The 6th International Conference on Social Computing (ICSC 2025)

Dec. 12, 2025 – Dec. 13, 2025

Fudan University, Shanghai, China

https://icsc-conf.github.io/2025/

Host:
Fudan University

Executive Organizers:
College of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Fudan University
MOE Laboratory for National Development and Intelligent Governance, Fudan University
Fudan University Law School
College of Future Information Technology, Fudan University
Tsinghua University Press

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Shanghai Key Laboratory of Intelligent Information Processing
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Research Center for Social Intelligence, Fudan University

Launching Institutions:
Center for Social Network Research, Tsinghua University
Knowledge Laboratory, University of Chicago
Sino-German Institute of Social Computing, University of Göttingen

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- Yuwei Zhang, University of Cambridge, UK
- Zi-Ke Zhang, Zhejiang University, China
- Bo Zhao, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
- Yipeng Zhou, Macquarie University, Australia

Program:

(Registration opens from 8:30AM on Dec. 12, 2025)

Dec. 12, 2025 Morning
Moot Court (3rd Floor), Leo Koguan Law Building, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University
Moderator: Prof. Cong Li (Fudan University)

Time	Event
8:50-9:30	Opening Ceremony (Welcome Speech / Reports from ICSC / Group Photos)
9:30-9:55	Keynote: Prof. James Evans (University of Chicago)
9:55-10:20	Keynote: Prof. Xiaoming Fu (University of Goettingen)
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break & Posters
10:40-11:05	Keynote: Prof. Lei Guo (Fudan University)
11:05-11:30	Keynote: Prof. Ray Cao (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
11:30-13:30	Lunch (North Canteen, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University)

Dec. 12, 2025 Afternoon
Moot Court (3rd Floor), Leo Koguan Law Building, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University
Moderator: Dr. Yipeng Zhou (Macquarie University)

Time	Event
13:30-13:55	Keynote: Prof. Charles Rahal (University of Oxford)
13:55-14:20	Keynote: Prof. Roy Ka-Wei Lee (Singapore University of Technology and Design)
14:20-14:45	Keynote: Prof. Wenzhong Li (Nanjing University)
14:45-15:10	Keynote: Prof. Yupeng Li (Hong Kong Baptist University)
15:10-15:40	Coffee Break & Posters
15:40-16:05	Keynote: Prof. Muzhi Zhou (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
16:05-16:25	Best of JSC: Prof. Tony Tam and Xuanlong Qin (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
16:25-16:45	Best of JSC: Prof. Hu Yang (Central University of Finance and Economics)
16:45-17:05	Best of JSC: Prof. Weiwei Gu (Beijing University of Chemical Technology)
17:05-17:25	Best of JSC: Prof. John Martin (University of Chicago) (Online)
17:25-20:00	Banquet (3rd Floor, North Canteen, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University)

Dec. 13, 2025 Morning

Moot Court (3rd Floor), Leo Koguan Law Building, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University

Moderator: Prof. Charles Rahal (University of Oxford)

Time	Event
9:00-9:20	Best of JSC: Damon Centola (University of Pennsylvania) (Online)
9:20-9:45	Keynote: Prof. Daniel Romero (University of Michigan)
9:45-10:10	Keynote: Prof. Omar Alfandi (Zayed University)
10:10-10:35	Keynote: Prof. Yuling Sun (Fudan University)
10:35-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-11:10	Keynote: Prof. Hong Huang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)
11:10-11:35	Keynote: Prof. Jar-Der Luo (Tsinghua University)
11:35-12:00	Keynote: Prof. Huilian Sophie Qiu (Northwestern University)
12:00-12:10	ICSC & JSC Award Ceremony
12:10-13:30	Lunch (North Canteen, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University)

Dec. 13, 2025 Afternoon

Interdisciplinary Building No. 2, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University

Time	Location	Event
13:30-17:00	Room A2003	ICSC'25 Paper Presentation – Track #1 (Chair: Prof. Feng Liu)
	Room A3009	ICSC'25 Paper Presentation – Track #2 (Chair: Prof. Shuai Xu)
	Room A4009	ICSC'25 Paper Presentation – Track #3 (Chair: Prof. Mengying Zhou)
17:00-19:30	Buffet Dinner (3rd floor, North Canteen, Jiangwan Campus, Fudan University)	

For paper presentation, each paper has 8 minutes for oral presentation, and 5 minutes for Q/A.

ICSC'25 Paper Presentation Track #1
(Chair: Prof. Feng Liu, Shanghai Jiaotong University)

The Emergence of Shared Norms in Decentralized Networks: A Social Computing Model of Lexical Coordination
Fengrui Liu (East China Normal University); Ruiyang Huang (Southeast University); ZhangJian'an (Peking University); RuoHan Jiang (Tongji University); Qingyang Li (Xi'an Jiaotong University); Min Zhang (East China Normal University)

Computational Analysis of Urban Crime Concentration: Insights from Legal Big Data in China
Yiwei Xia, Zijun Liu (Southwestern University of Finance and Economic)

A Multi-factor Deep Hybrid Model for Road risk Prediction
Yachao Yuan, Zixiang Peng, Xiangting Zhang, and Zhen Yu (Soochow University)

Introducing RobustiPy: An efficient next generation multiversal library with model selection, averaging, resampling, and explainable AI
Daniel Valdenegro Ibarra, Jiani Yan, Duiyi Dai, and Charles Rahal (University of Oxford)

Preserving Topological Information for Social Network Condensation via Knowledge Distillation
Zhiyuan Yu, Shijian Xiao, Yujiang Li, Mingkai Lin, and Wenzhong Li (Nanjing University)

Accurate Source Localization via Joint Learning of Infection States and Diffusion Patterns
Jiahui Li, Yujie Long, Mingqi Kong, Hao Mei, Yang Xu (Fudan University)

When AI Joins the Thread: A Computational Analysis of Gendered Human-AI Interactions on Weibo
Chenxi Li (University of Oxford); Zeqiang Wang (NYU Shanghai / University of Surrey); Yujia Wang (NYU Shanghai); Jon Johnson (University College London); Suparna De (University of Surrey); Zixi Chen (NYU Shanghai)

Cultural Bias in Minority Language LLMs
Rende Li, Sumin Feng (University of Shanghai for Science and Technology); Tianyao Tang, Jintai Tian (Shanghai Xijin Information Technology Co., Ltd.)

SHIELD-SLM: A Dual-Format and Interval-Scored Framework for Small Language Model Evaluation
Xianwang Dai, Xingshen Song (National University of Defense Technology); Jinsheng Deng (Academy of Military Science)

ICSC'25 Paper Presentation Track #2
(Chair: Prof. Shuai Xu, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

IPMMO: Unifying Benchmarks and Models for Propagation Optimization
Gang Gu, Wenming Zuo (South China University of Technology); Xiao-Kun Wu (Renmin University of China); Tian-Fang Zhao (Jinan University); Wei-Neng Chen (South China University of Technology)

Discovering Prevalent Chronic Disease Profiles with Advanced Clustering Methods
Jiani Yan (University of Oxford / Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)

What Makes Writing Work? Linguistic Features of Accepted vs. Rejected ICLR Submissions
Zhenghao Vermous Kang, Huilian Sophie Qiu, Wenjing Huang, Brian Uzzi (Northwestern University)

Young AI Scientists in the New AI Age: Increasingly Early and Growing Dominance of Career Novelty in Their Research Trajectories
Hui Zou, Jingjing Qu, Pinlong Cai (Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory); Xiaoming Fu (University of Goettingen)

Learning User–Resource Interactions for Dynamic Access Control based on Graph–Transformer Fusion
Mingshan You, Jiao Yin, Yong-Feng Ge (Victoria University); Kate Wang (RMIT University); Hua Wang (Victoria University)

CTP2KL: Collaborative Trajectory Protection against Knowing-and-Learning Attacks in Multiple Location-based Services
Zhuo Ma (Jiangsu Police Institute); Shuai Xu (Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics); Jiuxin Cao, Bo Liu (Southeast University)

Energy-Efficient Asynchronous Federated Learning via Model Compression for Mobile Social Computing
Dewei Ning, Yong-Feng Ge, Hua Wang (Victoria University); Changjun Zhou (Zhejiang Normal University)

Balancing Privacy and Security: An Ethical Analysis of AI-Driven Surveillance in the UAE, USA, and UK
Belal Alghafri and Abdallah Tubaishat (Zayed University)

Effective Bird Nest Detection based on Improved YOLOv5 with Transformer Prediction Heads
Yao Cui, Xin Huang, Xin Zhang, Dongchen Liu (State Key Laboratory of Smart Grid Operation and Control / State Grid Electric Power Research Institute (NARI Group Corporation))

BT-CNN: A Binary Tree-Convolutional Neural Network for Influential Node Identification in

Complex Networks

Xiaonan Ni, Guangyuan Mei, Xuying Li, Chuang Liu, Xiu-Xiu Zhan (Hangzhou Normal University)

ICSC'25 Paper Presentation Track #3
(Chair: Prof. Mengying Zhou, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics)

The Global Ecology of Chinese Language Learning on TikTok: Insights from 75,188 Videos
Hui Chen (Beijing Foreign Studies University); Zhengze Li (University of Goettingen); Xue Wang, Limi Zhou (Beijing Foreign Studies University); Xiaoming Fu (University of Goettingen)

Digitalization Broadens Protest Occupational Breath but Narrows Social Status Diversity
Xin Gao (Xiamen University); Jun Liu (University of Copenhagen)

Geographic Patterns in Public Response to China's National Childcare Subsidy: A Large-Scale Social Media Analysis
Pu Zhang (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)); Zheng Wei (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology / University of Chicago); Muzhi Zhou (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)); James Evans (University of Chicago); Pan Hui (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))

Agentic RL for Adaptive Diplomacy: Integrating Dynamic Knowledge Representation in Multi-Level Sino-US Simulations
Wuqiong Zheng (Donghua University); Yichen Huang (East China University of Political Science and Law); Yiwen Zhao (Wuhan University of Technology); Qiqi Gao (Fudan University)

Toward Equitable Access: Leveraging Crowdsourced Reviews to Investigate Public Perceptions of Health Resource Accessibility
Zhaoqian Xue (University of Pennsylvania); Guanhong Liu (Renmin University of China); Chong Zhang (University of Liverpool); Kai Wei (University of Michigan); Qingcheng Zeng (Northwestern University); Songhua Hu (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); Wenyue Hua (University of California, Santa Barbara); Lizhou Fan (Harvard Medical School); Yongfeng Zhang (Rutgers University); Lingyao Li (University of South Florida)

TempoTriads: Streaming Estimation of Temporal Triadic Motifs for Social-Computing Streams
Aleksandar Stanković (University of Novi Sad); Haoran Du (Fudan University)

Robotic Inspector: A Non-Intrusive Mechanism for Proving Algorithmic Fairness
Yanxi Lin (Tsinghua University); Hang Gao (DiDi); Dongmei Liu (RIOH High Science and Technology Group); Ming Lu, Zhe Xu, Jiecheng Guo (DiDi); Guoliang Qiao (RIOH High Science and Technology Group); Guobin Wu (DiDi); Yang Yu (China University of Petroleum (Beijing)); Ruihuan Du (DiDi)

Architectural Color as Social Calculus: A Digital Humanities Inquiry into Shanghai Concessions
Haocheng Sheng, Shuang Li (Fudan University)

Beyond Anthropomorphism: Revealing the Value Structures of Large Language Models
Pablo Biedma (Tsinghua University); Xiaoyuan Yi (Microsoft Research Asia); Linus Huang

(Chinese University of Hong Kong); Maosong Sun (Tsinghua University); Xing Xie (Microsoft Research Asia)

Conference WeChat Group

Photo Live Streaming

Information of the Keynote Speakers:

Speaker: Prof. James Evans (University of Chicago, USA)

Title: Information Laundering: How Information is Dirtied and Cleaned Across Digital, Policy, and AI Ecosystems

Abstract: Information integrity is threatened by distortion across institutional, social, and artificial intelligence systems. Analyzing 1.2 million citations across three U.S. presidential administrations, we find ideological think tanks are nearly twice as likely to misinterpret science as governments, with distortions strategically aligned with policy positions. Government documents disproportionately cite these misinterpretations, revealing "information laundering" through indirect citation chains. On social media, individual fact-checking causes users to retreat into information bubbles, though collective verification systems like Community Notes mitigate these effects through deliberative correction. AI introduces new complications. In experiments with 935 U.S. voters, roughly 20% of Trump supporters reduced their support after brief LLM interactions—despite no persuasion attempts—revealing hidden biases in ostensibly neutral systems. Yes even better neutrality in AI may not be the solution: in a trial with 2,500 participants, partisan AI assistants actually improved misinformation evaluation and reduced evaluative bias compared to neutral AI, particularly when biases opposed users' own views. This principle of productive diversity appears immanent to AI reasoning itself—enhanced reasoning in models like DeepSeek-r1 emerges from simulating multi-agent debate among diverse internal perspectives. Together, these findings suggest epistemic resilience comes not from singular authoritative voices but from architectures that structure productive conflict among competing perspectives.

Bio: James Evans is the Max Palevsky Professor of Sociology and Data Science, Director of Knowledge Lab and Founding Faculty Co-Director of Chicago Center Computational Social Science at the University of Chicago, the Santa Fe Institute, and Google. Evans' research uses large-scale data, machine learning and generative models to understand how collectives of humans and machines think and what they (can) know. This involves inquiry into the emergence of ideas, shared patterns of reasoning, and processes of attention, communication, agreement, and certainty. Thinking and knowing collectives like science, the Web, and civilization as a whole involve complex networks of diverse human and machine intelligences, collaborating and competing to achieve overlapping aims. Evans' work connects the interaction of these agents with the knowledge they produce and its value for themselves and the system. His work is supported by numerous federal agencies (NSF, NIH, DOD), foundations and philanthropies, has been published in Nature,

Science, PNAS, and top social and computer science outlets, and has been covered by global news outlets from the Economist, the Atlantic, and the New York Times to Le Monde, El Pais, and Die Zeit.

Speaker: Prof. Xiaoming Fu (University of Goettingen, Germany)

Title: Social Mobility Across Empires: A Big Data–Driven Comparison of the Tang Dynasty, the Arab Empire, and Byzantium (618–907 CE)

Abstract: Social mobility reflects institutional openness and societal resilience. This study compares elite mobility across three major civilizations during 618–907 CE: the Tang Dynasty (China), the Arab Empire (Umayyad and early Abbasid periods), and the Byzantine Empire. Using LLM-assisted extraction from digitized historical sources, we reconstruct elite social networks and apply network analysis, intergenerational mobility metrics, and structural path modeling to identify pathways to officialdom. Findings reveal distinct mechanisms: the Tang's meritocratic Keju system enabled significant upward mobility from non-elite backgrounds, fostering broader elite recruitment. The Arab Empire relied on military service, religious scholarship, and patronage, with moderate mobility and strong network cohesion. Byzantium prioritized aristocratic lineage and military service, resulting in the most closed elite networks. The Tang's meritocratic innovation stands out as a structural advantage contributing to administrative cohesion and stability. This study demonstrates how large-scale historical data and network modeling uncover deep structural patterns in pre-modern societies, revealing how institutional design, language, and empire shape power dynamics across time and space.

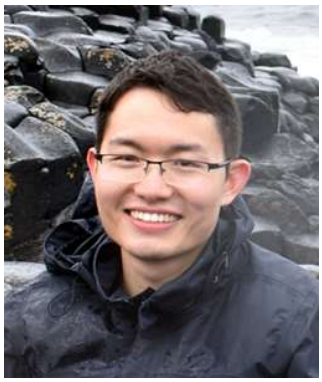
Bio: Prof. Xiaoming Fu received his Ph.D. in computer science from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China in 2000. He was then a research staff at the Technical University Berlin until joining the University of Göttingen, Germany in 2002 as assistant professor, where he became a full professor of computer science and head of the Computer Networks Group in 2007. He spent research visits at universities of Cambridge, Columbia, UCLA, Tsinghua, Nanjing, Uppsala, UPMC, and Sydney universities, and has been a founding principal scientist of Fudan's Research Center for Social Intelligence since 2023. Prof. Fu's research interests include network architectures, protocols, and applications. He is an IEEE Fellow, an ACM Distinguished Member, a member of Academia Europaea and acatech – German National Academy of Science and Engineering, and is currently an associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management and co-editor-in-chief of ACM Transactions on Social Computing.

Speaker: Prof. Lei Guo (Fudan University, China)

Title: AI and the Future of News Effects Research

Abstract: The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought new momentum to news effects research. As a research tool, AI enables large-scale data analysis and drives methodological innovation. As a research subject, AI is reshaping the news environment and generating new questions about media influence. This presentation discusses how AI—both as method and phenomenon—advances and challenges the study of news effects, with particular attention to multimodal communication and algorithmic curation.

Bio: Lei Guo is a Professor of Communication at the School of Journalism, Fudan University. Her primary research areas include media effects, computational communication methods, and international information flows. She currently serves as Associate Editor for the international peer-reviewed journals Digital Journalism and Communication and Change.



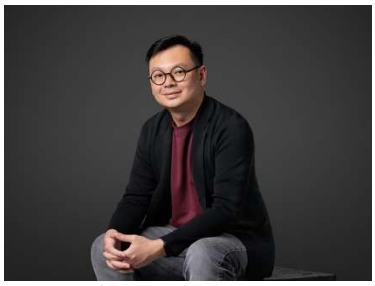
Speaker: Prof. Rui Cao (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
Title: Mapping the Unseen: GeoAI-Empowered Spatial Sensing and Analytics for Urban Informal Settlements in China
Abstract: Urban villages, informal settlements embedded within China's rapidly expanding cities, pose significant challenges for sustainable urban development. Despite their socio-spatial importance, the lack of reliable geospatial data continues to hinder evidence-based governance and effective upgrading strategies. This talk will begin with a systematic overview of the current progress in urban village mapping across China, identifying key challenges and outlining future research directions. It will then introduce our preliminary research efforts aimed at addressing these challenges. These efforts include methodological innovations for delineating geospatial boundaries and extracting fine-grained building and road infrastructure data, thereby establishing a foundational geospatial data infrastructure to support urban village analytics. Building on this foundation, the talk will also present our work on population profiling, dynamic land use change analysis, livability assessments, and disaster response within urban village contexts. Our research not only enhances the understanding and governance of urban villages in China but also contributes valuable insights to the global discourse on informal settlement mapping and supports progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Bio: Dr. Rui Cao is an Assistant Professor at the Thrust of Urban Governance and Design, Society Hub, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). Before joining HKUST(GZ), he worked at the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics and the Smart Cities Research Institute, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He received his PhD degree from The University of Nottingham and his MEng and BEng Degrees from Wuhan University. He is specialized in GIScience and particularly interested in GeoAI and Urban Informatics, with an ultimate goal of contributing to sustainable and human-centered smart cities for the benefit of society.
Personal website: https://caorui.space/

Speaker: Prof. Charles Rahal (University of Oxford, UK)

Title: Introducing RobustiPy: An efficient next generation multiversal library with model selection, averaging, resampling, and explainable AI"

Abstract: Scientific inference is often undermined by the vast but rarely explored 'multiverse' of defensible modelling choices, which can generate results as variable as the phenomena under study. We introduce RobustiPy, an open-source Python library that systematizes multiverse analysis and model-uncertainty quantification at scale. RobustiPy unifies bootstrap-based inference, combinatorial specification search, model selection and averaging, joint-inference routines, and explainable AI methods within a modular, reproducible framework. Beyond exhaustive specification curves, it supports rigorous out-of-sample validation and quantifies the marginal contribution of each covariate. We demonstrate its utility across five simulation designs and ten empirical and high profile replications spanning economics, sociology, psychology, and medicine, including a re-analysis of widely cited findings with documented discrepancies. Benchmarking on ~672 million simulated regressions shows that RobustiPy delivers state-of-the-art computational efficiency while expanding transparency in empirical research. By standardizing and accelerating methods for robustness, RobustiPy transforms how researchers interrogate sensitivity across the analytical multiverse, offering a practical foundation for more reproducible and interpretable computational science.

Bio: Charles is an Associate Professor in Data Science and Informatics at the University of Oxford, and a former British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow. He's also an Honorary Visiting Professor at Peking University (2025-2030), and maintains various open and interactive online projects, such as the GWAS Diversity Monitor and RobustiPy. He is also active in the Open Science movement, and acts as an Investigator on various projects across the University. He's consulted on a Methods Advisory Group for the Office for National Statistics, is a Research Affiliate at the Public Knowledge Project, and is both an Associate Member at Nuffield College and a Researcher at the Gradel Institute, New College. He acts as an Associate Editor-In-Chief at the Journal of Social Computing, and an Associate Editor at ACM Transactions on Social Computing, as well as helping to moderate SocArXiv. He also convenes the ‘Metrics and Models’ lab, which has an open seminar series component to it; all are welcome to attend.



Speaker: Prof. Roy Ka-Wei Lee (Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore)
Title: AI for Safer Online Spaces: Combating Hate and Harm in the Digital World
Abstract: In an era where artificial intelligence shapes how we communicate, connect, and consume information, the need for trustworthy, culturally sensitive, and socially aware AI systems has never been more urgent. In this talk, I will present my research program at the intersection of Natural Language Processing (NLP), multimodal AI, and computational social science. I will begin by introducing frameworks and datasets developed to detect and explain online hate speech and misinformation across languages and modalities, including text, images, and video. The talk concludes with a discussion on future research directions. Taken together, these works aim to bridge technical innovation with real-world impact, advancing the development of AI systems that are not only intelligent but also contextually grounded and socially responsible.
Bio: Roy Ka-Wei Lee is an Assistant Professor, Cheng Tsang Man Early Career Chair Professor, and Associate Head (Research) of the Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) Pillar at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). His research sits at the intersection of machine learning, computational social science, social computing, and natural language processing, with a focus on understanding user behavior across multiple social networks and advancing online trust & safety. Roy leads the Social AI Studio, a dedicated research group developing cutting-edge social AI systems. His work has made significant contributions to detecting online hate speech, misinformation, and other online harms, earning him appointment as Adjunct Senior Scientist at the Centre for Advanced Technologies in Online Safety (CATOS), Singapore. Beyond academia, he is a Smart Nation Fellow at GovTech, collaborating with public agencies to enhance the safe deployment of AI systems across government. He is also an IEEE and ACM Senior Member.

Speaker: Prof. Wenzhong Li (Nanjing University, China)

Title: Toward Fair and Effective Influence Maximization in Large-Scale Social Networks

Abstract: Influence maximization is the task of selecting a small set of seed users to trigger the largest possible cascade of influence, which has long been a cornerstone of social network analysis with applications ranging from viral marketing to public health campaigns. However, conventional algorithms often overlook a critical dimension: fairness. These methods can disproportionately amplify influence within certain demographic or attribute-based groups while marginalizing others, thereby reinforcing societal biases and skewing public discourse. In this talk, I present our work on fair influence maximization, which explicitly balances the dual objectives of maximizing overall influence and ensuring equitable influence spread across diverse population groups. To tackle this challenge in large-scale networks, we introduce Attribute-Based Reverse Influence Sampling—a novel framework that leverages an attribute-aware hypergraph representation to accurately estimate group-specific influence with theoretical guarantees. Built atop reverse influence sampling, we develop an efficient node selection strategy, which uses a refined two-phase selection mechanism to achieve a superior trade-off between total influence coverage and group fairness. Through extensive experiments on six real-world social networks, we demonstrate that our methods significantly outperform existing state-of-the-art approaches, offering not only higher efficiency but also more equitable outcomes.

Bio: Wenzhong Li receives his B.S. and Ph.D degree from Nanjing University, China, both in computer science. He was an Alexander von Humboldt Scholar Fellow in University of Goettingen, Germany. He is now a professor in the Department of Computer Science, Nanjing University. Dr. Li's research interests include distributed computing, big data mining and social networks. He has published over 150 peer-review papers at international conferences and journals, which include INFOCOM, UBICOMP, ACM TheWebConf, AAAI, IJCAI, ACM Multimedia, CVPR, IEEE Communications Magazine, IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking (ToN), IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (JSAC), IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE), IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS), etc. He served as the Associate Editor of the Journal of Social Computing (JSC), and the guest editors of several international journals. He was the TPC Chair of several international conferences including IEEE NoF 2023, ICNP 2022, MobiArch 2013, ect. He was the TPC member of several international conferences and the reviewer of many journals. He is the principle investigator of five fundings from NSFC, and the co-principle investigator of a China-Europe international research staff exchange program. Dr. Li is a member of IEEE, ACM, and China Computer Federation (CCF). He

was also the winner of the Best Paper Award of KSEM 2023, APNet 2018, and ICC 2009. He was featured on Elsevier's Most Cited Chinese Researchers in 2022-2024.

Speaker: Prof. Yupeng Li (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Title: Fostering Digital Trust: Combating Misinformation with Societal AI

Abstract: In an era where digital trust is both a cornerstone of progress and a fragile commodity, this talk confronts critical challenges shaping our technological landscape: the rampant spread of human- or AI-generated misinformation and the vulnerability of learning systems to evolving threats. Our world increasingly suffers from the unrestrained spread of information untrustworthiness in many areas. The talk will delve into the battle against misinformation. We will address the robustness of untrustworthy information debunking and introduce a carefully constructed benchmark for information untrustworthiness studies. The dissemination of misinformation has propelled fact-checking to the forefront of academic research and societal concerns. This talk will also discuss challenges in information trustworthiness in the era of large language models. We hope our ongoing research on trustworthiness of information and AI can forge a safer, more resilient digital future and help make our world a better one.

Bio: Dr. Yupeng Li is a faculty member in the Department of Interactive Media at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). He holds a PhD in Computer Science from The University of Hong Kong and completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Toronto. As the Director of the AI and Social Good Lab at the AI Media Centre, Dr. Li leads innovative research in Societal AI, Trustworthy LLMs, and Human-AI Collaboration Paradigms. His passion for interdisciplinary research fuels his application of advanced AI and algorithmic techniques to tackle cutting-edge challenges. His work has been accepted for publication or oral presentation in prestigious venues, including The ACM Web Conference, INFOCOM, ICDCS, ICDM, ICA, Cell Patterns, JSAC, ToN, TMC and etc. Dr. Li serves as the Information Director for the ACM Transactions on Social Computing and has been TPC Co-Chair for an ICDCS Research Track in 2024. He actively contributes to technical committees of leading conferences in social computing, AI and networking and has been recognized as a Distinguished TPC Member of IEEE INFOCOM in 2022 and 2024. Dr. Li's contributions have earned him competitive research funding from national, provincial, municipal, and industry sources, including NSFC, RGC, GDSTC, and CCF Research Fund. Dr. Li was awarded Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA) StarTrack Scholar, Dean's Excellence Award, and HKBU President's Award for Outstanding Performance (Research) in 2025. Check official page for more details: https://imd.hkbu.edu.hk/faculty-member/Prof-Yupeng-LI.html.

Speaker: Prof. Muzhi Zhou (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
Title: From Social Surveys to Silicon Samples: Pitfalls and Patterns
Abstract: Recent discussions surrounding Large Language Models (LLMs) suggest that these models have the capability to mimic human responses in social surveys and produce reliable predictions, similar to those seen in political polls. However, the findings to date have been highly inconsistent, leaving us uncertain about the characteristics of the populations represented in the data generated by LLMs. More importantly, social surveys do not just focus on point estimates; they also provide the distribution of responses. This distribution is crucial for group comparisons and also serves as an important indicator of income inequality and social consensus. In our study, we compare those point estimates, and their distributions based on data from the United States and China population censuses, attitudinal social surveys, and several LLMs. Our findings reveal some consistent in point estimates but significant differences in the distributional patterns and variances, with a lack of heterogeneities across groups. The illusion of accuracy in point estimates may blind us about the concerning implications of relying on these biased and deterministic outputs from LLMs when making inferences about real-world populations.
Bio: Dr. Muzhi Zhou is an Assistant Professor in the Urban Governance and Design Thrust at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). Previously, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, supported by the European Research Council. She has expertise in the field of gender and family, life course and digital inequality. Her recent work focuses on how social inequalities are reflected in the digital/virtual society. Her work has been published in top journals such as Gender & Society, Population and Development Review, Journal of Marriage and Family, and Chinese Sociological Review.

Speaker: Prof. Daniel Romero (University of Michigan, USA)

Title: Networks, Identity, and the Diffusion of Cultural Innovation

Abstract: Cultural innovations (e.g., music, beliefs, language) rarely diffuse uniformly across a population. Instead, they spread along distinctive geographic, social, and demographic lines. These patterns are often attributed to one of two factors: (i) adoption motivated by signaling demographic identity (an identity effect), or (ii) adoption driven by homophilous networks (i.e., a network effect). I show that both forces jointly shape how innovations diffuse. This talk synthesizes findings from two complementary studies of lexical and hashtag diffusion across the United States.

First, using an agent-based model validated against a large corpus of emerging words on Twitter, we uncover how networks and identity act through distinct diffusion mechanisms: network principally drives spread among urban counties via weak-tie diffusion, while identity plays a disproportionate role in transmission among rural counties via strong-tie diffusion. Nationwide diffusion requires the interaction of both.

Second, I extend this framework to hashtag cascades, drawing on a dataset of over 1,300 culturally salient hashtags and a ten-factor evaluation suite for comparing empirical and simulated cascades. Here, too, a combined network+identity model best captures overall diffusion, but network-only and identity-only models excel on specific cascade dimensions.

Together, our results show that effective models must incorporate networks, identity, and other social factors to accurately capture the diffusion of cultural innovations.

Bio: Daniel Romero is an Associate Professor of Information, Complex Systems, and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. at the Cornell University Center for Applied Mathematics (CAM) in 2012 and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO) from 2012 to 2014. His main research interest is the empirical and theoretical analysis of Social and Information Networks, with a particular interest in understanding the mechanisms involved in network evolution, information diffusion, and interactions among people on the Web and in complex organizations.

Speaker: Omar Alfandi (Zayed University, UAE)
Title: Technology's Impact on Education: Social Computing, Inclusion, and the Future of Learning
Bio: Omar Alfandi is the Dean and Professor at the College of Technological Innovation at Zayed University. He holds a Doctoral degree in Computer Science from the Georg-August-University of Goettingen – Germany in 2009. He received his M.Sc. degree in Telecommunication Engineering in 2005 from the University of Technology Kaiserslautern – Germany. Between 2009 and 2011, he enjoyed a Post-doctoral Fellowship at Telematics Research Group and he founded a Research and Education Sensor Lab where he is currently as Lab Advisor. Before that he carried his Doctoral Research as part of an Industry, Academia and Research centers collaboration European Union (EU) project. Dr. Alfandi was working package leader of EU DAIDALOS II in the 6th framework project. He published numerous articles on Authentication Framework for 4G Communication Systems, Future Internet and Trust and Reputation Systems in Mobile ad hoc and Sensor Networks. He is the co-founder and co-director of the SMART (Sensors and Mobile Applications Research and Education) Lab at CTI. His current research activities are directed towards Internet of Things (IoT), Security in Next Generation Networks, Smart Technologies, Inclusive Education.

Speaker: Prof. Yuling Sun (Fudan University, China)

Title: The (Im)Possibility of Data-Driven Collaborative Healthcare for Aging in Place

Abstract: The arrival of aging boom on a worldwide scale and the spread of chronic diseases have created a massive global demand for elder care. Recently, using data-driven technologies to support health and caregiving needs of older adults has drawn significant attention, due to the tremendous promise in, for instance, reducing caregiving burden, improving care quality, controlling soaring cost, etc. However, aging and caregiving for olderadults are highly complex, situated, and collaborative process, encompassing the complexity of the disease, environmental factors, and caregiving system. These complexities bring challenges to the practical user acceptance and system uptake of data-driven technologies. In this talk, I will present a series of technological evaluation studies focused on active aging and collaborative care for the elderly. Drawing on a human-centered perspective, I will dissect the gap between practical caregiving for older adults and technology-mediated healthcare, and draw on these results to discuss implications for designing future technologies for care and interventions.

Bio: Yuling Sun is a research Professor at Fudan University, Shanghai China. She earned her Ph.D. at Fudan University, with research lying at Human-computer/AI Interaction (HCI/HAI), Computer Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW), Social Computing. Her current work primarily focuses on issues of healthcare and aging, education, rural revitalization, and how ICTs and AI technologies can be better employed to support these issues. As AI technologies are increasingly woven into the fabric of everyday lives, she is dedicated to deeply analyze and understand the needs of different roles in society, as well as the roles and impacts of intelligent technologies in people's daily lives, by integrating concepts from social science, psychology, and computer science. Based on this analysis, she aims to engage in human-centered intelligent technology design, guiding the development of more friendly, human-centric, accountable and fair intelligent ecosystem, and promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and intelligent systems.

Speaker: Hong Huang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China)

Title: GraphInstruct: Empowering Large Language Models with Graph Understanding and Reasoning Capability

Abstract: Improving the general capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs) is an active research topic. As a common data structure in many real-world domains, understanding graph data is a crucial part of advancing general intelligence. To this end, we propose a dynamic benchmark named GraphInstruct in this paper, which comprehensively includes 21 classical graph reasoning tasks, providing diverse graph generation pipelines and detailed intermediate reasoning steps for each sample. Based on GraphInstruct, we develop GraphSolver via efficient instruction tuning, which demonstrates prominent graph understanding capability compared to other open-sourced LLMs. To further endow LLMs with multi-step graph reasoning capability, we propose a label-mask training strategy and build GraphSolver+, which leverages masked supervision on intermediate reasoning tokens to emphasize crucial node-identification signals. As one of the pioneering efforts to enhance the graph understanding and reasoning abilities of LLMs, extensive experiments have demonstrated the superiority of GraphSolver and GraphSolver+ over other LLMs.

Bio: Hong Huang is an Associate Professor in Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. She received her PhD in Computer Science from University of Goettingen, Germany in 2016, and her M.E. degree in Electronic Engineering from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China in 2012. Her research interests lie in social network analysis, data mining and knowledge graph.

Speaker: Prof. Jar-Der Luo (Tsinghua University, China)

Title: Leadership as Network Architect: How Strategic Differentiation Unlocks Creativity in Complex Multiteam Systems

Abstract: Organizations increasingly rely on multiteam systems (MTSs) that simultaneously demand coordination for cohesive execution and creative variance for innovation. While prior research has highlighted the emergence of distributed leadership and network brokerage, little is known about how formal leaders actively design leadership network architectures to navigate these competing demands. Integrating functional leadership theory, distributed leadership, brokerage, network agency, and dynamic network perspectives, we develop a theory of strategic network differentiation. We theorize that formal leaders purposefully configure the relational positioning of informal leaders across four distinct structural configurations. In particular, we propose that structurally independent informal leaders, supported by boundary-spanning brokers embedded within the formal leadership core, enable organizations to maintain access to diverse knowledge domains while preserving system-level coordination. Leveraging an extensive multi-source data from alpha company ,6483employees and 2003 project teams across 138 business divisions in a leading Chinese high-technology firm over four years (2014-2017), our model advances theory by reframing leadership as intentional network architecture, extending distributed leadership and brokerage research into formal design domains, and illuminating how differentiated leadership networks enable organizations to sustain creativity within complex multiteam environments.

Bio: Luo, Jar-Der is a Joint Appointed Professor, Social Science School and Public Administration School, Tsinghua University (Beijing), Chief Editor, Journal of Social Computing, and PI, Tsinghua U. Computational Social Sciences & National Governance Lab, Social Sec. He earned his Ph.D degree in Sociology Dept. of State U. of New York at Stony Brook. He researches numerous topics in social network studies, including social capital, trust, social network in big data, network dynamics, emergence of collective intelligence, self-organization process and Chinese indigenous management researches, such as guanxi, guanxi circle, favor exchange, Yin and Yang, and dynamic balance theory.

Speaker: Huilian Sophie Qiu (Northwestern University, USA)

Title: The Role of Promotional Language in Communicating Innovation

Abstract: As global competition in science and technology intensifies, effectively communicating innovative ideas has become increasingly crucial for scientists and innovators. This talk draws on a large-scale analysis of full grant applications—both funded and unfunded—from three major funding agencies: the NIH, NSF, and the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The study reveals a significant relationship between the use of promotional language and outcomes such as funding success, project innovativeness, and downstream scientific impact. We find that a one-percentage-point increase in promotional word usage is associated with substantial gains in both award probability and citation influence. Computational experiments further demonstrate that promotional wording measurably enhances readers' positive perceptions of proposed projects.

Bio: Dr. Huilian Sophie Qiu is a Research Assistant Professor at the Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO) at Northwestern University. Her work spans natural language processing, computational social science, and software engineering. She received her Ph.D. in Societal Computing from Carnegie Mellon University and previously studied computer science and East Asian studies at Princeton University and Brown University. Grounded in empirical data, her research examines how scientific language shapes funding outcomes, open-source collaboration, and technological innovation. Her work has been published in leading journals such as PNAS and JAMA Network Open, and she is a recipient of the Distinguished Paper Award at the ICSE conference.

ICSC 2025