

AMIR TOHIDI

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EDUCATION

- University of Basel**, Basel, Switzerland 2026-Present
Department of Economics and Business
Postdoctoral Researcher
Advisor: *Miguel Brendl*
- University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA 2023-2026
Computational Social Science Lab, Center for Media, Technology & Democracy
Postdoctoral Researcher
Advisor: *Duncan Watts*
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA 2017-2023
Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS)
Ph.D. jointly in Social & Engineering Systems (SES), and Statistics (IDPS) GPA: 5.0/5.0
Advisors: *Ali Jadbabaie*, *Dean Eckles*
Thesis Committee members: *Adam Berinsky*, *Drazen Prelec*
- Sharif University of Technology**, Tehran, Iran 2012-2017
B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering GPA: 18.90/20
B.Sc. in Physics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Computational Social Science & Information Systems:** Large-scale studies of how digital platforms, media ecosystems, and AI technologies shape organizations, public opinion, and trust.
- **Digital Media, Bias, & Misinformation:** Selection, framing, and credibility in mainstream and emerging media (social media, podcasts), and their societal and organizational consequences.
- **Human-AI Interaction & Governance:** Applications of large language models (LLMs) for content analysis, bias detection, and evaluation of trustworthy AI in information environments.
- **Persuasion, Habits, & Decision-Making:** Behavioral science approaches to understanding how information exposure influences attitudes, persuasion, and long-term behavior.
- **Empirical Methods:** Randomized experiments, causal inference, and machine learning applied to large-scale text and behavioral data.

PUBLICATIONS

- Samar Haider, **Amir Tohidi**, Jenny Wang, Timothy Dorr, David Rothschild, Chris Callison-Burch, Duncan J. Watts. The Media Bias Detector: A Framework for Annotating and Analyzing the News. *Science Advances*, 2026.
- **Amir Tohidi**, Samar Haider, Duncan J. Watts. Rethinking News Framing with Large Language Models. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 2025.

- **Amir Tohidi**, Stefano Balietti, Sam Fraiberger, Anca Balietti. Divergence between predicted and actual perception of climate information, *PNAS Nexus*, 2025.
- Jenny Wang, Samar Haider, **Amir Tohidi**, Anushkaa Gupta, Yuxuan Zhang, Chris Callison-Burch, David Rothschild, Duncan Watts. Designing and Implementing a Tool for Real-Time Selection and Framing Bias Analysis in News Coverage, *ACM CHI*, 2025.
- Babak Fotouhi, **Amir Tohidi**, Rouzbeh Touserani, Brad Bushman. Trends of Violence in Movies During the Past Half Century, *JAMA Pediatrics*, 2024.

WORKING PAPERS

- Jennifer Allen, **Amir Tohidi**, Samar Haider, David Rothschild, Duncan J. Watts. Falsehoods Offer No Persuasive Advantage over Selective Facts. R&R *Science Advances*.
- **Amir Tohidi**, Dean Eckles, Ali Jadbabaie. Habits in Consumer Purchases: Evidence from Store Closures. Submitted to *Quantitative Marketing and Economics*
- **Amir Tohidi**, Manon Revel, Dean Eckles, Adam Berinsky, Ali Jadbabaie. Native Ads and the Credibility of Online Publishers. R&R at *Journal of Interactive Marketing*

TEACHING & ADVISING

MIT Sloan School of Management

- Teaching Assistant for *Marketing Analytics*, Spring 2022. *Evaluations*: 5.9/7.
- Designed and coordinated a Kaggle-style machine learning prediction contest: students worked in teams, developed predictive models, and were ranked on out-of-sample performance. This experience fostered collaboration, competition, and hands-on application of methods.

Advising and Mentorship

- Guided undergraduate and predoc students in research projects at UPenn.

MIT COVID-19 Datathon Challenge, Summer 2020

- Mentored student teams in the misinformation track, guiding them in data analysis and project design.

Sharif University of Technology

- Teaching Assistant for *Engineering Probability and Statistics*, Fall 2015
- Teaching Assistant for *Engineering Mathematics*, Fall 2015

Physics Olympiad Instructor, 2012–2015

- Prepared high school students for the National Physics Olympiad. Taught intermediate calculus, differential equations, mechanics, electrodynamics, and statistical physics.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Knight Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Penn Center for Media, Technology, and Democracy, 2024–present.
- **Gold Medal**, 25th Iranian National Physics Olympiad, 2011.
- **Ranked 1st (Cumulative GPA)**, Physics, Sharif University of Technology, 2012 cohort.
- **Ranked 2nd (Cumulative GPA)**, Electrical Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, 2012 cohort.

WORK EXPERIENCE

World Bank, Development Data Science Team

Jun 2021–Aug 2021

- Led analyses on climate communication and persuasion; contributed to results published in *PNAS Nexus* (2025).
- Built pipelines on Twitter data to inform interventions promoting prosocial behavior in developing countries.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary policy teams to translate insights into actionable recommendations.

Young Scholars Club, Experimental Physics Committee

2014–2015

- Evaluated/trained students' experimental skills for International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) qualification.

SELECTED CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Conference Presentations

- Political Networks & Computational Social Science, Harvard, Cambridge, Aug 2025
- IC2S2, Norrköping, Sweden, Jul 2025
- Social & Political Economy Conference, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, May 2025
- CODE (Conference on Digital Experimentation), MIT, Cambridge, Oct 2024
- IC2S2, Philadelphia, Jul 2024

Invited Talks & Seminars

- Marketing Colloquia, Wharton School (UPenn), Nov 2022
- Behavioral Research Lab Seminar, MIT, Feb & Apr 2022
- Social Analytics Lab, MIT, Feb & Apr 2022

LEADERSHIP ROLES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Committee Member**, International Conference on Network Science, 2024
- **Organizer** of the 25th LIDS Student Conference.
- **Publicity Chair in Ashdown House Graduate Community**, 2018-2019.
- **Social Chair** of Persian Students Association at MIT, 2017-2018.
- **Advisory Board Member** of Persian Students Association at MIT, 2018-2019.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Organized weekly lab seminars at the University of Pennsylvania's Computational Social Science Lab, coordinating speakers and providing feedback to PhD students.
- Supervised and trained research assistants on large-scale LLM annotation, data management, and dashboard development projects.
- Presented and chaired sessions at conferences including IC2S2, and PolNet.

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- **Journals:** Management Science, Scientific Reports, PLOS One

- **Conferences:** International Conference on Network Science, International Conference on Computational Social Science, International World Wide Web Conference, IEEE Control Society, American Control Conference

SELECTED COURSES

- **Quantitative: Statistics, Optimization, Networks**
Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Methods in Economics, Econometrics, Stochastic Processes, Causal Inference and Machine Learning, Network Science, Mathematical Programming
- **Social Science: Economics, Psychology**
Experiment Design and Analysis, Microeconomic Theory, Game Theory, Psychology and Economic Theory, Field Experiments in Psychology and Economics

SKILLS

- Programming: R, Python, Stan, MATLAB, Mathematica, L^AT_EX
- Languages: Persian (native); English (fluent in speaking, reading, and writing)

REFERENCES

- **Duncan Watts**
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- **Dean Eckles**
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- **Ali Jadbabaie**
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- **Adam Berinsky**
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