

AIDAN COMBS

Curriculum vitae

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate	Duke University, Sociology <i>Certificate in College Teaching (expected)</i>	<i>Expected 2024</i>
MA	Duke University, Sociology <i>Qualification areas: Social Psychology and Measuring Culture</i>	2021
BS	University of Wisconsin-Madison <i>Engineering Physics with scientific computing focus; Mathematics Certificate in Computer Science; Engineering Honors in the Liberal Arts</i>	2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational social science; identity; social psychology; (Bayesian) affect control theory; sociology of culture; political sociology

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bail, Christopher A., Brian Guay, Emily Maloney, Aidan Combs, D. Sunshine Hillygus, Friedolin Merhout, Deen Freelon, and Alexander Volfovsky. 2020. "Assessing the Impact of the Russian Internet Research Agency on the Political Attitudes and Behaviors of American Twitter Users in Late 2017." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(1):243-250.

Combs, Aidan H., Jason J. Maldonis, Jie Feng, Zhongnan Xu, Paul M. Voyles, and Dane Morgan. 2019. "Fast Approximate STEM Image Simulations from a Machine Learning Model." *Advanced Structural and Chemical Imaging* 5(2).

IN PROGRESS

Combs, Aidan, Graham Tierney, Brian Guay, Friedolin Merhout, Christopher A. Bail, D. Sunshine Hillygus, and Alexander Volfovsky. "Anonymous Cross-Party Conversations Can Decrease Political Polarization: A Field Experiment on a Mobile Chat Platform." *Under review*.

Combs, Aidan, Graham Tierney, Fatima Alqabandi, Devin Cornell, Gabriel Varela, Andrés Castro Araújo, Lisa Argyle, Alexander Volfovsky, and Christopher A. Bail. "Perceived Gender and Political Persuasion: A Social Media Field Experiment during the 2020 Democratic National Primary." *Under review*.

Combs, Aidan. “Estimating Ambiguity in Cultural Meaning.” *Working paper*.

Combs, Aidan. “People Don’t Know What They Don’t Know: Political Knowledge and Perceptions of Influence in Political Conversation.” *Working paper*.

Jacobs, Susan, and Aidan Combs. “Situation Definition, Polarization, and Affect Control Theory.” *Working paper*.

Combs, Aidan. “Gender Differences in Sermon Content: An Analysis of Duke University Chapel Sermons.”

R PACKAGES

Combs, Aidan. *bayesactR*. <https://github.com/ahcombs/bayesactR>
An interface that allows Bayesian affect control theory simulations to be run in R, facilitating more accessible and reproducible research on identity processes in interaction

Combs, Aidan. *actdata*. <https://github.com/ahcombs/actdata>
A central repository for standardized versions of all publicly available affect control theory dictionaries

PRESENTATIONS

American Sociological Association, August 2022: “*Estimating Uncertainty in Cultural Meaning*.”

Group Processes Conference, August 2022: “*actdata, inteRact, and bayesactR: A Suite of R Packages for Transparent and Reproducible Research with Affect Control Theory and its Bayesian Counterpart*.”

Southern Sociological Society, April 2022: “*Situation Definition, Polarization, and Affect Control Theory*.”

Information Science and Studies 112 invited speaker, September 2021: “*Online Communication and Polarization*.”

Introduction to Sociology guest lecture, March 2021: “*The Sociology of Gender*.”

Group Processes Virtual Conference, August 2021: “*People Don’t Know What They Don’t Know: Political Knowledge and Perceptions of Influence in Political Conversation*.”

American Sociological Association, August 2020: “*Gender Differences in Sermon Content: An Analysis of Duke University Chapel Sermons*.”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Research assistantships:

Christopher Bail, Duke University, 2019-2020
Nona Gronert, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016-2018
Dane Morgan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016-2018

Teaching assistantships:

Introduction to Sociology, Craig Rawlings, Fall 2019, 2020, and 2021
The Invention and Consequences of Race, Kerry Haynie, Charmaine Royal, Nayoung Aimee Kwon, and Donald Taylor, Fall 2021
Introduction to Sociology, Ashley Harrell, Spring 2021
Leadership (MBA program elective), Angelica Leigh, Spring and Fall 2021
Negotiation (MBA program elective), Chris Petsko, Fall 2020
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Summer 2020
Social Research Methods, Jenifer Hamil-Luker, Spring 2020

Review:

Occasional reviewer: American Behavioral Scientist

Duke University Sociology:

Graduate student representative, 2021-2022

Other:

“Spatial Reasoning and Problem-Based Learning to Improve Girls’ Math Identity.”
Graduate team member on Bass Connections research project.
Mentor to high school students completing AP research projects through the Illinois Science and Technology Institute, 2018-2022

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Teaching on Purpose fellow, 2022
Duke Sociology Department research grant, 2022
Program for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences Fellow, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
Southern Sociological Society Striving Towards Anti-Racist Teaching in the South cohort member, 2022
Duke Worldview Lab Research Grant, 2021
Duke Sociology Department research grant, 2021
Duke Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2019, 2020, 2021
Oxford Summer Institute in Computational Social Science project grant, 2019
University Bookstore Academic Excellence Award, 2018
Wisconsin Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2017-2018

MISCELLANEA

Languages and software: R, Python, Java, Flutter, Stata, MATLAB, NVivo

Prior work experience: Orbital Technologies Corporation (mechanical engineering intern),
University of Wisconsin-Madison Residence Life (math tutor)