

JITP
2011

THE FUTURE OF
**COMPUTATIONAL
SOCIAL SCIENCE**

The Third Annual *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* Conference
May 16 & 17, 2011 – University of Washington - Draft Conference Agenda

May 16, 2011: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Keynote Speaker: Jaime Teevan, Microsoft Research

“Using Large Scale Log Analysis to Understand Human Behavior”

In recent years, the rise of cloud-based services has made it possible to capture human interaction with computing systems on a scale previously unimaginable. These large-scale logs represent traces of human behavior, seen through the lenses of the tools people use. Unlike other methods for observing behavior, logs provide a complete picture of what people actually do for real task in real-world situations, including behaviors people might normally hide. Additionally, the scale at which log data can be collected gives a good picture of subtle behavior changes or unusual activities that could not possibly be observed by looking at only hundreds (or even thousands) of people. However, there are challenges to understanding log data. Logs show us what people do, but not why they do what they do. Little is known about the people who create the log data; not their age, not their gender, nor even whether events observed at different times or on different machines are made by the same person. Even less is known about the user's motivations or success. Often apparently identical log data can be created with very different motivations; there are can even be adversarial motives for people to create traces in the log data that are not real. This talk will provide a practical overview of log analysis, with examples from what we have learned from real world Web search and browsing logs.

10:00 – 10:30 am

Flash Breakout Session - Brainstorming & Mini Reports

What role can and should large scale log analysis play in social science? When Jaime returns to lab, what can she do to contribute to the future of computational social science?

10:30 – 10:40 am

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 pm

Invited Panel: “The Future of Computational Social Science: Data and Methods”

Moderator: John Wilkerson

“Building Usable Large-Scale Datasets for Accountability and Advocacy in Troubled Times”

Karen Fisher, University of Washington

“Accounting for Interpretive ICT Practices and Including Interpretive Methods”

Kirsten Foot, University of Washington

“Uncovering Social Dynamics in Networks through Intertwined Methods and Frameworks”

Karine Nahon, University of Washington

12:00 – 1:00 pm - Lunch

Research Papers

1:00 – 1:45 pm

“Researching Real-World Web Use with Roxy, A Research Proxy”

Ericka Menchen-Trevino, Northwestern University

Chris Karr, Audacious Software

1:45 – 2:30 pm

“Tradeoffs in Accuracy and Efficiency in Supervised Learning Methods”

Loren Collingwood, University of Washington

John Wilkerson, University of Washington

2:30 – 3:15 pm

“An Automated Snowball Census of the Political Web”

Abe Gong, University of Michigan

3:15 – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Vendor Panel: SurveyAnalytics, Google, Microsoft, Texifter...probably more to come.

“Research in the Cloud”

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Reception with Tutorials & Posters

-- End of Day 1 --

May 17, 2011

9:00 – 10:15 am

Roundtable

Planning the Next Five Years for the *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*

Ken Rogerson, Duke University

Mack Shelley, Iowa State University

Stuart Shulman, University of Massachusetts Amherst

<other invites pending>

10:15 – 10:45 am

Flash Breakout Session - Brainstorming & Mini Reports

How can JITP contribute to the future of computational social science?

10:45 – 11:00 am

Coffee Break

Research Papers

11:00 – 11:45 am

“News Media Environment, Selective Perception, and the Survival of Preference Diversity within Communication Networks”

Frank C.S. Liu, National Sun Yat-sen University

Paul E. Johnson, University of Kansas

11:45 – 12:30 pm

“Facilitating Encounters with Political Difference: Engaging Voters with the Living Voters Guide”

Deen G. Freelon, University of Washington

Travis Kriplean, University of Washington

Jonathan Morgan, University of Washington

W. Lance Bennett, University of Washington

Alan Borning, University of Washington

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 – 2:15 pm

“InfoExtractor – A Tool for Social Media Data Mining”

Chirag Shah, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Charles File, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

2:15 – 3:00 pm

“Politics 2.0 with Facebook – Collecting and Analyzing Public Comments on Facebook for Studying Political Discourses”

Chirag Shah, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Tayebeh Yazdani nia, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

3:00 – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 – 4:00 pm

Closing discussion: “The Future of Computational Social Science”

-- End of Conference --