

# Anna Bertani

I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Trento and Fondazione Bruno Kessler with an interdisciplinary background. My goal is to study the spread of misinformation and disinformation, providing strategies to mitigate this phenomenon.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Visiting Scholar

*Indiana University*

11/2024 – Present

*Bloomington, Indiana, USA*

Supervisor: Filippo Menczer, Alessandro Flammini

- Interdisciplinary research on radicalization of opinions in online social media.

### PhD Student in Information Engineering and Computer Science

*University of Trento*

11/2022 – Present

*Trento, Italy*

Supervisor: Riccardo Gallotti (Head of Unit of CHuB, Fondazione Bruno Kessler)

- My research activity is hosted by Complex Human Behavior Laboratory (CHuB) at Fondazione Bruno Kessler. I am currently working on misinformation, political polarization and collective attention in online social media through network and data science techniques as part of my PhD program in Computer Science.
- I am collaborating in the European project AI4Trust, aiming at fighting misinformation and disinformation, where my role is to gather data from different online social media and to advance in the literature review.
- I advised some students during their internships and theses on topics related to misinformation and online communication networks.

### Teaching Assistant

*Department of Sociology and Social Research*

Sept 2022 - Dec 2022

*Trento, Italy*

Supervisor: Elena Pavan

- Teaching assistant in the lab of "Digital Methods for Social Research", where I taught basics of network science, analysis of online social media data through the software NodeXL.

### Research Fellow

*Department of Sociology and Social Research*

May 2022 - Oct 2022

*Trento, Italy*

Supervisor: Elena Pavan (Associate Professor of Sociology)

- I worked on the project I-POLHYS - Investigating POLarization in HYbrid media Systems which aims to analyze the phenomenon of political polarization in online social media. I was responsible for the data cleaning and analysis of data through network science and natural language processing techniques.

### Research Intern

*Fondazione Bruno Kessler*

Apr 2021 - March 2022

*Trento, Italy*

Supervisor: Manlio De Domenico (Associate Professor of Physics, UniPD), Riccardo Gallotti

- My internship and research thesis dealt with the analysis of huge amounts of data gathered from a famous micro-blogging platform, Twitter. The aim of my work was to develop research related to exceptional events in online social media such as online social movements and the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign. In particular, I was responsible for the pre-processing and cleaning phase, analysis and interpretation of data. I focused my attention on the statistical analysis of data, data visualization techniques, network science approaches to study the information diffusion, including several metrics and information cascades.

**Student Ambassador**

Jan 2021 - March 2022

*University of Trento**Trento, Italy*

Presentation of Bachelor and Master courses offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Research in high-school classes, in several fair and in occasion of individual interviews, where I improved my ability of public speaking.

**Administrative Officer**

Jun 2018 - Jun 2019

*University of Trento**Trento, Italy*

Administrative tasks and support for organizing conferences and ceremonies at the University of Trento in the Communication and Events Division Office.

**EDUCATION**

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**University of Trento**

Trento, Italy

*Master's Degree in Data Science**09/2019-03/2022*

- Thesis Title: Characterization of Social Behavior Dynamics in online social network during exceptional events

**Koç Üniversitesi**

Istanbul, Turkey

*Social ComQuant Summer School in Computational Social Science**07/2021*

- Relevant Courses: Human mobility from digital traces, Social media and the spread of misinformation, Epidemic Modeling, Digital contact tracing, Search engine query data.

**University of Linköping**

Norrköping, Sweden

*Erasmus+ Student in Computational Social Science**08/2020-01/2021*

- Relevant Courses: Inequality and Segregation: Theory and Measurement, Computational Approaches to the Study of Cultural Markets and Social Dynamics, Computational Approaches to the Study of Organizations.

**University of Trento**

Trento, Italy

*Bachelor Degree in Sociology**09/2016-09/2019***PRESENTATIONS**

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**Talks Presentation**

September 2024

*Conference on Complex Systems**Exeter, United Kingdom*

- **Bertani, Anna**, Valeria Mazzeo, Riccardo Gallotti. Decoding the News Media Habits of Disinformation Spreaders

**Talks Presentation**

Apr 2024

*Open Lab Seminar series**Tallinn, Estonia*

- **Bertani, Anna**, Valeria Mazzeo, Riccardo Gallotti. Decoding the News Media Habits of Disinformation Spreaders

**Poster Presentation**

Jan 2024

*International School and Conference on Network Science**Venezia, Italy*

- **Bertani, Anna**, Valeria Mazzeo, Riccardo Gallotti. Decoding the News Media Habits of Disinformation Spreaders

**Poster Presentation**

Jul 2023

*International Conference on Computational Social Science**Copenhagen, Denmark*

- **Bertani, Anna**, Riccardo Gallotti, Elena Pavan. Hidden in plain sight. A co-constitutive approach to unveil misogyny in digital public discourse

**Demos Presentation***European Researchers' Night*

Sept 2023

*Trento, Italy*

- Presentation of the Covid-19 Infodemics Platform and the works about disinformation conducted by CHuB lab to the entire community.

**Demos Presentation***Digital Society Retreat*

Jun 2023

*Trento, Italy*

- Presentation of the Covid-19 Infodemics Platform to the Digital Society Center Retreat.

**Oral Contribution***Data Science and its Fellows*

Apr 2023

*Trento, Italy*

- Presentation of my personal experience in the field of research and my academic background, in particular my transitioning from humanities to scientific disciplines to the students of Data Science of University of Trento.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Bertani, A.**, Gallotti, R., Menini, S., Sacco, P., & De Domenico, M. (2024). Large-scale digital signatures of emotional response to the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. *EPJ Data Science*, 13(1), 20.

**Bertani, A.**, Mazzeo, V., & Gallotti, R. (2024). Decoding the News Media Diet of Disinformation Spreaders. *Entropy*, 26(3), 270.

**AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

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**Mobility Scholarship***University of Trento*

2024

- Awarded to support my research during my visit to the USA.

**PhD Scholarship***University of Trento & Fondazione Bruno Kessler*

2022

- Scholarship to carry out my PhD project in the field of Online Communication Networks. The position is part of the International Phd Program of Fondazione Bruno Kessler and has been also sponsored by National Centre for HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing.

**Scholarship Prof. Giacomo Frizzo & Adele Frizzo Bianchi***Municipality of Verona*

4 years

*Verona, Italy*

- I won a scholarship to support my university studies, amounting of 1800 euros for each year. Award given to the top students across various disciplines residing in the municipality of Verona.