Artificial Intelligence for Social and Political Research
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Abstract:

Artificial Intelligence, "big data", and Machine Learning have social and political consequences that span the individual and international, and public and private spheres. We are in the middle of a Kuhnian scientific revolution, caught between two generations: pre- and post-Internet. Scientists, governments, and society more broadly are all grappling with the big questions of big data, AI, and ML. Technological advances hold great promise for automating and improving the well-being of people, yet there are coordination problems and biases that these systems learn from their human creators. Governments, in conjunction with academics and private industry, are the ideal institutions and actors to identify the digital roadmap and coordinate progress along these new technological frontiers.

Bio:

Dr. Leah Windsor is a Research Assistant Professor in the Institute for Intelligent Systems at The University of Memphis. She received her Bachelor of Science in Linguistics from Georgetown University in 1998, her Master’s degree in Political Science at The University of Memphis in 2005, and her Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Mississippi in 2012. Dr. Windsor currently serves as PI for a Minerva Initiative grant administered by the U.S. Department of Defense that examines political communication in authoritarian regimes and opaque political groups. Her work uses computational linguistics and discourse analysis to answer questions about regime survival, comparative institutions, political crisis and conflict, propaganda and persuasion, bluffs and threats, governance, and radicalization. Her interdisciplinary approach to understanding political language is situated at the intersection of political science, linguistics, and cognitive science. She is also interested in issues of bias and ethnocentrism in studying political language, including corpus selection, translation, and document preparation. In February 2017, Dr. Windsor’s lab was selected for a Team Initiation Grant by the University of Memphis’ Division of Research and Sponsored Programs to study multimodal communication including language, nonverbal cues, and audiovisual elements.