (2022) “Monetization of social media engagements increases the sharing of false (and other) news but penalization moderates it”. *118th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition (APSA 2022)*, Montreal, Canada, September 2022.

Meysam Alizadeh, Emma Hoes, Fabrizio Gilardi (2022) “Monetization of social media engagements increases the sharing of false (and other) news but penalization moderates it”. *12th European Political Science Association Annual Conference (EPSA 2022)*, Prague, Czech, June 2022.

Meysam Alizadeh, Jacob Shapiro, Cody Buntain, and Joshua Tucker (2019) “Identifying Foreign Influence Efforts’ Content on Social Media”. *European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science 2019: Polarization and Radicalization*, Zurich, Switzerland, September 2019.

Meysam Alizadeh, Ingmar Weber, Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, Santo Fortunato, and Michael Macy (2019) “Psychology and Morality of Political Extremists: Evidence from Twitter Language Analysis of Alt-Right and Antifa”. *European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science 2019: Polarization and Radicalization*, Zurich, Switzerland, September 2019.

Meysam Alizadeh, Jacob Shapiro, Cody Buntain, and Joshua Tucker (2019) “Identifying Foreign Influence Efforts’ Content on Social Media”. *2nd Annual Conference on Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS)*, Washington, DC, USA, August 2019.

Meysam Alizadeh, Santo Fortunato, Ingmar Weber, and Michael Macy (2018) “Social Contagion of Political Extremism”. *2018 International School and Conference on Network Science (NetSci 2018)*, Paris, France.

Meysam Alizadeh, Ingmar Weber, Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, Santo Fortunato, and Michael Macy (2017) “Psychological and personality profiles of political extremists”. *The 3rd Annual International Conference on Computational Social Science*, Cologne, Germany, 2017.

PATENT	Meysam Alizadeh and Jacob Shapiro (2022) “ <a href="#">System and method for machine learning based prediction of social media influence operations</a> ”, <i>U.S. Patent Application No. 17/639,052</i> .
FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS	<p>Presidential Scholar Fellowship, Full Scholarship for Doctoral Studies, George Mason University, 2013-2016.</p> <p>Summer Research Fellowship, ONR-Minerva Grant No. N00014130054 (PI: Claudio Cioffi-Revilla), 2015 and 2016.</p> <p>Full Graduate Research Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh, 2010-2012.</p> <p>Full Scholarship, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2009-2010.</p> <p>Amirkabir University of Technology Award for Exceptional Achievement, 2003.</p>
TEACHING	<p><i>Teaching Assistant</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall 2009: Department of Information Systems, University of Maryland Baltimore County.</li> </ul> <p><i>Instructor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2010: Department of Information Systems, University of Maryland Baltimore County.</li> </ul>
OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Visiting Scholar, Social Dynamics Laboratory, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, NY, USA, Jan 2015 - May 2015, <i>Adviser: Michael Macy</i>.</p> <p>Visiting Scholar, Social Computing Group, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar, Jul 2015, <i>Adviser: Ingmar Weber</i>.</p> <p>Research Assistant to Professor Claudio Cioffi-Revilla, Center for Social Complexity, Krasnow Institute for Advanced Studies (GMU), Summer 2015.</p> <p>Research Assistant to Professor Michael Lewis, School of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, 2010–2012.</p>
SKILLS	<p><i>Software</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced: Python, R, SPSS, Matlab, Gephi, Netlogo, ArcGIS, <math>\LaTeX</math></li> <li>• Intermediate: PySpark, VenSim, ORA</li> </ul> <p><i>Languages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farsi (native), English (fluent), Turkish (beginner), Arabic (beginner)</li> </ul>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP	<p><i>Referee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Advances</li> <li>• EPJ Data Science</li> <li>• Review of Economics and Statistics</li> <li>• Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory</li> <li>• Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation</li> <li>• Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and It’s Applications</li> <li>• Advances in Complex Systems</li> <li>• Expert Systems with Applications</li> <li>• Neural Computing and Applications</li> <li>• Social Networks Analysis and Mining</li> <li>• Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MIS-DOOM)</li> </ul>

*Conference Program Committee*

- Digital Democracy Workshop, Digital Society Initiative, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, October 28th & 29th, 2021.

*Member*

- International Society for Computational Social Science (ISCSS)
- American Political Science Association (APSA)
- The Network Science Society
- The Network for Computational Modeling for SocioEcological Science (CoMSES)
- Association for Psychological Science (APS)
- Peace Science Society

WRITINGS IN  
POPULAR MEDIA

Meysam Alizadeh, Cody Buntain, Jacob Shapiro, and Joshua Tucker, [“Are influence campaigns trolling your social media feeds?”](#), Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, Oct 2020.

MENTIONS IN  
MEDIA OUTLETS

France24, [“Twitter: all right under Elon Musk?”](#), May 25, 2023.

The Register, [“ChatGPT is coming for your jobs – the terrible ones, at least”](#), April 3, 2023.

New Scientist, [“ChatGPT outperforms humans at labelling some data for other AIs”](#), March 29, 2023.

VICE, [“ChatGPT Can Replace the Underpaid Workers Who Train AI, Researchers Say”](#), March 29, 2023.

BBC Digital Planet, [“Tracking the trolls”](#), July 29, 2020.

New Scientist, [“A weather forecast for fake news outbreaks on social media is coming”](#), July 29, 2020.

Bild Der Wissenschaft, [“KI-System erkennt Posts von Trollen und Bots”](#), July 27, 2020.

Deutschlandfunk Forschung Aktuell, [“Russland-Affäre: Algorithmus erkennt Trolle in staatlichem Auftrag”](#), July 23, 2020.

The Guardian, [“AI system detects posts by foreign ‘trolls’ on Facebook and Twitter”](#), July 22, 2020.

Newsweek, [“Chinese and Russian Trolls Trying to Influence 2020 Election Could Be Hunted with AI Tool”](#), July 22, 2020.

Inverse, [“Tracking Disinformation Using Digital Fingerprints”](#), July 22, 2020.

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