

DROR WALTER (Ph.D.)

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Dr. Walter's research is centered on the intersection between traditional media effects theories and novel computational social science methods. His research addresses the ways computational methods such as network analysis, unsupervised machine learning, and supervised machine learning can aid in the analysis of online politically relevant content. Specifically, his past and current work is often situated within the field of political communication with projects such as the conceptualization, measurement and impact of thematic diversity, strategies of political candidates on social media, impact of news framing on candidates' electoral success, and inductive approaches to nation branding. Additionally, he also studies extremist forms of political discussion focusing, and political/health misinformation. Among his recent research projects in this domain are: Exploring the relationship between political and health misinformation in political extremist discourse, exploring the impact of foreign actors' online interference in US politics, the relationship between far-right extremist discourse and anti-vaccination attitudes and arguments, and conceptualizations of vaccine hesitancy. From a methodological point of view his research has focused on developing unsupervised machine learning approaches for frame analysis of traditional mass media and social media content (ANTMN), the measurement and impact of thematic diversity in discourse, and methods of identification of discursive communities in social networks.

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Georgia State University	Current
Faculty Member, Transcultural Conflict and Violence Initiative, Georgia State University	Current
Research Fellow, The Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania	Current

Education

University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School for Communication (U.S.)	
Ph.D. in Communication	2018
Dissertation: <i>Exploring Thematic Diversity in News Coverage and Social Media Activity of Political Candidates Using Unsupervised Machine Learning</i>	
M.A. in Communication	2014
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)	
M.A. in Political Communication	2012
B.A. in Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics	2008

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Walter, D.**, Ophir, Y., Lokmanoglu, A. D., & Pruden, M. L. (2022, Accepted). Vaccine discourse in white nationalist online communication: A mixed-methods computational approach. *Social Science and Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.114859>
2. Ophir, Y., Pruden, M. L., **Walter, D.**, Lokmanoglu, A. D., Tebaldi, C., & Wang, R. (2022, Accepted) Weaponizing Reproduction Rights: A Mixed-Method Analysis of White Nationalists' Discussion of Abortions Online. *Information Communication and Society*.
3. Ophir, Y., Walter, N., **Walter, D.**, Velho, R. M., Lokmanoglu, A. D., Pruden, M. L., & Andrews, E. A. (2022, Accepted). Vaccine Hesitancy Under the Magnifying Glass: A

- Systematic Review of the Uses and Misuses of an Increasingly Popular Construct. *Health Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2022.2054102>
4. Ophir, Y., Massignan, V., Forde, D. K., Neurohr, M., & **Walter, D.** (2021). News Media Framing of Social Protests Around Racial Tensions During the Donald Trump Presidency. *Journalism*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849211036622>
 5. Ophir, Y., **Walter, D.**, Arnon, D., Lokmanoglu, A., Tizzoni, M., Carota, J., D'Antiga, L., & Nicastro, E. (2021) The Framing of COVID-19 in Italian Media and its Effects on Community Mobility: A Mixed Method Approach. *Journal of Health Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2021.1899344>
 6. **Walter, D.** and Ophir, Y. (2020) Exploring the Relationship between Strategy Framing and Electoral Success: An Analysis of Topic Model Networks Approach. *Political Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2020.1858379>
 7. Ophir Y., **Walter D.** and Marchant E. (Equal Authorship; 2020) A Collaborative Way of Knowing: Bridging Computational Communication Research and Grounded Theory Ethnography. *Journal of Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqaa013>
 8. **Walter, D.**, Ophir Y. and Hall-Jamieson, K. (2020) Russian Twitter Accounts and the Partisan Polarization of Vaccine Discourse, 2015-2017. *American Journal of Public Health*. Published online March 19, 2020. doi: [10.2105/AJPH.2019.305564](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305564)
 9. **Walter, D.** and Ophir, Y. (2019) The Elephant and the Bird: Republican Candidates' Use of Strategy and Issue Framing in Twitter During the 2016 Republican Presidential Primaries. *The International Journal of Communication*. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/11808>
 10. **Walter, D.** and Ophir, Y. (2019) News Frame Analysis: An Inductive Mixed-Method Computational Approach. *Communication Methods and Measures*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19312458.2019.1639145>
 11. **Walter, D.**, Sheaffer, T., Nir, L. & Shenhav R. S. (2016) Not All Countries are Created Equal: Foreign Countries Prevalence in US News and Entertainment Media. *Mass Communication and Society*, 19, 522-541. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15205436.2016.1170853>

Books and Book Chapters

1. Ophir, Y., & **Walter, D.** (Accepted, Exp 2022). Computational Sentiment Analysis- A Critical Perspective. In Nabi, R. (Eds.). *Our online emotional selves: The link between digital media and emotional experience*. Oxford University Press.
2. Himelboim, I., **Walter, D.**, & Ophir, Y. (Accepted, Exp 2022). What makes a misinformed tweet viral? A computational mixed method approach. In Porter, L. (Eds.). *Political and Electoral Misinformation*. LSU Press.
3. **Walter, D.**, & Ophir, Y. (Accepted, Exp, 2022). Online Foreign Propaganda Campaigns and Vaccine Misinformation: A Comparative Analysis. In Ginossar, T., & Shah, F. (Eds.). *Communicating about Vaccines Online: Understanding and Counteracting Misinformation, Rumors and Lies*. Palgrave MacMillan.
4. **Walter, D.**, Ophir, Y. (Accepted, Exp, 2022) Chapter 5: The Communication Electorates. Democracy Amid Crisis.
5. Hermann, T., Atmor, N., Haber, K., Heller, E., **Walter, D.**, Ventura, R., Lebel, Y. (2011) *The Israeli Democracy Index*. Jerusalem: The Guttman Center at the Israel Democracy Institute
6. Dror, O. & **Walter, D.** (2008) Two Jews Three Languages – The Revival of the Hebrew Language: An Economic Perspective. *The Maurice Falk Institute for Economic Research in Israel, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem*. Outstanding Student Paper Series

In Review/Revision

1. Liu, Y., Ophir, Y. & **Walter, D.** Networked Sensemaking During a Public Health Crisis: A Computational Analysis of Twitter Discourse Around the COVID-19 Delta Variant (in review)

2. **Walter, D.**, Pruden, M., Ophir, Y. & Golan, G. Watching the whole World: The Antecedents of Foreign Countries' Framing in U.S. News Media (in review).
3. **Walter, D.**, Lokmanoglu, A., Pruden, M., Veilleux-Lepage, Y., Goodwin, C. Ideologize Globally, Mobilize Locally: The Internationalization of Far-Right Online Discourse (in review).
4. Fabregat E., **Walter, D.**, Ophir, Y. and Himelboim, I. The Logic of Qonnective Action: conceptualizing Qanon as a social movement (in revision).
5. Liu, A. K., Ophir, Y., Walter, D., & Himelboim, I. Hashtag Activism in a Politicized Pandemic: Framing the Campaign to Include Taiwan in the Efforts to Combat COVID-19 (in revision)
6. **Walter, D.**, Ophir, Y. Trolls Without Borders: A Comparative Analysis of Ten Foreign Countries' Online Propaganda Campaigns. (in review).
7. Ophir, Y., **Walter, D.**, and Hall Jamieson, K. Evaluating the impact of Russian–Hacked Content on the News Agenda and Voter Preferences in the 2016 Presidential Election. (in review).
8. Fabregat, E., **Walter, D.**, and Severino, F. A Stranger to my Eyes: 2016 Framing of Refugees in the International. Press (in review).

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers and Presentations

1. Much Ado About Nothing? A Systematic Review of the Uses and Misuses of the Vaccine Hesitancy Construct (with Ophir, Y., Walter, N., Lokmanoglu, A. Pruden, M. and Raphaela Velho). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Paris, France, May 2022
2. From Victimhood to Empowerment: An Experimental Evaluation of the Effects of Complex Framing Techniques to Increase Engagement with Online Hashtag Activism (with Liu, A., Ophir, Y. and Himelboim, I.). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Paris, France, May 2022
3. 23andMedia: The News Coverage of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Kits and its Association with Real-World Sales Data (with Dobmeier, C., Ophir, Y. and Hubner, A.). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Paris, France, May 2022
4. Hashtag Activism in Politicized Pandemics: The #TaiwanCanHelp Campaign (with Liu, A., Ophir, Y., Walter, D., & Himelboim, I.). *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting*, Seattle, WA, US, August 2021
5. Networked Framing and the Role of Elite Gatekeeping During the #TaiwanCanHelp Hashtag Activism Campaign (with Liu, A., Ophir, Y., Walter, D., & Himelboim, I.). *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference*. Online 2021.
6. Watching the whole World: The Antecedents of Foreign Countries' Framing in U.S. News (Leading author, with Meredith Pruden, Yotam Ophir and Guy Golan). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Denver, CO, US, May 2021
7. Ideologize Globally, Mobilize Locally: The Internationalization of Far-Right Online Discourse (Leading author, with Ayse Lokmanoglu, Meredith Pruden, Yannick Veilleux-LaPage and Carissa Goodwin). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Denver, CO, US, May 2021
8. Networking Hate: An Exploratory Network Analysis of the U.S. Far-Right Digital Landscape (with Carissa Goodwin, Ayse Lokmanoglu, Meredith Pruden and Yannick Veilleux-LaPage). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Denver, CO, US, May 2021
9. News Media Framing of Social Protests Around Racial Tensions During the Donald Trump Presidency (With Ophir, Y., Forde, D. K., Neurohr, M.). *American Political Science Association*, San Francisco, CA., 2020
10. A Comparative Analysis of Ten Foreign Countries' Online Propaganda Campaigns (With Ophir, Y.). *American Political Science Association*, San Fransico, CA., 2020

11. Let the data tell their stories: a mixed-method approach for analyzing alleged vaccine injuries narratives (with Emily Andrews and Yotam Ophir). *The national communication Association Annual Convention*, November 2020
12. 23andMedia: An unsupervised machine learning analysis of news media frames of Direct-to-Consumer genetic testing kits (With Dobmeier, C. & Ophir, Y.). *International Communication Association*, Gold Coast, Australia, 2020
13. Disentangling Debate and Media Effects in the 2016 Elections (with Yotam Ophir). *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, US, August 2019
14. Exploring the Relationship Between Strategy Framing in News Coverage and Electoral Success: An Analysis of Topic Model Networks Approach (With Ophir, Y.). *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, US, August 2019
15. A Multi-Method Approach For Identifying And Grouping Frame Elements With Topic Modeling And Network Analysis (Leading author, with Yotam Ophir). *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Washington DC, US, May 2019
16. The Elephant and the Bird: Republican Candidates' Use of Strategy and Issue Framing in Twitter During the 2016 Republican Presidential Primaries (Leading author., with Yotam Ophir). *The national communication Association Annual Convention*, Dallas, TX, US, November 2017
17. It's the Structure, Stupid: Measuring Media Coverage impact on Candidates' Electoral Success using Semantic Networks (Leading author, with Sijia Yang) *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Fukuoka, Japan, June 2016. *Paper awarded the 'best student paper' in the Political Networks Division of the American Political Science Association (2017)*
18. Candidates' News Coverage and Electoral Success (Leading author, with Sijia Yang). *The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, US, September 2016 (See awards for further details)
19. Not All Countries Are Created Equal: Foreign Nation Visibility in U.S. News and Entertainment Media (Leading author, with Tamir Sheafer, Lilach Nir and Shaul Shenhav), *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, London, UK, June 2012
20. The PR(isoner) Dilemma: Incorporating Economic Approaches into Political Communication Research (Leading author, with Alon Yakter), *The Annual Graduate Student Conference in Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy*, Jerusalem, Israel, October 2009
21. Examining the Influence of the Documentary "The Shakshuka Method' on the Viewer's Perception of Economic Issues", *The Annual Graduate Student Conference in Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy*, Jerusalem, Israel, October 2009

Teaching

Georgia State University: <i>Introduction to Mass Communication; Computational Textual Analysis for Communication; Theories in Mass Communication</i>	2018-2020
Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania: <i>Introduction to Communication Behavior; Big data Textual Analysis in Communication Research and Practice</i>	2015-2017
Bryn Mawr College: <i>Introduction to Political Communication</i>	2017

Funding and Awards

PI, Facebook Content Policy Research Award (Project: "Exploring the Internationalization of Extreme Right Public Spheres", Co-PI: Yannick veilleux-lepage, 90,000\$)	2019-2020
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Sprague Award for best graduate student conference paper in social network analysis (APSA 2017) for the paper “Candidates’ News Coverage and Electoral Success”	2017
Kurt Grunwald Award for best paper On Israeli Economic History. The Bernard Cherrick Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2010

Service

Committees and Mentorship

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Chair

Virginia Massignan (Current)

Ryan Gautreaux (Current)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member

Ayse Lokmanoglu (Graduated, 2021)

Meredith Pruden (Graduated, 2021)

Matthew LeHew (Current)

Yeuhan Liu (Current)

Department of Communication Service

New Faculty Hiring Committee member (2019-2020)

Graduate Committee member (2019-2021)

Head of the Computational Communication Lab (CCL) for professional development.

Reviewer

Journal of Communication

Political Communication

Communication Monographs

International Journal of Press/Politics

Communication Methods and Measures

Frontiers in Political Science

Vaccine

The International Communication Association Annual conference (political communication and computational methods divisions); The American Political Science Associations (political communication and political networks divisions).

Conference Organization

Organizer, Preconference on Computational Tools for Text Mining, Processing and Analysis.

International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, San Diego, May 2017

Organizer, Annual Graduate Student Symposium. Philadelphia, April 2014

Professional Affiliations

ICA - International Communication Association

NCA – National Communication Association

APSA – American Political Science Association

Skills

Programming Languages: Python and R

Statistical Analysis: R, Python, SPSS, Stata, Mplus, SAS

Computational Methods: Data scraping, NLP, network analysis, unsupervised machine learning, supervised machine learning

Languages: English (fluent), Hebrew (native)