

Eleveny (Shiyi) Chen

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political communication; public opinion; computational text analysis; computational social science; quantitative methodology

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication, University of California, Davis 2023–2028 (expected)

Advisor: Seth Frey

Dissertation focus: Belief-system formation as communicative process — how domain-general cognitive machinery, operating on communicatively structured input, produces the compressed representations recognized as political ideology. Empirical program uses computational text analysis to observe medium-term edge dynamics in belief networks across deliberative, online, institutional, and conversational corpora.

B.A., Communication, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2023

Minors: Computer Science, Political Science, Quantitative Methods in Social Science

Honors Thesis Advisor: Josh Pasek

Thesis: *The Era of the Great Schism: Is Liberal-Conservative Still a Valid Ideological Categorization in American Society?*

Applied advanced statistical modeling and longitudinal analysis to American National Election Studies (ANES) data to evaluate shifting dynamics in public opinion and political behavior.

PUBLICATIONS & WORKING PAPERS

Under Review / Revise & Resubmit

Chen, S. (E.), Kasaraneni, N., Kiene, C., Hill, B. M., & Frey, S. (2026). Accrete and reform: Dual mechanisms of institutional change in online communities. *Revise & resubmit, Social Media + Society*.

Working Papers / Manuscripts in Preparation

Chen, S. (E.), Yan, H., Flynn, D. J., & Frey, S. (2026). Shooting friends and missing enemies: Decomposing polarized policy preferences as signal detection problems. *Working paper*.

Chen, S. (E.), Ding, C. (S.), Zhao, Z. (S.), Ye, M., & Frey, S. (2026). Mapping construct operationalization practices: An LLM-based extraction approach to detecting jingle-jangle fallacies in social science. *Working paper*.

Ding, C. (S.), Chen, S. (E.), Zhao, Z. (S.), Ye, M., & Frey, S. (2026). Why here and not there? A pragmatic account of selective errors in LLM-based construct extraction. *Working paper*.

Xu, Q., Chen, S. (E.), & Zhang, J. (2026). Understanding opposition to Taiwan's #MeToo movement: A system justification analysis of countermovement discourse. *Working paper*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Delivered

Chen, S. (E.) (2024). [Talk]. *CSS Escape 2026*.

Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk]. *UCD Communication BrownBag*.
Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk]. *CSS Escape 2026*.
Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk]. *American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Annual Conference 2026*.
Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk & Poster]. *Communication Horizons 2026*.
Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk]. *Symposium on Language Research 2026*.

Accepted / Forthcoming

Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk]. *Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2026*.
Chen, S. (E.) (2026). [Talk × 2]. *International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2026*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis

CMN 152V — Social Science with Online Data	Summer 2025, Winter 2026
CMN 120 — Interpersonal Communication	Spring 2026
CMN 001 — Introduction to Public Speaking	Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2025
CMN 003V — Interpersonal Communication Competence	Summer 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Computational Communication (C²) Lab, University of California, Davis² 023–present
Advisor: Seth Frey. Research on political belief-system formation, institutional dynamics in online communities, and computational measurement of political language.

Honors Thesis Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2022–2023
Advisor: Josh Pasek. Undergraduate honors thesis on ideological categorization.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Provost’s Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UC Davis 2023–2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, C++, JavaScript, JSON, SQL; embedded systems (ESP32)

Quantitative Methods: Causal inference, network analysis, natural language processing (ConvoKit, FightingWords, topic models), machine learning, agent-based modeling, game-theoretic models, survey design and analysis

Mathematics: Matrix algebra, calculus, discrete mathematics, algorithm design

Computing Infrastructure: High-performance computing (UC Davis HPC cluster), Linux system administration, local GPU server deployment and management

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: International Communication Association (ICA) 2025; International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2026

REFERENCES

Available upon request.