

# DROR WALTER (Ph.D.)

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Department of Communication  
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Dr. Walter's research is centered on the intersection between classic 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 identification and measurement of frames in online political communication. He applies these methods and theories to the study of misinformation campaigns, international communication, political extremism, and election campaigns. Among his recent research projects are: exploring the impact of foreign actors' online interference in US politics, the internationalization of far right extremism in online platforms, creating unsupervised machine learning approaches for frame analysis of traditional mass media and social media content (ANTMN), the role of discourse structure in shaping public opinion, 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.

## Professional Appointments

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Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Georgia State University Current

## Education

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University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School for Communication (U.S.)  
Ph.D. in Communication 2018  
Dissertation: *Exploring Thematic Diversity in News Coverage and Social Media Activity of Political Candidates Using Unsupervised Machine Learning*  
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

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Ophir Y., **Walter D.** and Marchant E. (Equal Authorship; accepted, 2020) A Collaborative Way of Knowing: Bridging Computational Communication Research and Grounded Theory Ethnography. *Journal of Communication*. Doi: 10.1093/joc/jqaa013

**Walter, D.** and Ophir Y. (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)

**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>

**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>

**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>

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

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:**

**Walter, D.** and Ophir, Y. Exploring the Relationship between Strategy Framing and Electoral Success: An Analysis of Topic Model Networks Approach (in revision)

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)

Fabregat, E., **Walter, D.**, and Severino, F. A Stranger to my Eyes: 2016 Framing of Refugees in the International. Press (in review).

#### **In Preparation:**

**Walter, D.** Candidates' News Coverage and Electoral Success: The Impact of Thematic Diversity (Manuscript in preparation)

**Walter, D.** Candidates' Social Media Activity and Electoral Success: Volume, Sentiment and Thematic Diversity (Manuscript in preparation)

**Walter, D.** Measuring Thematic diversity in Large Corpora: Topic Modeling and Semantic Network Analysis Approaches (Manuscript in preparation)

**Walter, D.** and Ophir, Y. Thematic Communities Approach to Studying the Russian Internet Research Agency Interference in the U.S. Politics 2014-2018 (Manuscript in preparation)

**Walter, D.**, Veilleux-LaPage, Y., Lokmanoglu, A., Pruden, M. and Goodwin, C. The Internationalization of Ultra Nationalist Movements (In analysis).

#### **Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers and Presentations**

A Thematic Network Approach to Russian Interference in the 2016 U.S. Elections (with Yotam Ophir and Kathleen Hall Jamieson). American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, US, August 2020

Exploring the Internationalization of Far-Right Movements (with Yannick Veilleux-LaPage, Ayse Lokmanoglu, Meredith Pruden, and Carissa Goodwin). American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, US, August 2020

Social Protests in the Trump Era: A Topic-Network Approach (with Yotam Ophir). American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, US, August 2020

23andMedia: An unsupervised machine learning analysis of news media frames of Direct-to-Consumer genetic testing kits (with Chris Dobmeier and Yotam Ophir). The International Communication Association Annual Meeting, Gold Coast, Australia May 2020

Framing Senate Candidates in US Elections Coverage: A Topic-Network Approach (with Yotam Ophir). American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, US, August 2019

Disentangling Debate and Media Effects in the 2016 Elections (with Yotam Ophir). American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, US, August 2019

A Multi-Method Approach For Identifying And Grouping Frame Elements With Topic Modeling And Network Analysis (with Yotam Ophir). International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Washington DC, US, May 2019

The Elephant and the Bird: Republican Candidates' Use of Strategy and Issue Framing in Twitter During the 2016 Republican Presidential Primaries (with Yotam Ophir). The national communication Association Annual Convention, Dallas, TX, US, November 2017

Candidates' News Coverage and Electoral Success (with Sijia Yang). The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, US, September 2016  
(See awards for further details)

It's the Structure, Stupid: Measuring Media Coverage impact on Candidates' Electoral Success using Semantic Networks (with Sijia Yang) International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Fukuoka, Japan, June 2016

Not All Countries Are Created Equal: Foreign Nation Visibility in U.S. News and Entertainment Media (with Tamir Sheafer, Lilach Nir and Shaul Shenhav), International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, London, UK, June 2012

The PR(isoner) Dilemma: Incorporating Economic Approaches into Political Communication Research (with Alon Yakter), The Annual Graduate Student Conference in Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy, Jerusalem, Israel, October 2009

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</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
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

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### **Committees and Mentorship**

*Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member*

Ayse Lokmanoglu (current)

Meredith Pruden (current)

Rohit K. Verma (current)

Ryan Gautreaux (current)

Matthew LeHew (current)

### **Department of Communication Service**

New Faculty Hiring Committee member (2019-2020)

Graduate Committee member (2019-2020)

Head of the Computational Communication Club (CCC) professional development lab, bi-weekly meetings

### **Reviewer**

Journal of Communication

Political Communication

Communication Monographs

International Journal of Press/Politics

Communication Methods and Measures

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

## Skills

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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: Hebrew (native), English (fluent)