

Alexandros Efstratiou

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Profile

I am a computational social scientist with a background in social and behavioral psychology, and a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Washington's Information School. My research focuses on polarization especially on social media, and has been published in top-tier conferences like ACM WWW, ACM CSCW and AAI ICWSM. In my current research agenda, I analyze how polarization and people's understanding of reality relates to their online cultural and informational environments.

Education

University College London (UCL), Department of Computer Science **London, UK**
PhD Computational Social Science (Center for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity) Sept 2020 – Oct 2024
Thesis title:
Polarisation Dynamics and Emergent Information-Seeking Behaviours on Social Media
Advisors: Professor Emiliano De Cristofaro and Dr Tristan Caulfield.

Durham University, Department of Psychology **Durham, UK**
MSc Behavioural Science, Distinction (79.20)/GPA 4.27 Sept 2019 – Sept 2020
Cohort top performer

University of East Anglia (UEA), School of Psychology **Norwich, UK**
BSc Psychology, First Class Honours (78.85)/GPA 4.25 Sept 2016 – July 2019
Cohort top performer

Employment

University of Washington, Information School **Seattle, WA**
Postdoctoral Scholar (Center for an Informed Public) Jan 2025 –
Supervisors: Dr Martin Saveski and Dr Emma Spiro.

Grants and Funding

CIP Innovation Fund **\$21,000**
"Politicization and Polarization in Entertainment Media", Principal Investigator 2025-2026

Publications

- ▷ **Efstratiou, A.**, Duskin, K., Starbird, K., & Spiro, E. S. (2026). Rabble-Rousers in the New King's Court: Algorithmic Effects on Account Visibility in Pre-X Twitter. Forthcoming in *The 20th International AAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '26)*.
- ▷ Duskin, K., Schafer, J., **Efstratiou, A.**, West, J. D., & Spiro, E. S. (2026). The Role of Follow Networks and Twitter's Content Recommender on Partisan Skew and Rumor Exposure during the 2022 U.S. Midterm Election. Forthcoming in *The 20th International AAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '26)*.
- ▷ **Efstratiou, A.** (2025). On YouTube Search API Use in Research. In *Proceedings of the ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC '25)*.
- ▷ **Efstratiou, A.**, Efstratiou, M., Yudhoatmojo, S., Blackburn, J., & De Cristofaro, E. (2024). "Here's Your Evidence": False Consensus in Public Twitter Discussions of COVID-19 Science. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '24)*.
- ▷ **Efstratiou, A.** (2024). Deliberate Exposure to Opposing Views and its Association with Behavior and Rewards on Political Communities. In *Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2024 (WWW '24)*.
- ▷ **Efstratiou, A.**, Blackburn, J., Caulfield, T., Stringhini, G., Zannettou, S., & De Cristofaro, E. (2023). Non-

polar Opposites: Analyzing the Relationship between Echo Chambers and Hostile Intergroup Interactions on Reddit. *In the 17th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '23)*.

- ▷ **Efstratiou, A., & De Cristofaro, E.** (2022). Adherence to Misinformation on Social Media Through Socio-Cognitive and Group-Based Processes. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '22)*.
- ▷ ***Hughes, J. P., Efstratiou, A., Komer, S., Baxter, L., Vasiljevic, M., & Leite, A. C.** (2022). The Impact of Risk Perceptions and Belief in Conspiracy Theories on COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Behaviours. *PLoS One, 17(2)*, e0263716.

*Joint first author.

Invited Research Talks and Conference Talks

- ▷ **UW Impact 2025:** Understanding and navigating political divides (panelist).
- ▷ **Oxford Internet Institute 2024:** From tribes to tropes: Network polarisation and false consensus around COVID-19 science (invited research talk).
- ▷ **Stanford University Scientists Speak Up 2024:** Panel on Misrepresenting Science (panelist).
- ▷ **CSCW 2024:** "Here's your evidence": False consensus in public Twitter discussions of COVID-19 science (conference talk).
- ▷ **UCL Information Security Research Group 2024:** What I see is all that's real: The dynamics of polarization and misinformation on social media platforms (invited research talk).
- ▷ **UCR LOGOS group 2024:** Uncovering a false consensus in public Twitter discussions of COVID-19 science (invited research talk).
- ▷ **ICWSM 2023:** Non-polar opposites: Analyzing the relationship between echo chambers and hostile intergroup interactions on Reddit (conference talk).
- ▷ **GESIS 2023:** Non-polar opposites: An examination of the interplay between echo chambers and hostile intergroup interactions online (invited research talk).
- ▷ **CSCW 2022:** Adherence to misinformation on social media through socio-cognitive and group-based processes (conference talk).
- ▷ **Academy of Management Annual Meeting 2021:** The leadership oversight bias in justice and hypocrisy evaluations of organisational diversity practices (conference talk).

Teaching

- ▷ Guest lecturer: Social Media Data Mining and Analysis, UW, Winter 2025-26
- ▷ Teaching assistant & Guest lecturer: Cybersafety and Online Harms (MSc Course), UCL, Spring 2023-24
- ▷ Teaching assistant: People and Security (MSc Course), UCL, Fall 2023-24
- ▷ Teaching assistant: Probability, Statistics, & Modeling (BSc Course), UCL, Fall 2023-24
- ▷ Teaching assistant & Guest lecturer: Evidence for Decision-Making (MPA Course), UCL, Fall 2022-23
- ▷ Guest lecturer: Social Cognition (BSc Course), Durham University, Spring 2019-20

Service

- ▷ Program Committee: ICWSM 2023-2026, WWW 2026, WebSci 2026
- ▷ Reviewer: Journal of Quantitative Description, PeerJ Computer Science, CHI 2024-2026*, PLoS One, CSCW 2023-2025, CCS 2024, DIS 2024*, CogSci 2023, EPJ Data Science, S&P 2023, WWW 2023, NDSS 2023, IMC 2022, ICWSM 2022

*Special recognition for Outstanding Reviews: DIS 2024, CHI 2024, CHI 2025.

Research Affiliations

eScience Institute, UW
Data Science Postdoctoral Fellow

Seattle, WA
2025 –

Security and Privacy Advanced Lab, UCR/UCL <i>Doctoral Student</i>	Riverside, CA/London, UK 2023 – 2024
Digital Speech Lab, UCL <i>Research Associate</i>	London, UK 2023 – 2024
National Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence Online <i>Doctoral Researcher</i>	UK 2020 – 2024
International Data-driven Research for Advanced Modeling and Analysis (iDRAMA) <i>Doctoral Researcher</i>	Intl. 2020 – 2024
Information Security Research Group (ISec), UCL <i>Doctoral Student</i>	London, UK 2020 – 2024

Media Contributions

Tech Policy Press <i>Scientists Respond to FTC Inquiry into Tech Censorship (link)</i>	Mar 25, 2025
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Other experience

Fact-Check Cyprus (Part of CUT Social Computing Research Center) <i>Fact-checker; FCC is an official EDMO member and IFCN signatory.</i>	Limassol, Cyprus (remote) 2021 – 2024
Ogilvy UK <i>Behavioural Science Practice Intern</i>	London, UK July 2019
UEA School of Psychology <i>Research Intern</i>	Norwich, UK June 2018 – July 2018

Awards & Honors

- ▷ ICWSM 2025 Best Reviewers
- ▷ Kurt Lewin prize as top performer in the 2019-2020 MSc Behavioural Science cohort, Durham University.
- ▷ British Psychological Society Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Degree Performance as top performer of the BSc Psychology cohort at UEA in all three years of study.
- ▷ UEA School of Psychology prize for best undergraduate dissertation (overall) and best undergraduate dissertation (quantitative).