Ashton Anderson

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Employment

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada   2017–present
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science.
Faculty Affiliate, Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence.
Research Fellow, Behavioural Economics in Action at Rotman.

Microsoft Research, New York, NY, USA   2015–2017
Postdoctoral Researcher, Computational Social Science group

Education

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA   2010–2015
Ph.D. in Computer Science.
Advisor: Jure Leskovec.

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA   2008–2010
M.S. in Computer Science.
Advisor: Yoav Shoham. *Specialization:* Algorithmic game theory.

McGill University, Montreal, Canada   2004–2008
B. Eng. in Software Engineering (with distinction).

Selected Awards and Honors

Invited to "Best Papers of KDD 2016" TKDD Special Issue
Keynote Speaker at WIN 2015
Best paper runner-up at WWW2014
Google Ph.D. Fellowship in Social Computing (with third-year extension), 2012–2015
NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship M, 2008–2010

Selected Papers

Personal Bests as Reference Points.
A. Anderson, E. Green.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), 2018

Understanding the Origins of Bias in Word Embeddings, 2018.
M. Brunet, C. Alkalay-Houlihan, A. Anderson, R. Zemel.
Under review, 2018

How Constraints Affect Content: The Case of Twitter's Switch from 140 to 280 Characters.
K. Gligoric, A. Anderson, R. West.
Proceedings of the International Conference on the Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2018

Mapping the Invocation Structure of Online Political Interaction.
M. Raghavan, A. Anderson, J. Kleinberg.
Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2018

Auditing Search Engines for Demographic Bias in Performance.
R. Mehrotra, A. Anderson, F. Diaz, A. Sharma, H. Wallach, E. Yilmaz.
Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2017

Assessing Human Error Against a Benchmark of Perfection.
A. Anderson, J. Kleinberg, S. Mullainathan.
ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), 2016
Invited and accepted to TKDD Special Issue on "Best Papers of KDD 2016"

Exploring limits to prediction in complex social systems.
T. Martin, J. Hofman, A. Sharma, A. Anderson, and D. Watts.
Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2016

Global Diffusion via Cascading Invitations: Structure, Growth, and Homophily.
A. Anderson, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, J. Leskovec, and M. Tiwari.
Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2015

The Structural Virality of Online Diffusion.
S. Goel, A. Anderson, J. Hofman, and D. Watts.
Management Science, 2015

Engaging with Massive Online Courses.
A. Anderson, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, and J. Leskovec.
Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2014
Best paper runner-up

The Dynamics of Repeat Consumption.
A. Anderson, R. Kumar, A. Tomkins, and S. Vassilvitskii.
Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2014

Steering User Behavior With Badges.
A. Anderson, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, and J. Leskovec.
Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference on the World Wide Web (WWW), 2013

Discovering Value from Community Activity on Focused Question Answering Sites: A Case Study of Stack Overflow.
A. Anderson, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, and J. Leskovec.
ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), 2012

Effects of User Similarity in Social Media.
A. Anderson, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, and J. Leskovec.
ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM), 2012

Community Service

Reviewer for *WWW 2013, IJCAI 2013, WSDM 2014, Communications of the ACM (CACM), Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR), Transactions on the Web (TWEB), Transactions on Economics and Computation (TEAC), Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)*
PC member for *KDD 2014, ICWSM 2016, IJCAI 2016, KDD2016, WSDM 2016, ICWSM2017, WSDM2017, WWW2017, WWW2018, WWW2019*

Industrial Experience

Spotify, London, England   **2018**
Research contractor with Tech Research.

Microsoft Research, New York City, USA   **2015–2017**
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Computational Social Science group.

LinkedIn, Mountain View, CA, USA   **2013–2015**
Research contractor under Deepak Agarwal.

Facebook Core Data Science, Menlo Park, CA, USA   **Summer 2014**
Research Intern under Lada Adamic.

Google, Mountain View, CA, USA   **Summer 2013**
Research Intern under Andrew Tomkins.

Microsoft Research, New York City, NY, USA   **Summer 2012**
Research Intern under Sharad Goel.

Yahoo! Research, New York City, NY, USA   **Summer 2011**
Research Intern under Duncan Watts.

Grants

$204,000 Research Grant — Canada Foundation for Innovation   **2018–2023**
Computational Social Science Lab

$165,000 Research Grant — National Science and Engineering Research Council   **2018–2023**
Behavioural Computation: Analysis, Models, and Algorithms for Supporting Human Improvement on the Web

Teaching

Social and Information Networks (CSCC46)   **2017–2018**
Third-year undergraduate course

Topics in Computational Social Science (CSC2552)   **2018–2019**
Graduate seminar

Student Advising

PhD:

- Reid McIlroy-Young, 2018–

- Lillio Mok, 2018–

Master's:

- Marc-Etienne Brunet, 2017–

- George Lifchits, 2018–

- Irene Jiang, 2017–2018

- Aditya Subramanian, 2018–

Undergraduate:

- Shunzhe (Luffy) Yu, 2017–2018

- Inioluwa Raji, 2018–

- Isaac Waller, 2017–

Patent

Recommending candidates for consumption.
Sergei Vassilvitskii, Andrew Tomkins, Shanmugasundaram Ravikumar, Ashton Anderson.
US Patent 9,471,572, 2016.