

Loizos Bitsikokos

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Education

- Aug 2024–** **Purdue University**
West Lafayette, IN, USA
PhD, Communication (Expected Aug 2029).
 - GPA: 4.00/4.00
 - Concentrations: Media, Technology, and Society; Organizational Communication
 - Advisor: Prof. Jeremy Foote
 - Committee: Prof. Stacey Connaughton; Prof. Seungyoon Lee; Prof. Lindsay Weinberg; Prof. Spencer Stewart
- Jun 2024** **University of Chicago**
Chicago, IL, USA
MA, Computational Social Science
 - GPA: 3.98/4.00
 - Concentration: Sociology
 - Thesis: *Living in the Hub: A Platform Study of Desire Semantics*
 - Advisors: Prof. Michael Rossi; Dr. Pedro Alberto Arroyo.
- Feb 2022** **National Technical University of Athens**
Athens, Greece
MSc, Mathematical Modelling in Modern Technologies & Financial Engineering
 - GPA: 9.3/10 (Top 1% of class)
 - Concentration: Mathematics of Data Science
 - Thesis: *User influence studies in online social networks*
 - Advisor: Prof. John Coletsos
- Nov 2018** **National Technical University of Athens**
Athens, Greece
BSc/Integrated Master's in Applied Mathematics and Physics
 - GPA: 8.87/10 (Top 4% of class)
 - Concentrations: Nuclear & Particle Physics; Theoretical & Computational Physics
 - Thesis: *Electron Cloud Computational Studies*
 - Advisor: Prof. Konstantinos Anagnostopoulos

Professional Experience

Jan 2020–Jul 2022 Backend Software Engineer

Athens, Greece

Intralot Tech S.A.

Developed algorithms and probability models for sports; built software for global distribution; performed data analysis, parameter tuning, and model evaluation; QA testing and bug fixes; developed and tested cash-out algorithms and risk analysis; worked in an AGILE team of engineers, mathematicians, and statisticians.

Publications

Foote, J., **Bitsikokos**, L., Goel, H., & Kumar, D. (2026). Running Reddit Experiments with Conversational AI Agents. *Computational Communication Research*, 8(2), 9250. doi:10.5117/CCR2026.2.5.FOOT

Clipperton, J., & **Bitsikokos**, L. (2025). You do not get to tell me about sad: Swiftian Saudade in Taylor Swift's lyrics. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1037/aca0000810

Publications Under Review

- Foote, J., Kumar, D., Jha, B., Funkhouser, R., **Bitsikokos**, L., Goel, H., & Hsuen-Chi C. (2026). *Taming toxic talk: Using chatbots to intervene with users posting toxic comments*. [Manuscript submitted for publication, under review]. arXiv:2601.20100
- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2026). *From Tokens to Meaning: A Computational Grounded Theory Analysis of Porn Video Categories*. [Manuscript submitted for publication, under review].
- Sawyer, H., Akom, M., Lee, S., **Bitsikokos**, L., Reed, A. L., Ojike, F. C., Ofori Boateng, P., Nwoko, O. B. & Mohammed, I. (2026). *Welcome Aboard: Simulating an Outsider-Within's Organizational Assimilation and Socialization through Role-Play*. [Manuscript submitted for publication, under review].

Conference Presentations

- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2026, October) [upcoming]. *Against Word Embeddings: Broader Cultural Limits of Language Models* [Symposium presentation]. In Anderson, M. & West, D.E. (Organizers), *Meaning-Making in an age of Aporia: Hallucination, Anomaly, Contradiction, Nonsense, Absurdity*. 50th Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2026, Oct) [upcoming]. *Connected to the Grid: Dialogues between Baudrillard's Simulacra and Simulation, Stiegler, and Online Media Platforms*. 50th Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Lee, S. (2026, June). *The lamps going out: Shifts in discursive communities and organizational networks around resilience in the European Union*. International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt, Daytona Beach, FL, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., Stewart, S., & Foote, J. (2026, April). *D(AI)scourse: A Computational Text Analysis on the Meaning of "Artificial Intelligence" in the News*. Digital Humanities Day, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- Torres, D. A., **Bitsikokos**, L., & Stewart, S. (2026, April). *"State of the Art" Eugenics in Plain Sight*

2025-2026. Digital Humanities Day, West Lafayette, IN, USA.

- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2026, April). *Connected to the Grid: Extending Baudrillard's Simulacra and Simulation to Online Media Platforms*. 57th Annual Meeting of the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky, "Disconnecting and Reconnecting", Danville, KY, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Lee, S. (2026, April). *The lamps going out: Shifts in discursive communities and organizational networks around resilience in the European Union*. Communication Graduate Student Association Conference, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2026, March). *Connected to the Grid: Extending Baudrillard's Simulacra and Simulation to Online Media Platforms*. School of Languages and Cultures Graduate Symposium, The Intersection of Humanities and Sciences, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Stolzenberg, R. M. (2025, June). *Mapping Justice: A Social Network Analysis of U.S. District Court Citations*. International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt, Paris, France.
- Akom, M., Sawyer, H., **Bitsikokos**, L., Reed, A. L., Ojike, F. C., Ofori Boateng, P., Nwoko, O. B., Mohammed, I., & Lee, S. (2025, June). *GIFTS: Welcome Aboard: Simulating an Outsider-Within's Organizational Assimilation and Socialization through Role-Play*. ICA Conference, Denver, CO, USA.
- Clipperton, J., & **Bitsikokos**, L. (2025, April). *You don't get to tell me about sad: Swiftian Saudade in Taylor Swift's lyrics*. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, USA.
- Clipperton, J., & **Bitsikokos**, L. (2025, April). *You don't get to tell me about sad: Swiftian Saudade in Taylor Swift's lyrics*. Communication Graduate Student Association Conference, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2024, May 30). *Living in the Hub: A Platform Study of Desire Semantics*. 9th UChicago Interdisciplinary MA Research Conference, Chicago, IL, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L. (2023, Nov 30). *Decoding Desire: Assessing Bias in Algorithmic Adult Video Recommendations*. Computational Social Science Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., Papst, F., & Schueller, W. (2022, June 9–10). *Brief Analysis of the Rust Ecosystem*. CEU-CSH Meeting, Vienna, Austria.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., Iadarola, G., & Sabato, L. (2018). *Secondary electron emission models in e-cloud buildup simulations: from lab to the code*. ECLOUD'18, Isola d'Elba, Italy.

Poster Presentations

- **Bitsikokos**, L., Au Yeung, C., Bradley, L. M., Burtscher, M., Dabak, P. M., Dasgupta, S., Permenter, S. M., Torres, D. A., & Stewart, S. (2026, June). *Where's Waldo? Mapping Digital Humanists in Education, Career, and Place Networks*. International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt, Daytona Beach, FL, USA.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Stolzenberg, R. M. (2025, Sept). *The Citational Network Structure of U.S. District Court Documents*. Organizational Communication Mini Conference (OCMC), Urbana, IL, USA.
- Hossner, F., Bindas, A., Krisdianatha, A., Tarannum, A., Smrke, J., **Bitsikokos**, L., & Aversa, E. (2025). *The Algorithmic Mirror: Auditing TikTok Recommender Systems for Personalization, Protection, and Profiling*. Digital Methods Summer School 2025, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Stolzenberg, R. M. (2025, June). *Mapping Justice: Data Collection on U.S. District Court Citational Networks*. NetSci, Maastricht, Netherlands.
- **Bitsikokos**, L., & Helbing, J. (2025, April). *Meaning Orthogonality in Embedding Spaces: A Geometric Approach*. Purdue CLA Research Showcase, West Lafayette, IN, USA.

Research in Progress

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- **Bitsikokos, L., & Lee, S. (2026).** *The lamps going out: Shifts in discursive communities and organizational networks around resilience in the European Union.* [Manuscript in preparation].
 - **Bitsikokos, L., Stewart, S., & Foote, J. (2026).** *D(AI)scourse: A Computational Text Analysis on the Meaning of “Artificial Intelligence” in the News.* [Manuscript in preparation].
 - **Bitsikokos, L. (2026).** *Connected to the Grid: Extending Baudrillard’s Simulacra and Simulation to Online Media Platforms.* [Manuscript in preparation].
 - **Bitsikokos, L., & Helbing, J. (2026).** *Meaning Orthogonality in Embedding Spaces: A Geometric Approach.* [Manuscript in preparation].
 - **Bitsikokos, L., & Stolzenberg, R. M. (2026).** *Mapping Justice: A Social Network Analysis of U.S. District Court Citations.* [Manuscript in preparation].

Project Reports

- Hossner, F., Bindas, A., Krisdianatha, A., Tarannum, A., Smrke, J., **Bitsikokos, L., & Aversa, E. (2025).** *The Algorithmic Mirror: Auditing TikTok Recommender Systems for Personalization, Protection, and Profiling.* Digital Methods Initiative. digitalmethods.net.

Research Experience

June 2026– Aug 2026	Ross Lynn Summer Research Assistant	<i>West Lafayette, IN</i>
	Brian Lamb School of Communication, Purdue University Working with Prof. Jeremy Foote on a project about AI portrayal in the news; collecting and analyzing news articles; performing computational text analysis; writing and preparing manuscript for publication.	
Aug 2024–	Data Scientist	<i>West Lafayette, IN</i>
	Brian Lamb School of Communication, Purdue University Assisting Prof. Jeremy Foote and Prof. Deepak Kumar (UCSD) with data analysis for the Toxic Talk Project, assessing the efficacy of AI agents in reducing toxic discourse online.	
Sept 2023– Jun 2024	Graduate Research Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago Assisted Prof. Ross Stolzenberg on mechanisms of power/authority in U.S. district court judiciary via citational links; collected and pre-processed court decisions; conducted network analysis using Python, Gephi, and legal citation tools.	
Sept 2023– Jun 2024	Graduate Research Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	University of Chicago Assisted Prof. Jean Clipperton with data collection, record linkage, and sentiment analysis of Taylor Swift lyrics; provided administrative website support; supported literature review, research design, and methodology on an agent-based modeling project on housing inequality.	

Mar 2023– Sept 2023	Graduate Research Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	Environmental Neuroscience Lab, University of Chicago Project: contagion of emotional sentiment in urban environments. Built large-scale computing model of sentiment contagion using a Big Data Postgres database of geolocated tweets; worked in Python (NumPy, pandas, requests, matplotlib, seaborn, bs4, psycpg2).	
Jun 2022–Jul 2022	Visiting Student Intern / Researcher	<i>Vienna, Austria</i>
	Complexity Science Hub Vienna Project: complexity in open-source software ecosystems. Supported GitHub data acquisition repository for the Rust ecosystem; investigated impact of weekly newsletter featuring a Rust repository on social network metrics (stars, forks, downloads).	
Sept 2021– Feb 2022	Graduate Researcher (Master's Thesis)	<i>Athens, Greece</i>
	National Technical University of Athens Examined user influence in online social networks (Twitter); performed literature review; analyzed open datasets with Twitter-specific and traditional centrality measures; PageRank-based algorithms; Python (NetworkX, NumPy, pandas, matplotlib, seaborn); conducted correlation studies; authored 100+ page thesis manuscript.	
Sept 2017– Sept 2018	Researcher / Technical Student	<i>Geneva, Switzerland</i>
	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) Studied electron cloud phenomena for the Large Hadron Collider using PyECLOUD; collaborated with BE-Hadron Synchrotron Collective Effects, Electron Cloud, & Heat Load Task Force; presented weekly progress; participated in trainings and workshops.	

Teaching Experience

Spring 2024	Teaching Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	University of Chicago Social Network Analysis (Prof. Sabrina Nardin): developed materials, graded assignments, advised students, and provided support.	
Fall 2023	Teaching Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	University of Chicago Foundations for Statistical Theory (Prof. Yanyan Sheng): graded assignments and supported students.	
Fall 2023	Teaching Assistant	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
	University of Chicago Computing for the Social Sciences (Prof. Sabrina Nardin): graded assignments and supported students.	

Aug 2023	Teaching Assistant University of Chicago Computational Math Camp (Prof. Jean Clipperton): graded assignments, advised students, and provided support.	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
Jun 2023	Teaching Assistant University of Chicago Computing for the Social Sciences (Prof. Jean Clipperton): graded assignments, advised students, and provided support.	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
Sept 2018– Sept 2019	Physics & Math Instructor Two Pi Rho Tutoring / Self-Employed Taught physics, math, and calculus to a group of ten high school students.	<i>Athens, Greece</i>

Professional Affiliations

- Semiotic Society of America, 2025–2026
- International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA), 2025–2026
- International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA), 2024–2025

Awards, Fellowships & Scholarships

- Ross Lynn Summer RA Grant for 2026
- PROMISE Award for 2024–2025
- College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Graduate Fellowship for 2024–2030
- Onassis Foundation Scholarship for 2024–2027
- University of Chicago Tuition Scholarship for 2023–2024
- Onassis Foundation Scholarship for 2023–2024
- International House Fellowship for 2023–2024
- Phoenix Research Scholarship for 2022–2023
- Social Sciences Opportunity Scholarship for 2022–2023
- MA Program Research Scholarship for 2022–2023
- Limmat Stiftung Award (4th out of 93 students) for 2018–2019

Additional Training

- *Video Research Institute* summer school organized by Dr. Bryce Dietrich and the Center for C-SPAN, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA (Jun 2026)
- *Negotiating the Uncertain Ethics of Emerging Technologies* workshop by Dr. Lindah Kotut (UWashington), Tech Justice Lab, West Lafayette, IN, USA (Apr 2026)
- Community Data Science Annual Meeting 2025, University of Washington, Seattle, USA (Oct 2025)
- Purdue Modern Fiction Studies Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA (Sept 2025)
- Digital Methods Initiative Summer School — Social media at a crossroads and AI platform sensitivity, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (Jul 2025)

- *The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want* workshop and talk by Dr. Alex Hanna, West Lafayette, IN, USA (Apr 2025)
- Systems and Disruptions Purdue Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, West Lafayette, IN, USA (Mar 2025)
- Organizational Communication Mini Conference (OCMC), Evanston, IL, USA (Sept 2024)
- Frontiers in Online Community Research Symposium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA (Sept 2024)
- Political Theory Summer School, Institute for the Radical Imagination, Kasos, Greece (Jul 2022)
- Extra-terrestrial Ethnographies of the Future-Present, SNF Public Humanities Initiative, Athens, Greece (Nov 2020)
- CERN Inverted School of Computing, Geneva, Switzerland (Mar 2018)
- Joint Universities Accelerator School (JUAS), Archamps, France (Jan 2018)
- Education in the Era of Information Technology, Neos Pedagogos, Athens, Greece (Nov 2015)

Languages

- Greek (Native)
- English (Fluent)
- German (Intermediate)
- French (Basic)

Research Interests & Skills

Research Interests: Computational Social Science; Digital Humanities; Critical AI Studies; Platform Studies; Algorithms and Society; Algorithmic Bias; Media and Society; Semiotics; Organizational Communication; Theory.

Methods: Quantitative & Computational Methods; Computational Grounded Theory; Computational Text Analysis (Embeddings, Topic Modelling, Networks); NLP; Data Collection; Statistical Analysis; Social Network Analysis; Data Cleaning; Visualization; Record Linkage; Literature Reviews; Writing.

Technical: Python; R; Java; Mathematica; FORTRAN; MATLAB; $\text{\LaTeX}$; Git; SQL; Minitab; Office 365; Jira; Unix; Software Engineering; Database Engineering; Project Management; Large-scale computing (AWS).

AI-Specific: LLMs (OpenAI, Gemini); OpenRouter; Prompt Engineering; LLM-assisted Named Entity Recognition (NER); AI-Assisted Qualitative Coding; AI-Assisted Text Analysis; Recommender System Auditing; AI Coding Agents (Codex, Claude); MCP Server Configuration.

Creative Pursuits: Jazz saxophone (intermediate); poetry; zines; thermal printing; analog printing; experimental and analog photography

References

Available upon request.