

# Alex Hanna

Curriculum Vitae (October 15, 2018)

alex.hanna@gmail.com | [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

- 2018 - Technical Curriculum Developer, Machine Learning, Google
- 2016-18 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.

## 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.

## Manuscripts in Submission

"MPEDS: A Semi-automated Approach to Generating Protest Event Data." Revise and resubmit at *Sociological Methods and Research*. [[Preprint](#)]

## Manuscripts in Preparation

"Media Ecology and Backlash Mobilization: Black political repression and #Blacklivesmatter."

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

"Towards a Feminist Computational Social Science." (with Anna Lauren Hoffman).

## 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 [“Lipsyncing for Your Life: A Highly Detailed Survival Analysis of RuPaul’s Drag Race.”](#) *Jezebel*, March 13.
- 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.

## SOFTWARE

Machine-learning Protest Event Data System (MPEDS)

[Website](#) / [Python package and Docker container](#) / [Annotation Interface](#)

## GRANTS

### Major grants

- 2018 “U.S. and Canadian Anti-Racism Student Protests, 2012-2016” (with Ellen Berrey). Insight Development Grant, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). \$68,645 CAD.
- 2014 “Constructing and Validating an Automated Coding System for Electronic News Sources.” (with Pamela Oliver and Chaeyoon Lim). National Science Foundation, SES-1423784. \$341,831.
- 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

- 2018 Connaught New Researcher Award, University of Toronto (declined).
- 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

“MPEDS: A Semi-Automated Approach for the Generation of Protest Event Data.”

- Institute for Research on Statistics and its Applications, University of Minnesota. September 24, 2018.
- Peace Research Institute Oslo. December 13, 2017.
- University of Oslo, December 11, 2017.

“Computer-aided Content Analysis of Digitally-enabled Movements.” United States Institute of Peace Blogs and Bullets Workshop, Stanford University, March 6, 2015.

“Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data.”

- Northwestern Institute for Complex Systems, Northwestern University. October 1, 2014.
- Department of Information and Library Science, Indiana University. September 25, 2014.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers Presented

“MPEDS: A Semi-Automated Approach for the Generation of Protest Event Data.” American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA, August 11-14, 2018.

“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.
- Mobilization Conference. San Diego, CA, May 5-6, 2017.

"Protest Data Futures." For Whom the Medium Matters. Toronto, ON, April 21, 2017

"Developing a System for the Automated Coding of Protest Event Data."

- New Frontiers of Automated Content Analysis in the Social Sciences. University of Zurich, July 1-3, 2015.
- Computational Social Science Summit. Northwestern University, May 15-17, 2014.
- Digital Crucible Conference. Dartmouth College, Oct 6-7, 2014.
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Montreal, QC, Canada, August 6-9, 2014.
- Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference. University of Notre Dame, May 2, 2014.

"Teaching Big Data for Social Scientists." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Montreal, QC, Canada, August 6-9, 2014.

"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'Etudes Comparées en Communication Politique and Publique. Paris, France, June 14-15, 2013.

"Revolutionary Making and Self-understanding: The Case of #Jan25 and Social Media Activism." International Studies Association. San Diego, CA, April 2, 2012.

"Facebook Mobilization in Egypt: The Origins of the April 6th Youth Movement." Communications Crossroads Conference. Madison, WI, April 9, 2010.

## **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.

## **Panels and Workshops**

- 2018      Navigating Academia as a Trans/Nonbinary Scholar. American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 11-14.
- 2017      Intersectionality and Algorithmic Discrimination. Lorentz Center, Leiden University. Leiden, Netherlands, December 18-22.

- 2015 After the Dust Settles: Social Media in Political Transitions. United States Institute of Peace. Washington, DC, September 29.
- 2015 Media and Social Movements. American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL, August 22-25.
- 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." (with Jaclyn Wypler) 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

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

## **Workshops and Online Courses**

- 2018 Analyzing Social Media Data in Python. DataCamp.
- 2018 Introduction to Social Network Analysis. Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology. University of Zurich.
- 2016 Data Science and Social Science. New York University.
- 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**

### **University Service**

Faculty search committees, ICCIT, University of Toronto, 2016-2018.

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

### **Service to the Discipline**

Sociologists for Trans Justice, Subcommittee member, 2016-2018.

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

### **Program Committee**

International Conference on Computational Social Science (2016, 2017), International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (2016, 2017, 2018), #SMSociety (2014, 2015, 2017), SocInfo (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018)

### **Journal reviewer**

American Behavioral Scientist; American Journal of Political Science; American Sociological Review; British Journal of Sociology; Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (2014); European Political Science Review; 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; Political Communication; PNAS; PLOS ONE; Social Forces; Social Media + Society; Social Problems; Social Thought and Research; Sociological Methodology; Sociological Methods & Research

### **Master's committees**

Nicole Stradiotto (2018)

### **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**

Technical skills: Python (SciPy, NumPy, pandas, scikit-learn), R (ggplot2, tidyverse), Hadoop (Java MapReduce, Hive, Pig, streaming), SQL, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Flask, Perl, PHP, C/C++, Java, Git, Bash, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

### **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  
pamela.oliver@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

Rhonda McEwen  
Associate Professor  
Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Road North  
Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6  
Canada  
416-301-3181  
rhonda.mcewen@utoronto.ca