

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, Stonegate Country Club, Davis.



UC Davis Center for AI & Experimental Futures
UC Davis AI Center in Engineering

CSS Escape 2025: Engineering our Experimental AI Futures



This Conference highlights the innovative work of Computational Social Science (CSS) scholars in the UC Davis community. It is hosted by the UC Davis DE CSS and co-sponsored by the UC Davis AI Center in Engineering and the UC Davis Center for AI and Experimental Futures (CAIEF), which are offering \$1,000 in prize money for the best AI research presented. Each of the main sessions consists of 7-minute lightning talks, followed by a 30-minute Q&A with the authors of the presented studies.¹



09:00 – 09:15: Coffee & Greetings

09:15 – 10:00: **Keynote: Simulated Virtual Worlds & Social Networks**

Nori Jacoby, Assistant Prof. Psychology, Cornell University: We developed new experimental tools to immerse participants in virtual worlds, enabling large-scale, controlled studies of social interactions. We find that human-AI creative networks ultimately achieve greater diversity than AI-only networks and demonstrate how network structures influence cultural transmission.

10:00 – 11:00: **Large Language Models**

Emily McKinley (PhD student, UCD CMN), Abdulaziz Alhumaidy, Jingwen Zhang: **Using LLMs to Synthesize Human Responses in Persuasive Context**

Jennifer M. Krebsbach (PhD student, UCD Sociology), Jane E. Lee, Steven Zeck, Arti Thakur: **Unveiling Bias in AI-Generated Job Descriptions**

Jennifer M. Krebsbach (PhD student, UCD Sociology): **Analyzing Gendered Job Description Narrative Outputs by LLMs**

Erin Park, Ashlyn Sharma, Karen Situ, Karthik Seshadri, Maryam Azgomi, Naomi Danner, Thy Pham, Vaishnavi Pandey (all Undergraduate students, UCD), Martin Hilbert: **Through LLMs' Looking Glass: What Do LLMs Know about Social Media Harms to Vulnerable Groups?**

¹ Speakers are invited to bring (not more than 5!) slides for their 7 min lightning talk (on your own laptop, memory stick, or link sent to hilbert@ucdavis.edu); and some additional slides of Figures and Tables and Supporting Material, either on a laptop or printed out (can be unpolished), to facilitate follow-up discussions during the subsequent 30-minute mingling Q&A.

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11:00 - 11.15: **BREAK**

11.15 - 12.15: **Systems Science**

Emily Thatcher (PhD student, UCD Nursing Science & Healthcare Leadership): **Drone vs. EMS Response Times for Naloxone Delivery in Rural Settings**

Shelley Blozis (Prof, UCD Psychology): **First-interview response patterns in self-report repeated-measures data**

Sarah Polcz (Acting Prof., UCD Law): **Loyalties vs Royalties**

Joshua McCoy (Assistant Prof., UCD Computer Science & Cinema and Digital Media): **Games & AI**

12.15 - 12.45: **Discussion panel: Will AI scholars replace us?**

Martin Hilbert (Chair CSS); *Raissa D'Souza* (Ass. Dean of Research & UCD AI Center in Engineering); *Colin Milburn* (Director UCD Center for AI & Experimental Futures); *Seth Frey* (CSS Membership).

12.45 - 14.00: **LUNCH**

14.00 - 15.00: **Social Media**

Miner Ye (PhD student, UCD CMN): **Systematic Bias or Congeniality? Auditing YouTube**

Lucen Li (PhD student, UCD Computer Sci.): **Understanding Community Moderation on Reddit**

Claire Jo (PhD student, UCD CMN), Xudong Yu, Magdalena Wojcieszak: **In-group Favoritism or Out-group Hostility? Political YouTube Bias**

Julia Zabala (PhD student, UCD Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing): **How Neighborhood Greenness Impacts Health Outcomes and Inequities**

15.00 - 16.00: **BREAK** with games & boat tour option

16.00 - 17.00: **Health & Wellbeing**

Arezoo Ghasemzadeh, Arnav Akula, Sruthy Sabesan, Pearl Vishen (all UCD Undergraduate AI Student Collective), Martin Hilbert: **Is Intimacy the New Attention? Audit of LLMs Intimacy**

Allyson L. Snyder (PhD student, UCD CMN), Millie Fong, Ana Cervantes, Katherine Ong: **Too Scared to Talk to Peers, Too Efficient to Meaningfully Engage with a Chatbot: AI for Math Tutoring**

Connor Mitchell (PhD student, UCD Soc.): **Loneliness & Network Structure Among Young Adults**

Rachael Kee (PhD student, UCD CMN): **A New Tool for Sleep Science**

17.00 - 18.00: **Happy Hour** (and buffer for --unlikely, but theoretically possible-- delays)

18.00 - 20.00: **Dinner & Best AI Research Award Ceremony**

There is **no registration fee; food, incl. breakfast, lunch, reception, and dinner will be provided.**

We are looking forward to an inspiring day full of intriguing research ideas!

<https://CSS.UCDavis.edu> & <https://engineering.ucdavis.edu/artificial-intelligence> & <https://lettersandsciencemag.ucdavis.edu/community/uc-davis-launch-artificial-intelligence-center>