

Galen Weld

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Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Allen School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA expected June 2025
Advised by Professor Tim Althoff

M.S. in Computer Science, Allen School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA June 2020

B.A. in Computer Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY May 2018

Professional & Research Experience

COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE FELLOW; REDDIT, INC. 1/24-6/24

Conducted research for academic publication and to inform product decisions on community success metrics and tools to empower community moderators.

PHD INTERN, PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY; RICHLAND, WA 6/20-9/20

Conducted research on misinformation in online communities and causal inference within the Computing and Analytics Division, National Security Directorate at PNNL.

ICTD RESEARCH ASSISTANT, UNIV. OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE; SEATTLE, WA 5/17-4/18

Work in a graduate-level research position at the University of Washington's ICT4D Lab under the supervision of Prof. Richard Anderson. Developed USSD directory application for mobile phones and traveled to Tanzania for field work in the summer of 2017, testing, running focus groups, and overseeing the deployment of the application. Organized an analysis of the logs of application usage, and authored a paper on the results, and continuing work on further app development, and scalability.

ICTD RESEARCH ASSISTANT, UNIV. OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE; SEATTLE, WA 5/16-8/16

Collaborated with professors and graduate students to analyze the state of security vulnerabilities in mobile money applications on Android devices and USSD. Gathered data via automated software testing and analysis of documentation. Contributed to a paper on results.

SOFTWARE INTERN, WALK SCORE; SEATTLE, WA 6/10-8/10 & 6/13-8/13

Developed metrics for comparing the differences in performance across multiple versions of the WalkScore algorithm as part of a small team working in a fast-paced startup environment. Compiled data for new products, and assessed the feasibility of their development.

Publications

[9] PERCEPTIONS OF MODERATORS AS A LARGE-SCALE MEASURE OF ONLINE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

2024 *preprint*

Galen Weld, Leon Leibmann, Amy X. Zhang, Tim Althoff

[8] MAKING COMMUNITIES 'BETTER': A TAXONOMY OF COMMUNITY VALUES ON REDDIT

ICWSM '24: Proceedings of the Eighteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

Galen Weld, Amy X. Zhang, Tim Althoff

[7] WHAT MAKES ONLINE COMMUNITIES 'BETTER'? MEASURING VALUES, CONSENSUS, AND CONFLICT ACROSS THOUSANDS OF SUBREDDITS

ICWSM '22: Proceedings of the Sixteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

Galen Weld, Amy X. Zhang, Tim Althoff

[6] CHALLENGES AND AN EMPIRICAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR CAUSAL INFERENCE WITH NATURAL LANGUAGE

ICWSM '22: Proceedings of the Sixteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

Galen Weld*, Peter West*, David Arbour, Ryan A. Rossi, Maria Glenski, Tim Althoff

*equal contribution

[5] POLITICAL BIAS AND FACTUALNESS IN NEWS SHARING ACROSS MORE THAN 100,000 ONLINE COMMUNITIES

🏆 - Outstanding Analysis Paper

ICWSM '21: Proceedings of the Fifteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

Galen Weld, Maria Glenski, Tim Althoff

[4] LEVERAGING COMMUNITY AND AUTHOR CONTEXT TO EXPLAIN THE PERFORMANCE OF DECEPTION DETECTION MODELS

🏆 - Best Paper

NLP4IF '21: Fourth Workshop on NLP for Internet Freedom

Galen Weld, Ellyn Ayton, Tim Althoff, Maria Glenski

[3] DEEP LEARNING FOR AUTOMATICALLY DETECTING SIDEWALK ACCESSIBILITY PROBLEMS USING STREETSCAPE IMAGERY

🏆 - Best Student Paper

ASSETS '19: Proceedings of the 21st ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility

Galen Weld, Esther Jang, Aileen Zeng, Anthony Li, Kurtis Heimerl and Jon Froehlich

[2] EKICHABI: INFORMATION ACCESS THROUGH BASIC MOBILE PHONES IN RURAL TANZANIA

CHI '18: Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems

Galen Weld, Trevor Perrier, Jenny Aker, Joshua Blumenstock, Brian Dillon, Adalbertus Kamanzi, Editha Kokushubira, Jennifer Webster, Richard Anderson

[1] LET'S TALK MONEY: EVALUATING THE SECURITY CHALLENGES OF MOBILE MONEY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

ACM DEV '16: Proceedings of the 7th Annual Symposium on Computing for Development

Sam Castle, Fahad Pervaiz, Galen Weld, Franziska Roesner, Richard Anderson

Invited Talks

WHAT MAKES ONLINE COMMUNITIES 'BETTER'? CHARACTERIZING COMMUNITY MEMBER VALUES ON REDDIT

Allen School Affiliates Day - Research Showcase Presentation - November 2023

WHAT MAKES ONLINE COMMUNITIES 'BETTER'? MEASURING VALUES, CONSENSUS, AND CONFLICT ACROSS THOUSANDS OF SUBREDDITS

Allen School Colloquium (with Social Futures Lab) - November 2022

POLITICAL BIAS AND FACTUALNESS IN NEWS SHARING ACROSS MORE THAN 100,000 ONLINE COMMUNITIES

ICWSM Data Challenge: Cross Platform Analysis - Contributed Talk & Panelist - June 2021

CHALLENGES AND AN EMPIRICAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR TEXT-BASED CONFOUNDING ADJUSTMENT

Causal Data Science Meeting 2020 - November 2020

Demos and Posters

VISUALIZING USSD AND IVR USAGE DATA WITH ICICLE CHARTS

COMPASS '22 Demos

Matt Ziegler, Galen Weld, Ewin Tang, Maureen Daum

EXPERIMENTAL CROWD+AI APPROACHES TO TRACK ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES IN SIDEWALK INTERSECTIONS OVER TIME

ASSETS '21 Poster/Demo Track

Ather Sharif, Paari Gopal, Michael Saugstad, Shiven Bhatt, Raymond Fok, Galen Weld, Kavi Dey, Jon Froehlich

Academic Awards

Best Reviewer	ICWSM 2022
Outstanding Analysis Paper	ICWSM 2021
Best Paper	NLP4IF 2021
Best Student Paper - <i>Detecting Sidewalk Accessibility Problems using Streetscape Imagery</i>	ASSETS 2019
Gaetano Borriello Endowed Fellowship in Computer Science and Engineering	2018-2019

Academic Service

Program Committee Member	ICWSM 2022, 2024
Reviewer	CSCW 2023-24, ICWSM 2022-24, MAISoN 2021, NLP4PI 2021, CHI 2020

Teaching Experience

CSE481P - SOCIAL COMPUTING CAPSTONE

Guest Lecturer, University of Washington, Spring 2023 - Professor Amy Zhang

CSE481DS - DATA SCIENCE CAPSTONE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Autumn 2020 - Professor Tim Althoff

CSE547 - MACHINE LEARNING FOR BIG DATA

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Spring 2020 - Professor Tim Althoff

CSE421 - DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Autumn 2019 - Professor Richard Anderson

CS4300 - LANGUAGE AND INFORMATION

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, Spring 2018 - Professor Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil

Selected Coursework

- (Cornell) CS 4850 Mathematical Foundations for the Information Age
- (Cornell) CS 4786 Machine Learning for Data Science
- (Cornell) CS 4700 Artificial Intelligence
- (Cornell) CS 4701 Practicum in Artificial Intelligence
- (Cornell) INFO 4120 Ubiquitous Computing
- (Cornell) CS 4820 Intro to the Analysis of Algorithms
- (Cornell) CS 4300 Language and Information

- (U of W) CSE 517 Natural Language Processing
- (U of W) CSE 547 Machine Learning for Big Data
- (U of W) CSE 521 Design and Analysis of Algorithms
- (U of W) CSE 517 Principles of Database Management Systems