ERIN WALK, PHD

Philadelphia, PA

erin.walk@asc.upenn.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on using large datasets, primarily social media data, to understand conflict, migration, and polarization. I am particularly interested in the ways in which online data can be used to support vulnerable, diverse, and hard to reach populations, as well as how such information can be combined with survey data and other traditional data sources. Methodologically, I am interested in probabilistic machine learning and natural language processing.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA   *July 2024*
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Annenberg School for Communication
Polarization Research Lab

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA   *May 2024*
PhD, Social and Engineering Systems
Graduate Fellow at the MIT Global Diversity Lab

Harvard University, Cambridge MA   *May 2017*
Bachelor's Degree, Mechanical Engineering
Minor in Government-International Relations

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Bethesda MD   *May 2013*
High School Diploma

PEER REVIEWED PAPERS

Erin Walk, Elizabeth Parker-Magyar, Kiran Garimella, Ahmet Akbiyik, and Fotini Christia. Social Media Narratives across Platforms in Conflict: Evidence from Syria. Forthcoming, *The Journal of Politics*.

Erin Walk, Kiran Garimella, and Fotini Christia. Displacement and return in the internet era: Social media for monitoring migration decisions in Northern Syria. World Dev. 2023, 168, 106268.

Chris Hays, Zachary Schutzman, Manish Raghavan, Erin Walk, and Philipp Zimmer. Simplistic collection and labeling practices limit the utility of benchmark datasets for twitter bot detection. In Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2023, WWW 23, page 36603669, New York, NY, USA, 2023. Association for Computing Machinery.

WORKING PAPERS

Predicting individual mortality with traditional and machine learning methods with Luca Badolato, Ari Decter-Frain, Nicholas J. Irons, Maria Miranda, Elnura Zhalieva, Monica Alexander, Ugofilippo Basellini, and Emilio Zagheni. Under Review.

Building Solidarity across Borders: Experimental Effects of Climate Messaging with Jared Kalow, Volha Charnysh, and Evan Lieberman. Under Review.

Scholarly migration and collaboration worldwide: A word embedding representation with Aliakbar Akbaritabar.

Analyzing Mobile Viewership of Partisan YouTube. Erin Walk. Presented at APSA 2023, IC2S2 2023.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research Seminar, July 2023
Population Association of America Conference 2023
APSA Special Projects Roundtable 'Learning How to Play with the Machines' Boston 2023
American Political Science Association Conference 2022, 2023
Text as Data Association Conference 2021, 2022
Midwest Political Science Association Conference 2022

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2021
Michael Hammer Fellow 2019
MIT Summer Research Program Intern 2016
Phi Beta Kappa Senior 48, Cum Laude, John Harvard Scholar 2014 and 2015, Detur Book Prize 2014
AFCEA and Parsons undergraduate scholarships for excellence in engineering

ACADEMIC AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Mather House Resident Tutor
Harvard University

Engage with students to create a welcoming house community. Act as an academic advisor for sophomores. Previously a Faculty Dean Aide 2019-2021.

Research Mentorship

MIT Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. Students Chris Noga and Ayesha Ali.

Teaching

Math 1b: Calculus, Series and Differential Equations Course Assistant 2014-2015. Taught weekly problem solving sessions and staffed the Math Question Center. Harvard University.
Physics 15a: Introductory Mechanics and Relativity Grader 2017. Harvard University.
Math 21a: Multi-variable Calculus Tutor 2014. Harvard University.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committees

IDSS Student Council President and Inaugural DE&I Officer, Current
SES GAAP (Graduate Application Assistance Program) Program Organizer and Mentor, Current
IDSS Task force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
IDSS REFs, Resources for Easing Friction and Stress
MIT Policy Hackathon Organizing Committee, Director of External Affairs 2020

Reviewing

International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022, 2023

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cloudflare, Inc *2017 - 2019*

Policy Analyst

Member of a four person global policy team. Researched current policy initiatives and their impact on cybersecurity and company practices. Spoke with lawmakers and experts to understand their viewpoints and further company interests. Organized, automated and ran day-to-day operations for corporate social responsibility projects.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

ACE certified group fitness instructor teaching indoor cycle and total body conditioning classes at MIT, Harvard Recreation, and Boston Bouldering Project, 2021-2024

Assistant Coach for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Novice Womens Rowing, Fall 2017

Letter Winner on the Radcliffe Varsity Lightweight Rowing Team, 2013-2017