

Joshua Becker

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

UCL School of Management, University College London Assistant Professor, Organizations & Innovation Group	Since 2020
Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management Postdoctoral Fellow, Management and Organizations Department Researcher in Residence, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems	2018–2020

EDUCATION

PhD, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania <i>Dissertation:</i> The Network Dynamics of Social Influence in the Wisdom of Crowds <i>Committee:</i> Damon Centola (chair), Sandra Gonzalez-Bailon, Michael Delli-Carpini	2018
MA, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania <i>Thesis:</i> Network Structure and the Quality of Collective Decisions	2015
BA Liberal Arts, St. Johns College, Annapolis	2008

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Calm Mediation (London) Volunteer neighbor mediator	2022-present
Chicago Center for Conflict Resolution Volunteer mediator, committee member	2018-2021
Kimmel Center Philadelphia (Ticket Philadelphia) Managed hiring and training program for 30+ customer service dept	2011-2013
Baltimore Community Mediation Center Community outreach coordinator, training and volunteer coordinator	2008-2011

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Becker, J., Guilbeault, D., & Smith, E.B. (2022). *The crowd classification problem: Social dynamics of binary choice accuracy.* Management Science, 68(5), 3949-3965.

Almaatouq, A., **Becker, J.**, Houghton, J. P., Paton, N., Watts, D. J., & Whiting, M. E. (2021). *Empirica: a virtual lab for high-throughput macro-level experiments*. Behavior Research Methods, 1-14.

Guilbeault, D., Woolley, S., & **Becker, J.** (2021). *Probabilistic social learning improves the public's judgments of news veracity*. Plos one, 16(3), e0247487.

Becker, J., Porter, E., & Centola, D. (2019). *The wisdom of partisan crowds*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116(22), 10717-10722.

Centola, D., **Becker, J.**, Brackbill, D., & Baronchelli, A. (2018). *Experimental evidence for tipping points in social convention*. Science, 360(6393).

Guilbeault, D., **Becker, J.**, & Centola, D. (2018). *Social learning and partisan bias in the interpretation of climate trends*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 115(39).

Guilbeault, D., **Becker, J.** & Centola, D. (2018). *Complex contagions: a decade in review*. In Yong Yeol Ahn & Sune Lehmann (Eds.) Spreading Dynamics in Social Systems. Springer Nature.

Becker, J., Brackbill, D., & Centola, D. (2017). *The network dynamics of social influence in the wisdom of crowds*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 14 (26).

Zhang, J., Brackbill, D., Yang, S., **Becker, J.**, Herbert, N., & Centola, D. (2016). *Support or competition? How online social networks increase physical activity: A randomized controlled trial*. Preventive Medicine Reports, 4, 453-458.

SELECTED JOURNALISTIC PUBLICATIONS

Becker, J., Guilbeault, D., Smith, E.B. (2021). *Some Questions Benefit from Group Discussion. Others Don't*. Harvard Business Review (Online).

Becker, J., Smith, E.B. (2019). *For crowdsourcing to work, everyone needs an equal voice*. Harvard Business Review (Online).

PREPRINTS

Becker, J., Almaatouq, A., Horvat, A. Network Structures of Collective Intelligence: The Contingent Benefits of Group Discussion. arxiv.org/abs/2009.07202

Becker, J. The Network Dynamics of Social and Technological Conventions. arXiv preprint arXiv:2003.12112.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Best Paper, *Computational Methods Section of the International Communication Association*, 2019. (For: The network dynamics of social and technological conventions.)

Best Paper (Honorable Mention), *Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association*, 2019. (For: Experimental evidence for tipping points in social convention.)

Best Paper (Honorable Mention), *Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association*, 2018. (For: The network dynamics of social influence in the wisdom of crowds.)

Best Paper, *International Conference on Computational Social Science*, 2018. (For: Social learning and partisan bias in the interpretation of climate trends.)

FUNDING & FELLOWSHIPS

A Network Solution to Groupthink. (\$2,500). Dispute Resolution Research Center, 2018.

The Collective Intelligence Dynamics of Fake News. (\$20,000). Institute for the Future, 2018. With D. Guilbeault.

Can Social Influence Improve Financial Forecasting? (\$2,500). Russell Ackoff Doctoral Fellowship, Wharton Risk Center, 2017.

Harnessing the Wisdom of Crowds to Increase Political Knowledge. (\$7,800) Russell Sage Foundation grant through Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, 2017. With E. Porter.

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Oxford Summer School in Economic Networks (planned)
Warwick Business School (planned)
- 2022 Institute for Analytic Sociology, Linköping University
MetaGovernance Seminar
UCL Women in Engineering Society (Keynote)
Northeastern University Engineering and Network Science Institute
SPSP Intragroup Preconference
- 2021 Center for Adaptive Rationality, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin
UCL Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Seminar
Computational Communication Club, Georgia State University
Digital Communication Research Lab, University of Buffalo
Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Strategic Management Forum
Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Center for Adaptive Rationality

- 2020 Human Dynamics Group, MIT Media Lab
Virtual Quant Marketing Seminar
Decision Sciences, INSEAD
More Job Talks
- 2019 A Bunch of Job Talks
Computational Social Science Seminar, University of Chicago
Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems Seminar Series
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Chicago Partner Site
The Knowledge Lab, University of Chicago
Computational Social Science Seminar, University of Pennsylvania
Civic Capital and Democratic Institutions Group, Northwestern University
Media, Technology, & Society Seminar, Northwestern University
- 2018 Duke Network Analysis Center, Duke University
Computing and Digital Media Research Symposium, DePaul University
ASA Preconference on Computational Sociology, Philadelphia
Crowdsourcing and Collective Intelligence Workshop, Boston
Human Cooperation Lab, Yale University
Human Dynamics Group, MIT Media Lab
- 2016 Penn Network Visualization Program, University of Pennsylvania

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Society for Judgement and Decision Making (Virtual)
Association for Consumer Research (Virtual)
International Conference on Computational Social Science (Virtual)
- 2019 Academy of Management Annual Meeting (x2 Presentations)
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
International Communication Association, Washington, DC (x3 Presentations)
Collective Intelligence Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (x2 Presentations)
Int'l Conference on Computational Social Science, Amsterdam (x2 Presentations)
- 2018 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA (x3 presentations).
International Conference on Computational Social Science, Chicago, IL
CompleNet Conference, Boston, MA
- 2017 Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium, Wharton School, Philadelphia, PA
American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada
International Conference on Computational Social Science, Cologne, Germany
- 2016 International Conference on Computational Social Science, Chicago, IL
Collective Intelligence Conference, New York, NY
- 2015 Computational Social Science Summit, Chicago
Workshop on Information and Networks, New York, NY
NetSci Conference, Zaragoza, Spain
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020–present In development (2023): Technology & Collective Intelligence
Course developer & Lecturer, Negotiation Fundamentals, MBA @ UCL
Lecturer, Negotiation Fundamentals, MSc Management program, UCL
- 2019–2020 Lecturer. Kellogg School of Management.
Negotiations Fundamentals, Management and Organizations Dept.
- Teaching assistant to Hyejin Youn, Kellogg School of Management
MBA Course: Social Dynamics and Network Analysis
- 2018–2022 Curriculum design & lecturer
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago Partner Site
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science London Partner Site
- 2016–2017 Teaching assistant and curriculum designer for Damon Centola
Online course: The Network Dynamics of Social Behavior
- 2015 Teaching assistant for Sandra Gonzalez-Bailon, University of Pennsylvania
Undergraduate course: Big Data and Social Networks
- 2008–2013 Skills trainer, communication and conflict resolution
Community Mediation Maryland, Kimmel Center Philadelphia

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2008–2019 Negotiations Fundamentals (Northwestern University), Basic Mediation
(Northwestern University), Mediation Mentorship Program (Chicago Center
for Conflict Resolution), Advanced Mediation Training (Community
Mediation Maryland)
- 2017 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Princeton University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ethics Committee Member, UCL School of Management, 2021-Present

SPSP Collective Intelligence Preconference, 2021, 2022.

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science London Partner Site, 2021, 2022.

Pro-bono mediation & committee service for Chicago Conflict Resolution Center, Calm Mediation (London), 2022-present.

Awards Committee (2019), Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Assn.

Organizer Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago Partner Site, 2018-2020.

Program committee for International Conference on Computational Social Science (2019), NetSciX Conference (2018).

Organizing Committee, Datathon Chair, International Conference on Computational Social Science, Northwestern University, July 2018.

Organizing Committee Member, Graduate Student Symposium, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, April 2018.

Editorial team member (reviewer), Journal of Social Computing.

Guest editor, PNAS.

Ad-hoc reviewer for journals and grant funders including: Collective Intelligence, Administrative Science Quarterly, Organization Science, Management Science, American Journal of Sociology, Int. J. of Information Systems, Psychological Science, Poetics, Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Science Advances, NHB, PNAS, Intl. Conference on Computational Social Science.