

Alex Hanna

Curriculum Vitae (December 29, 2025)

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Distributed AI Research Institute
 Director of Research
- 2021-23 University of California-Berkeley
 Lecturer, School of Information
- 2018-22 Google
 Nov 2020 - Feb 2022, Senior Research Scientist, Ethical AI
 Feb 2020 - Nov 2020, Research Scientist, Ethical AI
 July 2019 - Feb 2020, Program Manager, ML Fairness
 July 2018 - July 2019, Technical Curriculum Developer, ML, Google Cloud
- 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

Books

- 2025 *The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want.* (with Emily M. Bender). Harper Books.

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- 2025 Miceli, M., Dinika, A.-A., Kauffman, K., Salim Wagner, C., Sachenbacher, L., **Hanna, A.**, and Gebru, T. Methodological Considerations for Centering Workers' Epistemic Authority in AI Research. *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society*, 8(2), 1698-1710.

- 2025 Abdelkadir, N., Yang, T., Kapania, S., Estefanos, M., Gebrekidan, F., Zelalem, Z., Ali, M., Berhe, R., Baker, D., Talat, Z., Miceli, M., **Hanna, A.**, and Gebru, T. "The Role of Expertise in Effectively Moderating Harmful Social Media Content." *CHI '25*.
- 2023 Jiang, H. H., Brown, L., Cheng, J., Khan, M., Gupta, A., Workman, D., **Hanna, A.**, Flowers, J., and Gebru, T. "AI Art and its Impact on Artists." *AIES '24*.
- 2023 Pinney, C., Raj, A., **Hanna, A.**, Ekstrand, M. "Much Ado About Gender: Current Practices and Future Recommendations for Appropriate Gender-Aware Information Access." *ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR '23)*.
- 2022 Miceli, M., Yang, T., Garcia, A., Posada, J., Wang, S., Pohl, M., **Hanna, A.** "Documenting Data Production Processes: A Participatory Approach for Data Work." *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '22)*.
- 2022 Thakkar, D., Ismail, A., Kumar, P., **Hanna, A.**, Sambasivan, N., Kumar, N. "When is Machine Learning Data Good?: Valuing in Public Health Datafication." *Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.
- 2021 Raji, I. D., Bender, E. M., Paullada, A., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.** "AI and the Everything in the Whole Wide World Benchmark." *NeurIPS (Datasets and Benchmark Track)*.
- 2021 Koch, B., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.**, Foster, J. G. "Reduced, Reused and Recycled: The Life of a Dataset in Machine Learning Research." *NeurIPS (Datasets and Benchmark Track)*.
***Best Paper Award**
- 2021 Scheuerman, M. K., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.** "Do Datasets Have Politics? Disciplinary Values in Computer Vision Dataset Development." *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '21)*.
***Best Paper Award**
- 2021 Hutchinson, B., Smart, A., **Hanna, A.**, Denton, E., Greer, C., Kjartansson, O., Barnes, P., Mitchell, M. "Towards Accountability for Machine Learning Datasets: Practices from Software Engineering and Infrastructure." *Proceedings of of the 2021 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*.
- 2021 Milagros, M., Yang, T., Naudts, L., Schuessler, M., Serbanescu, D., **Hanna, A.** "Documenting Computer Vision Datasets: An Invitation to Reflexive Data Practices." *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*.
- 2020 Mitchell, M., Baker, D., Moorosi, N., Denton, E., Hutchinson, B., **Hanna, A.**, Gebru, T. and Morgenstern, J., 2020, February. Diversity and inclusion metrics in subset selection. *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society* (pp. 117-123).
- 2020 **Hanna, A.**, Denton, E., Smart, A. and Smith-Loud, J., 2020, January. Towards a critical race methodology in algorithmic fairness. *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency* (pp. 501-512).

- 2020 Paullada, A., Raji, I. D., Bender, E., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.** "Data and its (dis) contents: A survey of dataset development and use in machine learning research." *Proceedings of the NeurIPS 2020 Workshop: ML Retrospectives, Surveys & Meta-analyses (ML-RSA)*.
***Best Paper Award**
- 2020 Raji, I. D., Bender, E. M., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.**, Paullada, A. "AI and the Everything in the Whole Wide World Benchmark." *Proceedings of the NeurIPS 2020 Workshop: ML Retrospectives, Surveys & Meta-analyses (ML-RSA)*.
- 2020 Denton, E., **Hanna, A.**, Amironesei, R., Smart, A., Nicole, H. and Scheuerman, M.K. "Bringing the People Back In: Contesting Benchmark Machine Learning Datasets." *Proceedings of the 2020 ICML Workshop: Participatory Approaches to Machine Learning*.
- 2020 **Hanna, A.**, Park, T. "Against Scale: Provocations and Resistances to Scale Thinking." *Proceedings of the 2020 CSCW Workshop: Reconsidering Scale and Scaling in CSCW Research*.
- 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. *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.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024 Berrey, E., **Hanna, A.**, Bass, K., and Kim, N. "U.S. and Canadian Higher Education Protests and University and Police Responses, 2012 to 2018." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*.
- 2023 Khan, M. and **Hanna, A.** "The Subjects and Stages of AI Dataset Development: A Framework for Dataset Accountability." *Ohio State Technology Law Review*.
- 2023 Oliver, P., **Hanna, A.**, Lim, C. "Constructing Relational and Verifiable Protest Event Data: Four Challenges and Some Solutions." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*.
- 2022 Oliver, P., Lim, C., Matthews, M. C., **Hanna, A.** "Black Protests in the United States, 1994 to 2010." *Sociological Science*.
- 2021 Scheuerman, M., Pape, M., **Hanna, A.** "Auto-essentialization: Gender in automated facial analysis as extended colonial project." *Big Data & Society*.
- 2021 Paullada, A., Raji, I. D., Bender, E., Denton, E., **Hanna, A.** "Data and its (dis) contents: A survey of dataset development and use in machine learning research." *Cell Patterns*.
- 2021 Denton, E., **Hanna, A.**, Amironesei, R., Smart, A., and Nicole, H. "On the Genealogy of Machine Learning Datasets: A Critical History of ImageNet." *Big Data & Society*.

- 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. "Coproduct 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.**

Reports

- 2025 Williams, A., **Hanna, A.**, Barcenas, S. "Driven Down: How Workplace Technology Enables Amazon to Steal Wages, Hide Labor, Intensify Poor Working Conditions, and Evade Responsibility." DAIR Institute Report.
<https://dair-institute.org/projects/driven-down/>

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.

Book Reviews

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

Pre-prints

- 2017 "MPEDS: A Semi-automated Approach to Generating Protest Event Data." [Preprint]

Blogs and Selected Media

- 2023 [“AI Causes Real Harm. Let’s Focus on That over the End-of-Humanity Hype.”](#) (with Emily M. Bender) *Scientific American*, August 2023.
- 2022 [“AI Ethics Are in Danger. Funding Independent Research Could Help.”](#) (with Dylan Baker). *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, June 2022.
- 2020 [“Lines of Sight.”](#) (with Remi Denton, Razvan Amironesei, Andrew Smart, and Hilary Nicole). *Logic Magazine*, December 2020.
- 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

- 2023 “Social Movements in Higher Education, 2012-18.” (with Ellen Berrey). National Science Foundation (SES-2241920)
- 2020 “Student Protests and University Responses in the United States and Canada, 2012-2018.” (with Ellen Berrey). Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).
- 2018 “U.S. and Canadian Anti-Racism Student Protests, 2012-2016.” (with Ellen Berrey). Insight Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).
- 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

- 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

- 2025 [VCCA Fellow](#)
- 2024 [Business Insider AI Power List](#)
- 2024 [Fast Company Queer 50](#)
- 2023 [Wisconsin Forward Award](#)
- 2022 [Go Magazine Women We Love](#)
- 2021 Featured in California Academy of Sciences [New Sciences exhibit](#)
- 2021 [Fast Company Queer 50](#)
- 2020 [100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics](#)

TEACHING**Courses Taught**

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

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^AT_EX

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Arabic (heritage learner, ACTFL OPI: Intermediate High [Summer 2010])
French (novice)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST