

# Austin van Loon

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## CONTACT INFORMATION



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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### MIT Sloan School of Management

Assistant Professor, Work and Organization Studies, 2024-present

### Duke University

Postdoctoral Associate, Sociology & Statistical Science, 2023-2024

## EDUCATION

### Stanford University

Ph.D., Sociology, 2023

### University of Iowa

B.S., Sociology, 2016

B.A., Psychology, 2016

(Minors: Philosophy, Music, and Informatics)

## PUBLICATIONS & WRITINGS

### Articles

**van Loon, Austin**, Amir Goldberg, & Sameer Srivastava. 2024. “Imagined otherness fuels blatant dehumanization of outgroups”. *Communications Psychology*, 2(1): 39.

Guilbeault, Doug, **Austin van Loon**, Katharina Lix, Amir Goldberg, and Sameer Srivastava. 2023. “Exposure to the Views of Opposing Others with Latent Cognitive Differences Results in Social Influence—But Only When Those Differences Remain Obscured”. *Management Science*, online first.

**van Loon, Austin** and Jeremy Freese (2023). “Word Embeddings Reveal How Fundamental Sentiments Structure Natural Language”. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 67(2): 175–200.

❖ Lead article

Grossman, Igor, Amanda Rotella, Cendri A. Hutcherson, ... **Austin van Loon** ... Tom Wilkening. 2023. “Insights into the accuracy of social scientists’ forecasts of societal change”. *Nature Human Behavior*, 7(4): 484-501.

**van Loon, Austin**. 2022. “Three Families of Automated Text Analysis”. *Social Science Research*, 108:102798.

❖ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Issue

**van Loon, Austin**, Salvatore Giorgi, Robb Willer, and Johannes Eichstaedt. 2022. “Negative Associations in Word Embeddings Predict Anti-Black Bias Across Regions—but Only via Name Frequency”. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022*.

**van Loon, Austin**, Sheridan Stewart, Brandon Waldon, Shrinidhi K. Lakshmikanth, Ishan Shah, Sharath Chandra Guntuku, Garrick Sherman, James Zou, and Johannes Eichstaedt. 2020. “Explaining the ‘Trump Gap’ in Social Distancing Using COVID Discourse”. *Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on NLP for COVID-19 (Part 2) at EMNLP 2020*.

Matthew Salganik, Ian Lundberg, Alex Kindel ... **Austin van Loon** ... Sara McLanahan. 2020. “Measuring the predictability of life outcomes with a scientific mass collaboration”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(15): 8398-8403.

**van Loon, Austin**, Jeremy Bailenson, Jamil Zaki, Joshua Bostick, and Robb Willer. 2018. “Virtual reality perspective-taking increases cognitive empathy for specific others”. *PLOS ONE*, 13(8):e0202442.

### Chapters

**van Loon, Austin**. 2023. “Predictability Hypotheses: A Metatheoretical and Methodological Introduction” in Christian Borch, and Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*. ([Preprint](#))

### Other

**van Loon, Austin**. 2020. “Health Behavior Disparities Along Party Lines and Associative Diffusion”. *ASA Culture Section Newsletter*.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Duke University

People Analytics, Spring 2024

### Stanford University

People Analytics: Data and Algorithms as Managerial Tools, Summer 2022

## HONORS & AWARDS

Stanford Ric Weiland Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities & Sciences

Summer Institute for Computational Social Science RSF Travel Grant

IRiSS Computational Social Science Grant (*with Katariina Mueller-Gastell*)

Lab for Social Research Small Research Grant

IRiSS Research Data Grant (*with Robb Willer*)

Dr. William H. Metzler Fellowship in Sociology

**CONFERENCE  
TALKS**

Yale Conference on Generative AI and Sociology, Discussant

Princeton Small-Group Conference on Measuring Belief Systems in Networks Communities  
2022

American Sociological Association 2022

International Conference on Work and Social Media (ICWSM) 2022

American Sociological Association 2020

Empirical Methods for Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) 2020

American Sociological Association 2019

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

Graduate Student Advisory Committee for the Social Psychology Section of the ASA,  
Autumn 2021 – 2022

Presenter at SICSS Festival, Summer 2021, “Introduction to Text Analysis in Python: A  
Hands-on Tutorial” ([Recording](#))

IRiSS Liaison to Sociology (Autumn 2018 – 2023)

President of the Student Group for Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences,  
Summer 2019 – Fall 2020

*Post hoc* reviewer for: Social Forces, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociological Methods and  
Research, Socius, American Behavioral Scientist, and Sociological Forum