Hussam Habib

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science Department
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

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Research Interests

Computational Social Science; Algorithm auditing; User behavior.

Education

Ph.D. Computer Science, University of Iowa   2019-Present
Advisor: Rishab Nithyanand
Thesis: How do social media platforms influence user behavior

B.S. Computer Science, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences   2014-2018

Publications

CSCW 2022   **Making a Radical Misogynist**
How online social engagement with the Manosphere influences traits of radicalization.
Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand, Padmini Srinivasan

ICWSM 2022   **Act or React**
Investigating Proactive Strategies for Online Community Moderation.
Hussam Habib, Maaz Bin Musa, Fareed Zaffar, Rishab Nithyanand

ICWSM 2022   **Reactive Moderation**
Exploring the magnitude and effects of media influence on Reddit moderation
Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand

ICWSM 2023   **The Morbid Realities of Social Media:**
An Investigation into the Misinformation Shared by the Deceased Victims of COVID-19
Hussam Habib, Rishab Nithyanand

ICA 2022   **Vaccination Attitudes:**
Relationships among vaccination attitudes, social media use, and activism.
Ryan S, Andrew H, Ashley P, Kathryn B, Raven M, Rishab N, Brian E, Timothy H, Hussam H, & John T

Under Review   Google Algorithmic Biases
Algorithmic amplification of biases on Google Search
Hussam H, Ryan S, Brian E, Andrew H, Ashley P, Rishab N,

Honors & Awards

Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, University of Iowa   2022

Dare to Discover, University of Iowa   2022

Dean's Honor List, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences   2018
     2017

Travel Grants, PETS'23   2023

Open-Source Contributions

Warning Behavior Analysis Toolkit • [github]
A computational framework using social science theories to measure warning behaviors indicative of radicalization in online platforms.

Community health monitor • [github]
Active monitoring of subreddits to flag online communities—using interpretable machine learning—as they adopt and exhibit problematic behavior.

LLM-based YouTube User Agents • [github]
YouTube Sock Puppets powered by LLMs consuming YouTube videos and selecting videos replicating psychological rule-based system.

Characterizing Platform Behavior • [github]
A platform audit system designed to measure, replicate, and taxonomize platform behavior. Currently supporting Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube.

Teaching

Machine Learning Workshop, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)   Summer 2023
CS:2820 • Object-Oriented Software, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant   Fall 2020
CS:2520 • Human-Computer Interaction, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant   Spring 2020
CS:2230 • Data Structures, University of Iowa, Teaching Assistant   Fall 2019

Talks

How social media platforms influence user behavior?   Fall 2023
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Colloquium Talk   Fall 2023
University of Iowa

Investigating Proactive Strategies for Online Community Moderation.   Fall 2020
Lahore University of Management Sciences

Service

Reviewer
AEJMC'23, ICWSM'24, CSCW'24

Research Mentoring

Amol Bhagavathi, Undergraduate, University of Iowa — 2024

Luke Aschenbrenner, Visiting REU, Benedictine College — 2023
Tiziana Hernandez, Visiting REU, Stonehill College

Nick Cardenas, Visiting REU, Grinnell College — 2022
Jordan Pollard, Visiting REU, St. Ambrose University