

# Alex Hanna

Curriculum Vitae (October 17, 2017)

University of Toronto Mississauga, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology  
3359 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, ON, L5L 1C6, Canada  
alex.hanna@utoronto.ca | [alex-hanna.com](http://alex-hanna.com) | [@alexhanna](https://twitter.com/alexhanna)  
ORCID ID: [0000-0002-8957-0813](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8957-0813)

## EMPLOYMENT

2016 - Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Mississauga  
Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology  
Faculty of Information (Graduate appointment)

## EDUCATION

2016 PhD, Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.  
2013 MS, Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.  
2007 BA, Sociology, Purdue University.  
2007 BS, Computer Science and Mathematics, Purdue University.

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Social movements, communication and information technologies, media, computational social science, automated textual analysis, the Middle East.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

- 2016 Shah, D. V., **A. Hanna**, E. P. Bucy, D. S. Lassen, J. Van Thomme, K. Bialik, J. Yang, and J. Pevehouse. "Dual Screening During Presidential Debates: Political Nonverbals and the Volume and Valence of Online Expression." *American Behavioral Scientist* 60(14): 1816-1843.
- 2016 Wells, C., J. Van Thomme, P. Maurer, **A. Hanna**, J. Pevehouse, D. V. Shah, and E. P. Bucy. "Coproduction or Cooptation? Real-time Spin and Social Media Response During the 2012 French and US Presidential Debates." *French Politics* 14(2): 206-233.
- 2015 Bode, L., **A. Hanna**, J. Yang, and D. V. Shah. "Candidate Networks, Citizen Clusters, and Political Expression: Strategic Hashtag Use in the 2010 Midterms." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 659(1): 149-165.
- 2015 Shah, D. V., **A. Hanna**, E. P. Bucy, C. Wells, and V. Quevedo. "The Power of Television Images in a Social Media Age: Linking Biobehavioral and Computational Approaches via the Second Screen." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 659(1): 225-245.

- 2013 **Hanna, A.** "Computer-aided Content Analysis of Digitally-enabled Movements." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 18(4): 367-388.  
\*2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.

### Book Chapters

- 2017 **Hanna, A.** "Being transgender on the academic job market." in *Reflections on Academic Lives: Identities, Struggles, and Triumphs in Graduate School and Beyond*, eds. Staci Zavattaro and Shannon Orr.
- 2015 Shah, D. V., K. Culver, **A. Hanna**, T. Macafee, and J. Yang. "Computational Approaches to Online Political Expression: Rediscovering a 'Science of the Social'." in *Handbook of Digital Politics*, eds. Stephen Coleman and Deen Freelon.

### Conference Papers with Proceedings

- 2013 **Hanna, A.**, C. Wells, P. Maurer, D. V. Shah, L. Friedland, and J. Mattes. "Partisan Alignments and Political Polarization Online: A Computational Approach to Understanding the French and U.S. Presidential Elections." In *Politics, Election, and Data Workshop (PLEAD)*. San Francisco, CA. November 1.
- 2011 **Hanna, A.**, B. Sayre, L. Bode, J. Yang, and D. V. Shah. "Mapping the Political Twitterverse: Candidates and Their Followers in the Midterms." In *Proceedings of the Fifth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM)*. Barcelona, Spain. July 17-21.

### Book Reviews

- 2012 The Second Palestinian Intifada: Civil Resistance. *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 17(1): 103-104.

### Projects in Progress

"MPEDS: An Automated Approach to Generating Protest Event Data." *Manuscript and software in preparation*. [[Python package](#), [Web event interface](#), [Preprint](#)]

"Black Protest in US News Wire Stories 1994-2010: Voices From the Doldrums." (with Pamela Oliver) *Manuscript in Preparation*. [[Preprint](#)]

"Towards a Feminist Computational Social Science." (with Anna Lauren Hoffman). *Manuscript in preparation*.

"Anti-Racism Campus Protests and University Responses, 2012-2016." (with Ellen Berrey and Dan Hirschman). *SSHRC Insight Development Grant application in preparation*.

## Blogs and Selected Media

- Co-founder and contributor, *Bad Hessian*
- Contributing editor, *Mobilizing Ideas*
- 2016 “Being Transgender on the Job Market.” *Inside Higher Ed*, July 15.
- 2013 “The Signal and the Noise in Middle East Elections.” (with Kevan Harris). *Foreign Policy*, December.
- 2013 “Institutionalizing Computational Social Science.” *orgtheory.net*, July 3.
- 2012 Featured (with Marc Smith) in “Visualizing the War on Women Debate.” *Foreign Policy*, July/August.

## GRANTS

### Major grants

- 2014 “Constructing and Validating an Automated Coding System for Electronic News Sources.” (with Pamela Oliver and Chaeyoon Lim). National Science Foundation, SES-1423784.
- 2011-15 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program.
- 2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, academic year (declined).
- 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, summer.

### Minor Grants

- 2017 SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG), University of Toronto Mississauga.
- 2016 Research and Scholarly Activity Fund, University of Toronto Mississauga.
- 2015 Vilas Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2014 Department of Sociology Conference Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2014 Department of Sociology Small Grants Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2013 Department of Sociology Conference Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2013 Social Science History Association Tilly Travel Award.
- 2013 International Studies Association Travel Award.
- 2013 Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Travel-Research-Engagement Grant (declined).
- 2011 Department of Sociology Small Grants Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2011 Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery Emerging Interfaces Award.
- 2011 Graduate Student International Field Research Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
- 2014 Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference Invitee.
- 2012 Distinction, Preliminary Examination in Comparative-Historical Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2015 "Computer-aided Content Analysis of Digitally-enabled Movements." United States Institute of Peace Blogs and Bullets Workshop, Stanford University, March 6.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Northwestern Institute for Complex Systems, Northwestern University. October 1.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Department of Information and Library Science, Indiana University. September 25.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers Presented

- 2017 "Black Protest in US News Wire Stories 1994-2010: Voices From the Doldrums." (with Pamela Oliver). American Sociological Association. Montreal, QC, August 12-15.
- 2017 "Black Protest in US News Wire Stories 1994-2010: Voices From the Doldrums." (with Pamela Oliver). Mobilization Conference. San Diego, CA, May 5-6.
- 2017 "Protest Data Futures." For Whom the Medium Matters. Toronto, ON, April 21.
- 2015 "Automated Coding of Protest Event Data with MPEDS." New Frontiers of Automated Content Analysis in the Social Sciences. University of Zurich, July 1-3.
- 2015 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Computational Social Science Summit. Northwestern University, May 15-17.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Digital Crucible Conference. Dartmouth College, Oct 6-7.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Montreal, QC, Canada, August 6-9.
- 2014 "Teaching Big Data for Social Scientists." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Montreal, QC, Canada, August 6-9.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference. University of Notre Dame, May 2.

- 2013 "The Dynamics of the Political Media Field in Egypt." Social Science History Association. Chicago, IL, November 21-24.
- 2013 "Computer-aided Content Analysis of Digitally-enabled Movements." American Sociological Association. New York, NY, August 9-13.
- 2013 "Partisan Alignments and Political Polarization Online: A Computational Approach to Understanding the French and U.S. Presidential Elections." (with Chris Wells). Centre d'Études Comparées en Communication Politique and Publique. Paris, France, June 14-15.
- 2012 "Revolutionary Making and Self-understanding: The Case of #Jan25 and Social Media Activism." International Studies Association. San Diego, CA, April 2.
- 2010 "Facebook Mobilization in Egypt: The Origins of the April 6th Youth Movement." Communications Crossroads Conference. Madison, WI, April 9.

### **Organizer**

- 2014 Big Cities, Big Data: Big Opportunity for Computational Social Science Datathon (with Laura Nelson and Laura Norén). American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA, August 15-16.

### **Discussant**

- 2015 Media and Social Movements. American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL, August 22-25.

### **Panelist**

- 2015 After the Dust Settles: Social Media in Political Transitions. United States Institute of Peace. Washington, DC, September 29.
- 2014 Big Data and Death Mini-Conference. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI, November 7.

### **CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS**

- 2017 "Computational Methods for Analyzing Protest Emergence and Events." Woodsworth One. University of Toronto, February 1.
- 2016 "Computational Social Science." Communications Research Methods. University of Toronto Mississauga, November 28.
- 2016 "Collecting Twitter Data." Text as Data. University of Arizona, October 10.
- 2016 "Data Pipelines and Computational Methods for the Social Sciences." Research Data Services Holz Brown Bag Series. University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 9.
- 2015 "Gender Segregation and Gender Policies in Sports." Sociology of Gender. University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 5.

- 2015 "Natural Language Processing and Supervised Machine Learning." Computational Sociology. Duke University, October 14.
- 2015 "Teaching Data Analysis & Computational Methods to Social Scientists." Computation and Communication Workshop Series. University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 19.
- 2014 "Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data." Politics, Culture, and Society Training Seminar. University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 23.
- 2012 "Revolutionary Making and Self-understanding: The Case of #Jan25 and Social Media Activism." Politics, Culture, and Society Training Seminar. University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 13.
- 2011 "Mapping the Political Twitterverse: Candidates and Their Followers in the Midterms." Politics, Culture, and Society Training Seminar. University of Wisconsin-Madison. April 19.

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught

Political Change, Social Movements, and Media  
 Social Data Analytics  
 Methods of Sociological Inquiry

### Workshops

- 2015 Software Carpentry Workshop for the Social Sciences. University of Wisconsin-Madison. June 3-4.
- 2014 Introduction to Python for Social Scientists. Indiana University, September 26.
- 2014 Programming as a Research Method: Beginner's Guide to Wrangling Social Media Data with Python. Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Montreal, QC, Canada, August 6-9.
- 2013 International Summer School on Social Network Analysis. National Research University - Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia. August 15-22.
- 2012-13 Social Media and Democracy Tworkshops, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Webmaster, ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements section, 2013-2016.

Department of Sociology Website Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009-2016.

Program Committee: International Conference on Computational Social Science (2016, 2017), International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (2016, 2017), #SMSociety (2014, 2015, 2017), SocInfo (2014, 2015, 2017)

Reviewer: American Behavioral Scientist; American Journal of Political Science; American Sociological Review; British Journal of Sociology; Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (2014); Information, Communication & Society; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media; Journal of Informational Technology & Politics; Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology; Journal of Open Source Software; Mobilization; PLOS ONE; Social Forces; Social Media + Society; Social Problems; Social Thought and Research; Sociological Methodology; Sociological Methods & Research

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association

Sections: Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM); Communication, Information Technology, and Media Sociology (CITAMS); Mathematical Sociology; Middle East Sociology working group

## **SOFTWARE SKILLS**

Statistical: R, Python (SciPy/NumPy/pandas)

Programming: Python, C/C++, Java, SQL, Perl, PHP, HTML/CSS, JavaScript,  $\LaTeX$ , Bash

Parallel computing: Hadoop MapReduce (vanilla, streaming), Hive, Pig

Operating systems: Mac OS X, Linux, Windows

Version control: Git, Subversion

## **NONACADEMIC WORK**

2008-09 Software Developer. Table XI Partners, LLC, Chicago, IL.

2007-08 Programmer/Technical Consultant. C-SPAN Archives, West Lafayette, IN.

2006 Software Development Intern. Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA.

2006-07 Level 2 Technical Support. Touch Support LLC, Lafayette, IN.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native)

Arabic (heritage learner, ACTFL OPI: Intermediate High [Summer 2010])

French (novice)

## REFERENCES

Pamela E. Oliver  
Conway-Bascom Professor of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-262-6829  
oliver@ssc.wisc.edu

Dhavan V. Shah  
Louis A. & Mary E. Maier-Bascom Professor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
5162 Vilas Communication Hall  
821 University Ave.  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-262-0388  
dshah@wisc.edu

Myra Marx Ferree  
Alice H. Cook Professor of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-263-5204  
mferree@ssc.wisc.edu

Chaeyoon Lim  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-263-5146  
clim@ssc.wisc.edu