

# Tommaso Venturini – Curriculum Vitæ

[www.tommasoventurini.it](http://www.tommasoventurini.it) – [scholar.google.it/citations?user=wW7XV2sAAAAJ&hl](https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=wW7XV2sAAAAJ&hl)

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## Summary

I am an associate professor at the [Medialab of the University of Geneva](#), a researcher at the [CNRS Centre for Internet & Society](#) and a founding member of the [Public Data Lab](#).

In 2017 and 2018, I have been a researcher at the [École Normale Supérieure of Lyon](#) and recipient of the “Advanced Research” fellowship of the [French Institute for Computer Science and Automation](#). In 2016, I was a “digital methods lecturer” at the [Department of Digital Humanities of King's College London](#). From 2009 to 2015, I coordinated the research activities of the [médialab of Sciences Po Paris](#).

My research is positioned at the interface between social and human sciences and digital computation and design. My investigation activities focus on: [Digital Methods](#), [Digital Media Studies](#), [Controversy Mapping](#), [Science & Technology Studies](#), and more particularly on the attention economy (and its acceleration in online media) and Internet subcultures (and secondary orality phenomena).

I teach or have taught *Controversy Mapping*, *Digital Methods*, *Data Journalism and Activism*, and *Online Subcultures* at graduate and undergraduate level as well as the *Writing with Data Workshop* for PhD and junior researchers. Since 2023, I am the director of the [Master in Communication and Digital Cultures](#) of the University of Geneva.

## Current research interests

My current research inquiry into the phenomenon commonly but improperly known as ‘fake news’. The notion of ‘fake news’ is misleading as it focuses too narrowly on the dissemination of counterfeit evidence. While this is certainly a problem, the threat of online misinformation runs deeper and consists of a systemic degradation of public debate. I have called this phenomenon **junk news**, because (just as junk food) digital misinformation is consumed and shared not because it is believed or liked, but because it is addictive. More largely, I propose to conceptualize this type of communication as a form of **secondary orality** arising from the acceleration of media attention cycles.

This research builds on my long-lasting engagement in the **mapping of public controversies through the traces they leave in digital media** and it is motivated by the observation (as a researcher and citizen) of the increasing difficulties of these media in sustaining democratic debates. My research investigates the **infrastructures of digital communication**, inquiring into dynamics that span from online attention economy, to tracking and recommendation algorithms, from the social metrification, to the proliferation of viral subcultures and the rise of political trolling. Instead of studying each of these dynamics in isolation it aims at developing an integrated conceptual model of their reinforcing interactions.

Drawing on the **participatory approach** that I have promoted through the **Public Data Lab**, this research hopes to engage scholars, citizens, civil society groups and policymakers, and to foster a better appreciation of the dynamics of online debate.

## Training and early years

I received my training at the University of Bologna in **U. Eco's Communication Studies Program**. There, I joined the **Web Group**, a group of students and researchers discussing and practicing electronic media. During my studies, I managed various online communities and founded **Ideaedi Web design agency**. These professional experiences trained me in working with developers and designers and gave me a hands-on knowledge of digital technologies.

Such knowledge found its first research application in 2001 during a **visit to UCLA**, where I attended an Honors Collegium course on agent-based modelling. After this experience of digital sociology, I felt that my work on the digital turn should be rooted in a broader understanding of social modernization. **I graduated magna cum laude** with a dissertation on the modernization of magic, under the supervision of Pierpaolo Giglioli.

My Ph.D. took place at Milano Bicocca in the **Society of Information Program** (co-organized by Sociology and Computer Science departments), where I was exposed to more technical training and discovered Science and Technologies Studies. My STS reflection matured at the *Centre d'Etude des Techniques des Connaissances et des Pratiques* of **Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne**, where I worked with A. Gras on large technical systems. My **Ph.D. thesis** explored the controversies on agricultural modernisation and biodiversity patenting and was greeted with honors by the jury.

My work on controversies brought me to encounter Bruno Latour and the seminal **project MACOSPOL** (2007-2009). The objective of MACOSPOL was to formalize Controversy Mapping as an applied version of Actor-Network Theory. My role in the project was to mediate the collaboration between the STS team at Sciences Po and the technical partners, particularly at the Digital Methods Initiative of Amsterdam.

## Research achievements

1. I have **published in several international journals and conferences** ([scholar.google.fr/citations?user=wW7XV2sAAAAJ&hl](https://scholar.google.fr/citations?user=wW7XV2sAAAAJ&hl)), authored a **monograph on controversy mapping** ([politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509544509](https://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509544509)) and received numerous invitations for keynotes, lectures, master classes and workshops.
2. I have been recruited by the University of Geneva, as an **associate professor in digital methods**, with the task of facilitating the renewal of the research and the teaching activities of its Medialab.
3. I have served as an **expert or evaluator for several national and international organizations**:
  - International institutions (InterParliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, International Organization for Migration)
  - Research funding agencies (European Research Council, ANR, Swiss National Research Fund, Romanian Research Council, CHANSE Programme, Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Flanders Research Foundation, Fond laCaixa)
  - Scientific journals and publishers (in particular the journals *Big Data and Society* and *Frontiers in Big Data*; the *Web Science ACM* conference and the publishing houses Polity, Routledge, Palgrave, Amsterdam University Press, Bristol University Press).
4. I have been the **principal investigator** of two large collaborative projects ([EMAPS](#) and [MEDEA](#)) and participated in many other projects ([forccast.hypotheses.org](https://forccast.hypotheses.org), [contropedia.net](https://contropedia.net), [societalsecurity.net](https://societalsecurity.net), [lafabriquedelaloi.fr](https://lafabriquedelaloi.fr), [sciencespo.fr/DIME-SHS](https://sciencespo.fr/DIME-SHS), [politiquesdelaterre.fr](https://politiquesdelaterre.fr), [modesofexistence.org](https://modesofexistence.org)).
5. I have founded (with J. Gray and L. Bounegru) the **Public Data Lab** ([publicdatalab.org](https://publicdatalab.org)).
6. I have been the recipient of the **INRIA advanced research fellowship** ([www.inria.fr/institut/recrutement-metiers/offres/advanced-research-positions/presentation](https://www.inria.fr/institut/recrutement-metiers/offres/advanced-research-positions/presentation)).
7. I helped Bruno Latour **establish the Sciences Po médialab** ([medialab.sciences-po.fr](https://medialab.sciences-po.fr)), an experimental laboratory gathering scientists, developers and designers. During the six years of my coordination (2009-2015),
  - the médialab grew up to more than thirty members;
  - obtained an A+ evaluation from the French Evaluation Agency (AERES);
  - published a rich ecosystem of digital research tools ([tools.medialab.sciences-po.fr](https://tools.medialab.sciences-po.fr)).

## Professional history

<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Positions and status</i>
01/09/2021	...	University of Geneva	Associate Professor
01/11/2018	...	CNRS	Researcher
01/01/2017	31/10/2018	INRIA	Advance Research Fellow
01/01/2016	01/01/2017	King's College London	Lecturer in Digital Methods
01/11/2009	31/12/2015	Sciences Po Paris	Researcher and research coordinator
01/09/2007	31/10/2009	University of Bologna	Post-doc
01/05/2000	31/10/2009	Ideaedi Web Agency	Founder and project manager

## Diplomas

- **Habilitation à diriger des recherches** (HDR) “Controversy Mapping, a Travel Companion”  
September 26, 2016, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon  
Jury : Pablo Jensen, Dominique Pestre, Eric Fleury, Didier Bigo, Richard Rogers, Dominique Vinck
- **Ph.D.** “Seminare Vento: Controversie sulla biopirateria e formalizzazione tecnica moderna”  
(Sowing Wind: Biopiracy Controversies and Modern Technical Formalization)  
March 21, 2007, University of Milano Bicocca (Informatics Department & Sociology Department)
- **Master in Semiotics and Communication Sciences**,  
March, 2003, University of Bologna (Communication Sciences Department), *Magna cum Laude*.

## Prizes and awards

In January 2017, I was awarded an **advanced research grant** from the [French Institute for Computer Science and Automation](http://www.inria.fr/en/institute/recruitment/offers/advanced-research-positions/presentation) allowing researchers in disciplines other than computer science to join INRIA ([www.inria.fr/en/institute/recruitment/offers/advanced-research-positions/presentation](http://www.inria.fr/en/institute/recruitment/offers/advanced-research-positions/presentation)).

In 2015, I received the Prize “**Etoile d’Europe**” as the project [EMAPS](#) (of whom I was the Principal Investigator) was elected among the best UE-funded research projects led by a French university (the only one in social science).

## Responsibilities

Since 2023.....Director of the Master in Communication and Digital Cultures of the University of Geneva

Since 2014.....Member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Big Data & Society Journal* (Sage)

Since 2020.....Member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Frontiers in Big Data* (Frontiers)

Since 2019.....Member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences (PARISS)* (Brill)

2023 .....Expert project reviewer, Québec-Flanders Bilateral Research Cooperation Program

2023 .....Expert project reviewer, Agence Nationale de la Recherche ANR, France

2019-2022 .....Co-coordinator of the working group “Gender and Digital” of the research network “Internet, AI and Society”, CNRS, France

2019-2021 .....Member of the evaluation panel SH3 (The Social World and Its Diversity) for the ERC Advanced Grants, European Research Council

2019 .....Ph.D. examiner, University of New South Wales, Sydney

2019 .....Expert project reviewer, laCaixa Social Research Call, Espagne

2019 .....Expert project reviewer, Suisse National Research Foundation, Suisse

2018 .....Organiser of two sessions at the *EASST 2018 Conference*, Lancaster, UK (24-28/07/18)  
 - “Data Worlds, public imagination and public experimentation with data infrastructures”  
 - “What do we still not know about the IPCC”

2015-2018 .....Director of the Scientific Committee, *DIME-SHS programme* Sciences Po Paris, France

2018 .....Expert project reviewer, *Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute*, Switzerland

2018 .....Expert project reviewer, University of Leuven, Belgium

2017 .....Ph.D. examiner, University of Bordeaux, France

2016-2017 .....Coordinator of the research seminars, Digital Humanities Dept., King’s College London, UK

2016 .....External examiner for the recruitment an Associate Professor, University of Aalborg, Denmark

2016 .....Ph.D. Examiner, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2015 .....Scientific advisor, *Danish Council for Independent Research* - Humanities

2015 .....Expert reviewer, *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie*

2015 .....Expert reviewer, *Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research* (NWO)

2014-2015 .....Reviewer for Master Students admissions, Sciences Po Paris, France

2014 .....Expert reviewer, *European Union DG Research*

2013 .....Member of the Editorial Board, *ACM Web Science*

2012 .....Organizer of the session “Socializing Design, Designing Sociology” at the *4S-EASST Conference*, Copenhagen, Denmark (18/11/12)

2012 .....Organizer of the session “Debating Environmental Controversies” at the *Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference*, Florence, Italy (18/04/12)

2012 .....Expert reviewer, *Romanian National Council for Research and Development*

2010 .....Scientific advisor, *Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche*, France

Through the years, I have conducted peer review for the following journals and book publishers

New Media & Society	Information, Communication & Society	Polity
Big Data & Society	Theory, Culture and Society	Routledge
Public Understanding of Science	Nature Climate Change	Palgrave
Theory Culture and Society	Environmental Science & Policy	Amsterdam University Press
Science, Technology & Human Values	Science of the Total Environment	Bristol University Press
Science Communication	Global Environmental Change	
Religion, Media & Digital Culture	Challenges	
Qualitative Research	CoDesign	
First Monday	Canadian Journal of Communication	
Poetics	STS Encounters	
Digital Journalism	Tecnoscienza	
Journalism and Media	NECSUS	
Frontiers in Big Data	Etnografia e ricerca qualitativa	
AI & Society	Les Cahiers du Journalisme	
Internet Policy Review	Place Branding and Public Diplomacy	
Journal of Decision Systems	Plos Computational Biology	

## Mobility

- 2019 ..... Visiting Researcher - Research School of Social Sciences, the Australian National University. At the *Virtual Observatory for the Study of Online Networks* (VOSON) ([vosonlab.net](http://vosonlab.net)), I have investigated innovative approaches to model the dynamics of social and communication networks, particularly (but not exclusively) in Reddit (01/01/2019 – 29/03/2019).
- 2017-2018 .... Visiting researcher at the University Centre of Informatics of the University of Geneva ([cui.unige.ch](http://cui.unige.ch)), where I worked with Giovanna di Marzo, director of the Centre, on the study of urban dynamics by the traces they leave on the digital media (01/12/17 – 31/03/2018).
- 2006-2006 ... Visiting Researcher - CETCOPRA, Université Paris 1 Sorbonne Pantheon. At the *Centre d'Etude des Techniques des Connaissances et des Pratiques*, I worked with the on technical modernization and participated to the reflection on the creation of *Décroissance & Technique* journal.
- 2001-2001 .... Visiting Students - Media Studies Department, University of California Los Angeles, USA. At *UCLA Honors Collegium* I attended a course on social modelling by P. Bonacich. During that course, I coded an agent-based simulation inspired to the work of R. Axelrod on strategic cooperation (later used as an education resource in the course).

## Research dissemination and advice

In September 2023, I developed a cartographic workshop for the AI2S2 Symposium in Geneva ([www.tommasoventurini.it/ai2s2/](http://www.tommasoventurini.it/ai2s2/)). The AI2S2 Symposium is designed to facilitate knowledge transfer on Artificial Intelligence between industry, science, and society. Organized, in collaboration with the ANR projects CultureIA and ScientIA, the workshop was structured around two main proposals: *Four AI scientometric landscapes* (four maps presenting different views on the scientific literature about artificial intelligence) and *Search me an AI* (a simple and playful tool to brainstorm about AI-related keywords). Both are based on data made available by the scientometrics database OpenAlex. The tool allows you to play with this database and explore its records and keywords, while the maps showcase what is possible to do with these data.

In October 2019, I was invited to produce another cartographic intervention this time for the **Global Forum on Artificial Intelligence for Humanity** ([www.tommasoventurini.it/ai/](http://www.tommasoventurini.it/ai/)). Bringing together more than 400 experts from industry and research at the Paris Academy of Sciences, the forum aimed to foster discussion on the human and social consequences of artificial intelligence. In this context, I decided that my intervention should aim to diversify the conversations of the Forum and prevent them from focusing too narrowly on engineering and computer science. To do this, I have developed (in collaboration with Axel Meunier) a series of maps exploring the different issues, disciplines and institutions mobilized by the scientific literature on "AI for humanity". We extracted from extracts from ISI Web of Science a corpus of 23,000 bibliographic records concerning societal issues related to advanced computing technologies. From this corpus, we have built several scientometric networks (references, keywords, disciplines and institutions). Printed as four large posters, these maps were displayed on a table around which forum participants were invited to gather and discuss the interpretations.

Another valorization action concerns my activities as an **expert on online disinformation**.

In March 2023 I spoke at a **side event organized by the International Organization for the Least Developed Countries** at the occasion of the 52nd session of the *Human Rights Council* in Geneva. The seminar focused on "The negative impact of disinformation on the performance of democratic institutions in less developed countries" and in this context I discussed the issue of the digital attention economy and its consequences on the public debate.

In April 2019, I spoke at the **140th Assembly of the InterParliamentary Union** in Doha, in a panel on “Expert hearing on disinformation and ‘fake news’” organized by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

In July 2019, I spoke at a panel of experts on the theme “Digital Disinformation: the Challenges to Parliaments and Democracy” as part of the **44th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**.

## Invited talks

1. 31 Mar 23 - University of Luxembourg  
**Memecry and Secondary Orality** (Keynote)  
*@ Virality, platforms and influence conference*
2. 23 Mar 23 - Organisation Internationale pour les Pays les Moins Avancés (OIPMA)  
**The Information Disorders of Online Attention Economy** (Public Conference)  
*@ The negative impact of disinformation on human rights*
3. 3 Mar 23 - Université de Genève  
**Numérique et oralité secondaire** (Master class)  
*@ Digital Humanities Day*
4. 11 Jan 22 - University of Amsterdam  
**“Controversy Mapping. A Field Guide” book presentation** (Public Conference)  
*@ DMI Winter School*
5. 23 May 22 - Central European University  
**Maps of power and power of maps. A few lessons learnt in controversy mapping** (Research lecture)  
*@ Data Stories*
6. 11 Jan 22 - Université de Genève  
**The fabrication of the noise/information distinction** (Workshop)  
*@ Social Bias in Data*
7. 11 Feb 22 - Associazione Italiana di Sociologia  
**Dagli attori alle azioni: actor-network theory e cartografia delle controversie** (Workshop)  
*@ Natura-Cultura: Decostruire una dicotomia*
8. 31 Mar 22 - Brazilian Association of Researchers in Media and Communication  
**“Controversy Mapping. A Field Guide” book presentation** (Research lecture)
9. 19 Apr 22 - King’s College London  
**Visual Network Analysis and Transdisciplinary Approaches to Digital Methods** (Master class)  
*@ London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership*
10. 22 Jun 22 - Société Française des Systèmes Complexes  
**A difficult crossing: how complex systems can help social research** (Keynote)  
*@ Conference of the French Chapter of the Complex Systems Society*
11. 29 Aug 22 - Sciences Po Paris  
**Gephi Week** (Event organisation)
12. 5 Oct 22 - CNRS Centre Internet et Société  
**Méthodes numériques et interdisciplinarité** (Event organisation)  
*@ Journées du CIS*
13. 3 Nov 22 -  
**Digital and quali-quantitative methods** (Research lecture)  
*@ Workshop Hot Topics in Research*
14. 7 Nov 22 - University of Vienna  
**Actor-Network Theory and Visual Network Analysis** (Master class)  
*@ STS Master program*
15. 7 Nov 22 - University of Vienna  
**“Controversy Mapping. A Field Guide” book presentation** (Research)  
*@ STS Department*
16. 7 Nov 22 - University of Vienna  
**Experimenting with Digital Methods in Quali-Quantitative Research** (Master class)  
*@ Social Sciences PHD School*
17. 6 Dec 22 - Université de Genève  
**Doctoral Seminar on Visual Network Analysis** (Master class)  
*@ Programme doctoral de la Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale*
18. 10 Dec 21 - Université de Genève  
**L’analyse de controverses par et sur le numérique** (Workshop, organisation)  
*@ Programme doctoral en études numériques*
19. 20 Oct 21 - Université de Genève  
**This is not the end of the Work** (Research lecture)  
*@ Public conference cycle “Parlons Numérique”*
20. 2 Sep 21 - Rotterdam Erasmus School of Philosophy  
**“Up and Down and Round and Round”. The elusive shape of the Web** (Research lecture)  
*@ Framing Innovation in a Networked World: An Interdisciplinary Workshop*
21. 1 Sep 21 - University of Amsterdam  
**Valedictory address** (Keynote)  
*@ Master in New Media*
22. 2 Jul 21 - Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra  
**The risk of attention acceleration** (Keynote)  
*@ Summer school “Technology, Big Data and International Relations”*



23. 26 Mar 21 - Northeastern University  
**Junk News Bubbles** (Public Conference)  
*@ Conversation Series 03: Designing Solutions for Misinformation*
24. 27 Jan 20 - Universidade Nova de Lisboa  
**An introduction to Visual Network Analysis** (Master class)  
*@ SMART Data Sprint and winter school*
25. 12 Jul 20 - Complex Systems Society  
**The path to scientific discovery: Distribution of labor, productivity and innovation in open science** (Conference)  
*@ Complex Systems Society Conference*
26. 18 Feb 20 - Sciences Po  
**Retour aux cycles d'attention** (Research lecture)  
*@ Séminaire de Recherche du médialab de Sciences Po*
27. 2 Jun 20 - University of Warwick  
**A Landscape of Artificial Intelligence** (Research lecture)  
*@ Indicating Interdisciplinarity in AI Workshop*
28. 23 Oct 20 - University of Copenhagen  
**On biting off more than you can chew A question, an example and the beginning of an answer** (Research lecture)  
*@ Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science (SODAS) research seminar*
29. 12 Jul 20 - Complex Systems Society  
**The Rhythms of the Night: increase in online night activity and emotional resilience during the Covid-19 lockdown** (Conference)  
*@ Complex Systems Society Conference*
30. 12 Jul 20 - Complex Systems Society  
**Junk News Bubbles: Modelling the Rise and Fall of Attention in Online Arenas** (Conference)  
*@ Complex Systems Society Conference*
31. 4 Sep 19 - Inter-Parliamentary Union  
**Expert hearing on disinformation and 'fake news'** (Public Conference)  
*@ IPU 140th Assembly*
32. 4 Feb 19 - University of Edinburgh  
**The Infrastructures of Online Attention Hyper-Synchronisation** (Research lecture)  
*@ Department of Science Technology and Innovation Studies*
33. 20 Mar 19 - Australian National University in Canberra  
**From Fake News to Online Attention Hyper-Synchronisation** (Research lecture)  
*@ College of Arts & Social Sciences*
34. 21 Mar 19 - Australian National University in Canberra  
**Who's Afraid of Controversies? A Quick Introduction to Controversy Mapping** (Research lecture)  
*@ Australia National Center For The Public Awareness of Sciences*
35. 7 May 19 - University of Pisa  
**Mapping Sociotechnical Debates Online** (Master class)  
*@ STS Italia Summer School*
36. 16 Jul 19 - "Digital Disinformation: The Challenges to Parliamentary and Democracy"  
**Expert hearing on disinformation and 'fake news'** (Public Conference)  
*@ 44th Annual Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*
37. 25 Oct 19 - University of Siegen  
**Data Sprinting as a form of data Ethnography** (Research lecture)  
*@ Data Practices Conference*
38. 28 Oct 19 - Institut de France  
**Giving up explanation: on the use of AI in social sciences** (Research lecture)  
*@ Global Forum on Artificial Intelligence for Humanity*
39. 15 Nov 19 - Encadrement des « Jeunes Talents » de la Conférences Erasme-Descartes  
**Coaching of "Young Talents" of the Erasme-Descartes conference** (Research)  
*@*
40. 7 Jan 19 - University of Amsterdam  
**Up and down with the digital attention cycle** (Research lecture)  
*@ Digital Methodes Initiative Summer School*
41. 25 Jul 18 - EASST Conference  
**The Expert Network Quantifying bridging work in the IPCC** (Conference)  
*@ Panel: "What do we still not know about the IPCC?"*
42. 25 Jul 18 - EASST Conference  
**Panel: "What do we still not know about the IPCC?"** (Conference, organisation)  
*@ Co-convenor of the panel*
43. 26 Jul 18 - EASST Conference  
**"Panel: "Data worlds? Public imagination and public experimentation with data infrastructures""** (Conference, organisation)  
*@ Co-convenor of the panel*
44. 27 May 18 - ICA Conference  
**Confessions of a Fake News Scholar** (Conference)  
*@ Panel: "Media Scholars' Consideration of Fake News"*
45. 26 Jul 18 - EASST Conference  
**Teaching Infrastructures Breaching through Data journalism and Data Activism** (Conference)  
*@ Panel: "Data worlds? Public imagination and public experimentation with data infrastructures""*
46. 3 Jun 17 - University of Amsterdam  
**Fake News Data Sprint** (Workshop)  
*@ Public Data Lab*
47. 13 Feb 17 - University of Aalborg (Copenhagen)  
**On Social Cartography** (Master class)  
*@*
48. 7 Mar 17 - University of Amsterdam  
**Visual Network Analysis (keynote lecture)** (Research lecture)  
*@ Digital Methodes Initiative Summer School*
49. 19 Mar 17 - Nice  
**Program Comitee Member** (Conference, organisation)  
*@ The Tenth International Conference on Advances in Computer-Human Interactions*
50. 21 Mar 17 - King's College (London)  
**Tracking Fake News Circulation** (Workshop)  
*@ Master in "Big Data"*

51. 10 May 17 - Université de Montréal  
**Confessions of a Fake News Scholar (keynote lecture)** (Research lecture)  
*@ Seminaire "Les fausses nouvelles : le nouveau visage d'un vieux problème"*
52. 27 Oct 17 - University of Groningen Center for Digital Humanities  
**Visual network analysis and network storytelling: doing networks other than with mathematics (keynote lecture)** (Research lecture)  
*@ Digital Humanities Day*
53. 9 Jan 16 - University of Barcelona  
**IPCC and the Double Logic of International Expertise** (Conference)  
*@ 4S-EASST Conference (track "STS and Climate Change: Perspectives on/from the Global South")*
54. 15 Mar 16 - INRIA/IRISA Rennes  
**Equipping journalist with digital methods: the case of the climate negotiation browser** (Research lecture)  
*@ Computational Journalism seminar*
55. 9 Mar 16 - University of Barcelona  
**Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks?** (Conference)  
*@ 4S-EASST Conference (track "Critical Data Studies")*
56. 27 Jun 16 - University of Amsterdam  
**Dancing Together: the Fluidification of the Modern Mind** (Research lecture)  
*@ DMI Summer School*
57. 14 Sep 16 - Institute for Policy Research – University of Bath  
**Sprinting with Data** (Research lecture)  
*@ Symposium on Evidence and the Politics of Policymaking*
58. 21 Oct 16 - École Supérieure du Professorat et de l'Éducation Clermont-Auvergne  
**Three Maps and Seven Misunderstandings: A Digital Mapping of Climate Adaptation** (Master class)  
*@ Jean Monnet Erasmus+ program*
59. 6 Sep 16 - Gothenburg University  
**Actor-Network Theory and Network Analysis, False Friends?** (Research lecture)  
*@ LETStudio Seminar*
60. 30 Jun 15 - Durham University  
**Of Migrants and Words. A Web-Based Analysis of Online Debates on Migrations and Environment** (Research lecture)  
*@ Human Migration and the Environment: Futures, Politics, Invention.*
61. 20 Feb 15 - Goethe-Universität Frankfurt  
**4 Misunderstanding about Digital Methods (keynote speech)** (Research lecture)  
*@ Digitale Praxen Conference*
62. 26 Mar 15 - Le Parisien  
**Understanding Climate Negotiations Controversies** (Workshop)  
*@ Global Editors Lab on « Covering Paris Climate Summit »*
63. 27 Mar 15 - University of Sussex  
**Medusa at the Hairdresser** (Research lecture)  
*@ SPRU Freeman Friday Seminars*
64. 30 Jun 15 - University of Amsterdam  
**A Tale of Two Cities: Controversy Mapping and Issue Mapping (and any subtle difference)** (Research lecture)  
*@ DMI Summer School*
65. 16 Oct 15 - European Food Safety Authority 2nd Scientific Conference  
**Mapping Controversies: Visualizing a World of Change** (Conference)  
*@ Drivers for emerging issues in animal and plant health*
66. 30 Oct 15 - City of Mantova (Italy)  
**Understanding Climate Negotiations: The Stakes of the COP21 Paris Controversy** (Public Conference)  
*@*
67. 23 Nov 15 - Netherlands Royal Academy of Sciences  
**Contropedia, and the question of analytically separating the medium and the message** (Research lecture)  
*@ Reading Wikipedia*
68. 6 Feb 15 - Stockholm Environmental Institute  
**4 Misunderstanding about Digital Methods (keynote speech)** (Research lecture)  
*@ Data Revolution workshop*
69. 24 Oct 14 - University of Aalborg (Copenhagen)  
**What is a social border?** (Master class)  
*@ Techno-Anthropology Department*
70. 28 Oct 14 - Universidade de Coimbra  
**Escaping the Great Divide** (Master class)
71. 28 Jan 14 - Kings College  
**Scientometrics & Visual Network Analysis** (Course lecture)  
*@ Phd School*
72. 21 Aug 14 - Universidad de Buenos Aires  
**Controversy mapping using digital tools and methods in different academic contexts: South(s)-North(s) dialogs** (Conference, session chair)  
*@ 4S/ESOCITE Conference*
73. 26 Jul 14 - Ecole de Mines Paris  
**Why do we teach digital methods in controversy mapping** (Master class)  
*@ FORCCAST Summer School*
74. 22 Jul 14 - Google Cultural Institute (Paris)  
**EMAPS and MEDEA** (Public Conference)
75. 25 Mar 14 - OECD  
**Mapping Climate Diplomacy** (Research lecture)  
*@ OECD-experts dialogue on scientometrics*
76. 21 Feb 14 - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
**Designing Controversies and their Publics** (Research lecture)  
*@ Education, Culture and Society Forum*
77. 18 Apr 13 - Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
**Changer de focale: la navigation dans les paysages de données** (Public Conference)  
*@ 'Cartographies de l'invisible Art, réseau, big data'*



78. 17 Apr 13 - University of Amsterdam  
**Designing Controversies and their Publics** (Public Conference)  
*@ Department of Media Studies*
79. 13 Feb 13 - Kings College  
**Scientometrics & Visual Network Analysis** (Course lecture)  
*@ Phd School*
80. 6 Aug 13 - Gothenburg University  
**Designing Controversies for their Publics** (Conference)  
*@ Ecsite Conference on science centres and museums*
81. 5 Feb 13 - Paris  
**Program Comitee Member** (Conference, organisation)  
*@ ACMeWeb Science 2013*
82. 6 Jan 13 - University of Amsterdam  
**Mapping Connections with Heatmaps** (Course lecture)  
*@ DMI Summer School "Your are not the API I used to know"*
83. 3 Jul 13 - GIS Climat-Environnement-Société  
**Mapping controversies on climate change adaptation** (Conference)  
*@ Challenging the climate consensus. Perspectives from the social sciences and humanities to analyze skepticism and dissonant voices on mitigation and adaptation in the public debate on climate change*
84. 12 Aug 13 - University of Tel Aviv  
**Digital traces standardization and its effects on international news follow-up** (Research lecture)  
*@ Mapping International News and Opinions: From Qualitative Research to Web Mining and Network Analysis*
85. 17 Sep 13 - Global System Dynamics and Policies Project  
**A Trip to Flatland: on Mapping and Modeling in Social Sciences** (Research lecture)  
*@ Uncertainty, Digital Sciences and the Long Term A Global System Science Conference*
86. 7 Mar 12 - Erg (Ecole de Recherche Graphique, Ecole supérieure des arts de Bruxelles)  
**Designing Sociology** (Public Conference)  
*@ Séminaire Art et Sciences*
87. 3 Apr 12 - Copenhagen University  
**Controversy Mapping** (Course lecture)  
*@ Phd School*
88. 22 May 12 - Goldsmith University (London)  
**ANTA, Actor Network Text Analysis** (Research lecture)  
*@ Issue Mapping Online Workshop*
89. 21 Jan 12 - University of Oxford  
**Visualising Second Degree Objectivity** (Research lecture)  
*@ Visualizing Knowledge Controversies Symposium*
90. 18 Apr 12 - Florence  
**Debating Environmental Controversies (with A. Lorenzet)** (Conference, session organization)  
*@ Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference*
91. 12 Apr 12 - EPFL (Lausanne)  
**JODSS: Journal of Digital Social Sciences** (Conference)  
*@ Just-In-Time Sociology*
92. 18 Apr 12 - Florence  
**Communicating Controversies, Some exemples from climate debate** (Conference)  
*@ Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference*
93. 10 Sep 12 - Toulouse  
**Controversy Mapping Award** (Event organisation)  
*@ Festival La Novela*
94. 18 Oct 12 - Université de Bordeaux  
**Member of the Scientific Comitee** (Conference)  
*@ Colloque Média / Santé Publique*

# Tommaso Venturini – Teaching Portfolio

## Teaching by doing

For three reasons, I have always found more interesting to **develop skills** rather than to teach notions:

First, because I believe that universities should equip students with tools that they can use in their professional and personal life. And while the theories of human and social sciences do not always find direct applications, their research techniques unfailingly do. Knowing to extract information books and websites, to compare ideas, to write organised texts, are competences that never get wasted.

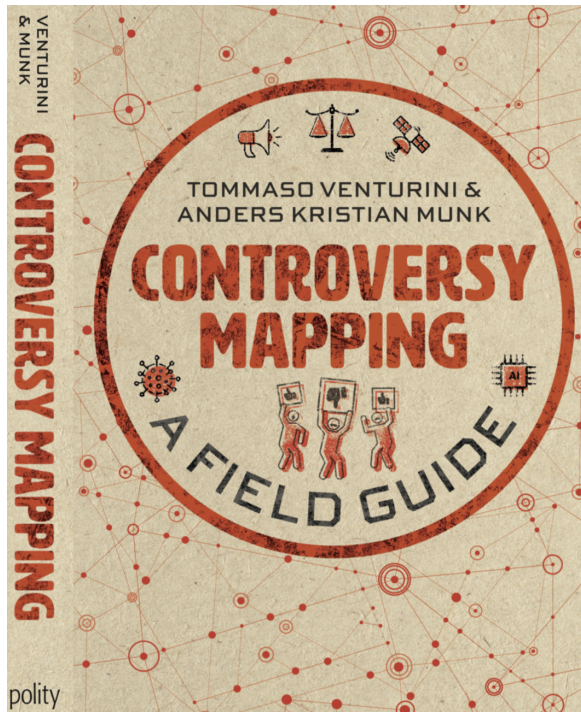
Second, because (important as they are) theories and other forms of conceptual knowledge can be easily acquired if one has the skills to do so. At a time in which intellectual technologies have achieved an extreme refinement, mastering these technologies is more important than being erudite.

Third, because I cannot see my teaching as separated from my research. One of the greatest strengths of universities is to be both research *and* education institutions and I see no point in separating the two functions. In my courses, I always tried to open my investigations to students and to make the most of their collaboration.

This is why all my courses (listed below) are based on a **learning-by-doing approach** and configured as practical (and often collective) projects where students work on assignments that are thematically open (to let them choose their topics of interest) but designed to teach them one or more of the following skills:

- **Ethnography.** If there is one invaluable competence that the social sciences can teach students, this is how to deal with human beings – how to get in touch with them, how to sustain such contact; how to ask them questions, how to elicit their help, how to organise their contributions, how to formalize their knowledge, how to understand their culture and care for their concerns. Despite what is often believed, none of these crucial skills is completely innate and all can be improved by learning and practicing specific ethnographic techniques and a general discipline of attention.
- **Archival work.** The capacity to handle information stored in the form of documentary archives and networks is a classic skill of human sciences and one that has become essential now that digital technologies have swelled this type of information beyond imagination. It is for this reason that humanities embraced electronic technologies long before social sciences, and it is for this reason that digital humanities methods should be taught in all digital-oriented curricula.
- **Participatory design.** The idea of design as a discipline focussed on presentation is far too narrow and fails to highlight the multitude of the techniques that designers have developed to help people coming from different backgrounds to work together and elicit innovative ideas. ‘Design thinking’ is not just a form of thinking, but a series of practical methods that can and should be taught to all students.
- **Data questioning.** While there is no shortage of courses on data analysis, too little attention is generally dedicated to the operations that precede computation. What infrastructure has allowed the creation of data? how have data points been cut out of an indistinct flow of information? how have datasets been cleaned and prepared for treatment? Questions of such kind are crucial to assure the quality of computational results and even more important to attend to the moral and political implications of datafication. Data wrangling and exploratory data analysis are key skills not only for working with data, but also to engage in data society.
- **Academic writing.** It is often said that critical thinking is the hallmark of higher education. While there is truth to this idea, I believe that reflexivity can be better developed in the practice of writing rather than in abstract thinking. At the beginning of my career, I had the chance to participate in the Ph.D. Writing Workshop organised by B. Latour. Such a course marked a watershed for me, for it made me understand that writing (including, of course, forms of non-textual writing such as diagrams and visualisations) is not just a way to present research results, but a way to enact such results.

## Controversy mapping



The most developed example of the teaching approach described above is the Controversy Mapping course (CM), on which I have been working for more than ten years and on which, in 2021, I published (with Anders Munk) a fully-fledged research and teaching monograph – Venturini & Munk. *Controversy Mapping. A Field Guide*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2021).

CM is an original pedagogical and research methods emerged some twenty years ago in the French School of Science and Technology Studies (STS). The objective of this approach is double:

**Methodologically**, it investigates sociotechnical controversies (e.g. the disputes about GMOs, nuclear power, climate change...) to reveal how science and technology participate in the construction of collective life. Sociotechnical debates are the moment in which the role of scientific ideas and technical objects are explicitly discussed revealing their networks of internal components and external supporters.

**Politically**, CM intends to facilitate public discussions about science and technology, by listing the actors of these debates, deploying their position and viewpoints, describing their alliances and oppositions, and investigating their balance of power. By this study, controversy mapping hope to make sociotechnical debates more readable and to encourage citizens and student engagement.

Beside developing and teaching the controversy mapping course at *Sciences Po Paris*, at the *Politecnico of Milan* and at *Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro*, I have worked on this method in several ways:

- In my **Ph.D. thesis**, I carried out such an investigation using the analysis of the legal disputes about seed patenting to reveal a deeper and larger discontent with agricultural modernization.
- In the **MACOSPOL** project, I collaborated with B. Latour to consolidate the method of CM, by organizing a vast discussion with all the researchers and teachers employing it.
- Coordinating the project **EMAPS** ([www.emapsproject.com](http://www.emapsproject.com)) and **MEDEA** ([medea.medialab.sciences-po.fr](http://medea.medialab.sciences-po.fr)), I tried to demonstrate how CM could be employed to analyse public debates on climate change.
- By mounting the project **FORCCAST** ([forccast.hypotheses.org](http://forccast.hypotheses.org)) and coordinating its 1st axis for two years, I contributed to the development of CM as teaching tool at university and high school level.
- More recently I have been writing a **Field Guide to CM**. This text constitutes both my HDR thesis and a book soon to be published by Polity Press (Cambridge).

**As a teaching method**, CM is currently taught to some many hundreds of students in various European and American universities (Paris, Copenhagen, Milan, Oxford, Manchester, Amsterdam, Liège, Oslo, Padova, Trento, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires...).

Despite its solid tradition and upward trajectory, CM is still an experimental approach. Its use both in the classroom and in research is hindered by the difficulty to **combine its two sources of inspiration**: the conceptual heritage of French STS (and Actor-Network Theory in particular) and the data exploration techniques of Digital Methods. My main contribution to CM has precisely been to combine these two strands assuring their theoretical and practical compatibility.

## Writing with Data Workshop

**Pedagogic concept.** I developed this workshop to provide a collective and hands-on reflection on the techniques of academic writing, with a specific focus on writing for quali-quantitative research in the social sciences. I was inspired by the “writing workshops” organized by Howard Becker in Chicago and by Bruno Latour in Paris, but I’ve adapted adapts such models to the writing of essays that are based on the analysis of data. The workshop considers all types of writing (visual as well as textual) and explores their role not only in the presentation of findings but in all the stages of a research project. Writing with data is the art (or rather the artisanship) of crafting coherence between the conceptualization, the operationalization and the presentation of a scientific research.

**The audience.** 5 to 20 Ph.D. students or junior researchers (or *very good* master students)

**Preparation.** Each of the participants is asked to submit in advance:

1. A tentative **title** for the essay she/he would like to write
2. A **1000/2000-word text** on the essay she/he imagines writing divided in two parts:
  - o a short **introduction** presenting the object and objective of the essay;
  - o a short **conclusion** presenting the (potential) take-away message of the essay.Both drafts of future essays and extract from past paper or projects are acceptable.
3. A step-by-step description of the **research protocol** that she/he used or intends to use
4. The **dataset(s)** that she/he intends to explore (or a sample of it) and a short description of it. Qualitative datasets (e.g. interviews transcription, observation notes) are perfectly fine but need to be handed in as well (as least a sample of them).
5. (If possible) **1 to 3 diagrams**, each visualizing one dimension of the information contained dataset or one of the conceptual arguments conveyed in the text.

The items above are collected and distributed to all the participants, who are required to read them carefully before the workshop.

**Workshop development.** The workshop is structured around a series of exercises designed to spark the discussion among the participants. Each exercise is performed individually by all participants on the same text/protocol/dataset (indicated by the facilitator) and the results are discussed collectively. The objective of the workshop is to discuss the concepts, operationalization and visualizations proposed by each participant *as conveyed in the her/his introductory text, research protocol or dataset*. Participants are encouraged to criticize each other, politely but nitpickingly, according to two golden rules:

1. *No substantial critiques allowed.* Participants should abide by the proposals contained in the text, protocol and dataset. The *form* of these proposals, however, can and should be thoroughly inspected to point out:
  - o ambiguities or lack of explicitness
  - o inconsistencies between different parts.
2. *No general critiques allowed.* All observation should make explicit and precise reference to a sentence in the text, a step in the protocol, or an item in the dataset.

## Course list

Since 2023.... **Subcultures Internet** (36h)

Master in Communication and Digital Cultures, University of Geneva

Since 2023.... **Méthodes numériques** (36h)

Master in Communication and Digital Cultures, University of Geneva

- Since 2022.....**Problèmes des sociétés contemporaines : économie et société numérique**, module on *Online public debate* (8 hours, 4 lessons – about 200 students)
- 2023 .....**Digital Methods** (28h)  
Interdisciplinary master, Geneva Graduate Institute
- 2019 .....**Writing with Data Workshop** (12 hours, 6 days – about 10 students)  
research network “Internet, AI and Society”, CNRS, France
- 2019 .....**Writing with Data Workshop** (9 hours, 3 days – about 10 students)  
College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
- 2017-2018 .....**Data Activism** (40 hours – about 15 students)  
Master Programme in Information Architecture, *École Normale Supérieure de Lyon*, France
- 2018 .....**Writing with Data Workshop** (9 hours, 3 days – about 10 students)  
Workshop for Ph.D. students and early career scientists, University of Amsterdam
- 2016-2017 .....**Digital Methods II – Working with Data** (20 hours – about 10 students)  
Bachelor Programme in Digital Culture (second year)
- 2016-2017 .....**Digital Methods I – Approaches** (20 hours – about 30 students)  
Bachelor Programme in Digital Culture (first year)
- 2016-2017 .....**Data Journalism** (20 hours – about 30 students)  
Master Programme in Digital Culture and Society, King’s College London, UK
- 2016-2017 .....Graduate and undergraduate **student tutor** (about 10 students)  
Digital Humanities Dept., King’s College London, UK
- 2008-2016 .....**Cartographie de Controverses** (48 hours – about 70 students)  
Double licence Sciences et Sciences Sociales (SCUBE), Sciences Po Paris, France
- 2012-2015 .....**Controversy Mapping** (24 hours – about 20 students)  
Paris School of International Affaires (PSIA), Sciences Po Paris, France
- 2013 .....**Cartografia de Controversias** (20 hours – about 15 students)  
Ph.D. School, Universidade Federale de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 .....**Journalisme de données** (25 hours – about 20 students)  
Ecole de Journalisme, Sciences Po Paris, France
- 2012-2013 .....**Digital Methods and Innovation Networks** (15 hours – about 50 students)  
Alta Scuola Politecnica, Politecnico di Milano e Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- 2010-2013 .....**Controversial design** (25 hours – about 80 students)  
Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- 2007-2012 .....**Controversy Mapping** (48 hours – about 60 students)  
Ecole de la Communication, Sciences Po Paris, France

## Curriculum development

In September 2021, I was recruited by the University of Geneva to contribute to the renewal of its [Medialab](#). As part of this mission, I worked with Claire Balleys on the creation of a new Master in communication and digital cultures. Since 2023, I have been in charge of directing this master's: [www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/formations/masters/communication-et-cultures](http://www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/formations/masters/communication-et-cultures).

Focused on digital cultures and the methods for studying them, the master offers a program divided into three teaching units relating respectively to:

1. digital cultural studies;
2. digital methods;
3. online communication techniques.



Similarly, my first appointment at INRIA was to join the committee in charge of developing a new pre-master year curriculum in “Sciences des Sociétés Numériques” (Digital Societies Studies) for the *ENS Lyon* (one of the four *École Normales Supérieures* training most French higher education teachers).

The objective of the imagined curriculum was offer an interdisciplinary training to ENS students covering all the aspects of the societal transformations produced by the advent of digital technologies. The curriculum is divided in four main pedagogical units (60 ECTS in total): 1. Knowledge of the digital worlds; 2. Digital data exploitation; 3. Advanced studies; 4. Individual research project.

## Supervision of research activities

- 2023... **Antoine Houssard** (co-supervision with Floriana Gargiulo and Paola Tubaro).  
Title: *The positioning of LA in the scientific ecosystems*.  
Funded as part of the ANR ScientIA project, the thesis focuses on the diffusion of AI technologies in scientific communities and on the use of the products academic research on AI (publications and computer code) in industrial R&D .
- 2022-2024 **Marylaure Bloch**, (co-supervision with Basile Zimmermann).  
Title: *“Good by Design” : le développement du Système du crédit social en Chine*.  
Funded by an assistant contract at the Confucius Center of the University of Geneva, the thesis focuses on the socio-technological arrangements devised by the Chinese Social Credit System (SCS) and aimed at quantifying certain qualities and to encourage certain behaviors.
- 2021-2023 **Karen Pelletier**  
Title: *Santé numérique : flux d'information, réseaux sociaux et influence*.  
Funded by a doctoral assistant contract at the University of Geneva's Medi@lab, the thesis focuses on the online circulation of informational content and intimate stories on topics related to public health.
- 2020-2022 **Axel Meunier** (co-supervision with A. Wilkie & M. Guggenheim, Goldsmith College)  
Title: *Designing Algorithmic Situations*.  
Funded by the SoBigData ++ project, the thesis focuses on the use of participatory design to make sense of algorithmic situations in which artificial intelligence is deployed but also challenged.
- 2019-2021 **Maria Castaldo**, (co-supervision with Paolo Frasca, CNRS)  
Title : *Disorders of Online Media*.  
Financée par le projet DOOM (Systems-theory for the Disorders Of Online Media), la thèse porte sur l'analyse computationnelle des cycles d'attention en ligne et l'investigation des troubles de la communication numérique générés par l'accélération excessive de ces cycles.
- 2020-2021 **Janna Joceli Omena** (co-supervision with J. M. Rosa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)  
Title: *Digital Methods and technicity-of-the-mediums. From regimes of functioning to digital research*.  
Funded by the DOOM (Systems-theory for the Disorders Of Online Media) project, the thesis focuses on the computational analysis of online attention cycles and the investigation of digital communication disorders generated by the excessive acceleration of these cycles.
- 2015-2019 **Vivian Depoues** (co-supervision with Jean-Paul Vanderlinden, UVSQ)  
Title: « Des connaissances scientifiques sur les changements climatiques à l'analyse économique pour la prise de décision en vue de l'adaptation des infrastructures ».  
Funded by an ADEME grant, the thesis explores the role of economic models in the decision-making processes on the adaptation to climate change, particularly in the case of French rail infrastructure.
- 2015-2019 **Liliana Bounegru** (informal supervision)  
Title: *Doing Journalism Research with Digital Methods: The Case of Data Journalism*.

Funded by the University of Groningen and the University of Ghent, the thesis focuses on data journalism and the different ways in which news-making practices are affected by the affordances of digital infrastructures.

2013-2019 **6 visiting Ph.D. et post-doc** (from various Brazilian University)

2016-2015 **15 Master Students** - Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London, UK

2015-2016 **1 Master Student** – PSIA (Paris School of International Affairs) Sciences Po, Paris

I greatly hesitated in including this section in my teaching portfolio (rather than in the main CV). Supervising advanced students and early career researchers is, I believe, much more than a form of teaching (and many cases, I suspect to have learned more from them than they have from me).



# Tommaso Venturini – Research Management

## Research projects

### 2024-2025 Citizen Facts

Funded by the Swiss Initiative for Media Innovation, Citizen Facts takes an innovative approach to fight online misinformation. Where most initiatives countering disinformation are limited to denouncing fake news (with the risk of perpetuating an image of citizens as passive and gullible), Citizen Facts relies on collective intelligence. To counter disinformation, but also to promote media education and clean up public debate, Citizen Facts aims to give new impetus to investigative journalism, by combining it with the potential for participation offered by digital technologies.

*Consortium:* Association Fake Off, Medialab de l'Université de Genève, Académie du journalisme et des médias de l'Université de Neuchâtel, Gokaden, RTS, Arte.

*My role in the project:* team leader for the University of Geneva

### 2024-2026 UnMiSSeD

Funded by the European Media and Information Fund of the Gulbenkian Foundation, UnMiSSeD investigates the interaction between science and mis/disinformation. Clearly, science contributes to building a solid knowledge base of our world, its challenges and their potential solutions. However, whether science is able to help diminish or correct misinformation is not clear. In the UnMiSSeD project we take a qualitative-quantitative approach, and try to answer questions such as: Does scientific information establish a common evidence base for the various sides in a societal debate? Does scientific information lead to a convergence or to a divergence of opinions? We will build a large dataset of a societal debate around COVID-19 on social media and study the use of science in this debate. In addition to large-scale analyses, we take a qualitative "close reading" approach to study how discussions permeate the porous boundaries of social media.

*Consortium:* University of Leiden, the Fondazione Bruno Kessler in Trento and the University of Geneva.

*My role in the project:* team leader for the University of Geneva

### 2022-2025 PathOS, [pathos-project.eu](https://pathos-project.eu)

Funded by the EU program WIDERA, PathOS intends to identify and document the multiple ways in which Open Science impact society, including the causal mechanisms linking Open Science policies to their political and societal outcomes and the existing enabling or blocking factors. Impact pathways respond to the need not only to estimate and measure net effects of a policy intervention, but to provide explanations why and how impacts occur. PathOS brings an interdisciplinary team of Open Science experts, infrastructure developers/operators, bibliometrics/scientometrics, data scientists, NLP/ML experts, sociologists, experts in socio-economic impact assessment and policy experts.

*Consortium:* Athena Research & Innovation Center (Greece), Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands), CNRS (France), Know-Center GmbH (Austria), Universidade Do Minho (Portugal), Technopolis Consulting Group (Belgium), Opix (Greece), CSIL (Italy), ELIXIR (Germany).

*My role in the project:* team leader for CIS CNRS

### 2022-2025 ScientIA

Funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), ScientIA aims to analyze, with a comparative perspective, the impacts of the introduction of AI in academic and industrial research. The project is based on a solid interdisciplinary framework combining computational tools (network science, complex systems

methods, AI techniques, modeling, etc.) and social science methods (qualitative interviews and questionnaire surveys).

*Consortium:* GEMASS (Sorbonne Sociological Analysis Methods Study Group); Internet and Society Center (CIS CNRS); LIP6 (Computer Science Laboratory of Sorbonne University); Sony Computer Science Laboratories.

*My role in the project:* team leader for CIS CNRS

## **2022-2025 CulturIA**

Funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), CulturIA aims to provide a cultural approach to AI, combining methods from the history of science, the history of ideas and collective imaginaries with field analyzes. The research hypothesis of the project is the need to understand AI not only as a set of algorithms, but also as a “technoculture” where the sciences involved (mathematics, information sciences and cognitive sciences) are inscribed in institutions, but also in situated cultural contexts and in imaginaries involving ideologies, fictions, sensitive representations.

*Consortium:* THALIM (CNRS, Sorbonne Nouvelle University, ENS); Internet and Society Center (CIS CNRS); ALMANACH (INRIA).

*My role in the project:* WP leader for WP1 (cartography of IA literature)

## **2019-2023 SoBigData++, [project.sobigdata.eu](http://project.sobigdata.eu)**

Funded by the EU programme H2020, SoBigData++ gathers more than thirty academic institutions and research centers in Europe with the aim to develop the technical infrastructure and the user community necessary to support the advancement of computational research on social big data.

I contribute to this project as the focal point for the CNRS Centre for Internet and Society by offering advice on the organization of online and offline datathons, where the different constituencies of the project can meet and work together. Within the exploratory on “Societal Debates and Online Misinformation”, I coordinate research on junk news, online conspiratorial folklore and their connections with Internet subcultures.

*My role in the project:* team leader for CIS CNRS

## **2020-2021 CAIAC, [cis.cnrs.fr/caiac](http://cis.cnrs.fr/caiac)**

Thanks to a support from the *Mission for interdisciplinary initiatives* of the CNRS, CAIAC developed Bibliograph ([tommv.github.io/bibliograph](https://tommv.github.io/bibliograph)) a tool capable of turning a corpus of scientometrics records (from ISI Web of Science or Scopus) into a landscape of bibliographic coupling. Such a landscape consists in (1) a base map network of references co-occurring in the records of the corpus (weighted by the frequency of their co-occurrence); (2) a layer of metadata extracted from the records (e.g., authors, subject areas, keywords) and positioned in the graph according to their co-occurrence with the references of the base map. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvVvhI1FsdM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvVvhI1FsdM) (presentation of the tool) – [github.com/tommv/bibliograph/](https://github.com/tommv/bibliograph/) (code source of the tool).

*My role in the project:* Principal investigator

## **2019-2021 DOOM (Systems-theory for the Disorders Of Online Media), [cis.cnrs.fr/doom](http://cis.cnrs.fr/doom)**

Funded by the special CNRS 80|Prime fund for interdisciplinary research, the project is a collaboration between myself and Paolo Frasca, a mathematician at the GIPSA-lab of Grenoble. Together we co-directed an interdisciplinary Ph.D. thesis on the disorders of digital communication, such as the formation of “filter bubbles” and the propagation of “junk news”. The project starts from the assumption that these *information disorders* are consequences of the contemporary media infrastructure and of the dynamics of collective attention that they generate. To capture these dynamics, this project modelled the interplay

between the medium (the algorithmic component) and the users (the human component). The resulting dynamics were explored with a system-theory approach.

*My role in the project:* Principal investigator (with Paolo Frasca)

### Since 2017 **Public Data Lab (PDL)**, [publicdatalab.org](http://publicdatalab.org)

The Public Data Lab is a network of researchers working at the crossroads of academic research and public engagement on the theme of digital data. The PDL has obtained 4 research grants:

- In February 2017, the PDL received funding for the *First Draft initiative* ([firstdraftnews.com](http://firstdraftnews.com)) to edit the **Fake News Field Guide** (<https://fakenews.publicdatalab.org>) and to organize a series of research workshops on the production and circulation of “fake news”.
- In November 2017, the PDL was financed by the European program *Organicity* ([organicity.eu](http://organicity.eu)), for the **SaveOurAir project** ([saveourair.publicdatalab.org](http://saveourair.publicdatalab.org)), experimenting new ways to use air quality data to promote citizen engagement.
- In March 2018, the PDL was awarded the first *SAGE Ocean ‘Concept Grant’* ([ocean.sagepub.com/concept-grants](http://ocean.sagepub.com/concept-grants)) for the development of **miniVAN, a visual network analysis tool** addressed to social scientists.
- From August 2020 (thanks to the support of the Arts & Humanities Research Council, AHRC), the PDL has coordinated the international initiative **Infodemic: Combatting COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories** ([infodemic.eu](http://infodemic.eu)). This project studies conspiracy theories as a particularly seductive kind of misinformation, using methods from digital humanities and cultural studies to understand how and why conspiracy narratives circulate in different platforms and online spaces during the crisis.

*My role in the project:* Funder and coordinator (with Jonathan Gray and Liliana Bounegru)

### 2011-2014 **EMAPS** (*Electronic Maps to Assist Public Science*), [climaps.eu](http://climaps.eu) and [emapsproject.eu](http://emapsproject.eu)

Funded by the EU 7th Framework Program, EMAPS investigated the sociotechnical debates about the adaptation to climate change. By analysing data on financial flows, international negotiations, adaptation projects, and by engaging with the main actors of the debate (negotiators, journalists, practitioners...), the project produced a series of visualisation and data stories gathered on the website [climaps.eu](http://climaps.eu).

*Consortium:* Sciences Po médialab (Paris, France); Density Design (Milan, Italy); Digital Methods Initiative (Amsterdam, The Netherlands); Young Foundation (London, UK); Barcelona Media (Barcelona, Spain); Spatial Planning Institute (Dortmund, Germany).

*My role in the project:* Principal investigator

### 2011-2014 **MEDEA** (*Mapping Environmental DEbate on Adaptation*), [medea.medialab.sciences-po.fr](http://medea.medialab.sciences-po.fr)

Funded by the French Research Agency, MEDEA was the French sister project of EMAPS

*Consortium:* Sciences Po médialab, the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, the Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement.

*My role in the project:* Principal investigator

During my career, I have also had the opportunity to **contribute as a participant in several other research projects** at different temporal and spatial scales ([forccast.hypotheses.org](http://forccast.hypotheses.org), [contropedia.net](http://contropedia.net), [societalsecurity.net](http://societalsecurity.net), [lafabriquedelaloi.fr](http://lafabriquedelaloi.fr), [sciencespo.fr/dime-shs](http://sciencespo.fr/dime-shs), [politiquesdelaterre.fr](http://politiquesdelaterre.fr), [modesofexistence.org](http://modesofexistence.org)).

## Administration

At the **Medialab of the University of Geneva**,

- I lead the Master in Communication and Digital Cultures, and I am in charge of organizing the recruitment and selection of students; the coordination of the teaching team; and the coherence of the educational programme.
- I organize the “research cafés”, the internal research of the Medialab team.
- I participate in the organization of research events with external guests.
- I contribute to strengthening the University's digital strategy and I participate in the administrative bodies of the Faculty and Medialab.

At the **CNRS Center for Internet and Society**,

- I was the correspondent for scientific and technical information
- I co-coordinated with Audrey Banneyx the research group on *Gender and Digital Space* ([cis.cnrs.fr/genre-et-espace-numerique/](http://cis.cnrs.fr/genre-et-espace-numerique/))
- I contributed to the creation, in 2021, of the LabSO, the Open Science Lab ([cis.cnrs.fr/le-labso/](http://cis.cnrs.fr/le-labso/)). A joint initiative of the CNRS and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the LabSO aims to promote open science through the coordination of a network of researchers and actors of scientific public policies.

In 2016, at the **Department of Digital Humanities of King's College London**

- I was responsible for the organization the Department's research seminars;
- I served on the Postgraduate and Research Committee.

At the **Sciences Po Paris medialab**, I coordinated research activities for six years (from its creation in 2009 until 2015). The médialab is an experimental and interdisciplinary laboratory bringing together researchers in social sciences, data scientists, developers and designers ([medialab.sciences-po.fr](http://medialab.sciences-po.fr)). In my years at the médialab, I helped help the research team to grow to more than thirty people and helped anchor the Lab in Sciences Po and in French research. More specifically, my responsibilities included:

- recruitment and supervision of researchers from different disciplines;
- writing and submission of research projects;
- negotiation and management of budgets;
- coordination of tasks and deadlines and animation of the team life;
- interface with the Lab's multiple partners within and beyond Sciences Po.

## Early professional experiences

During my bachelor and master years at the University of Bologna, I have worked as community manager for a webzine dedicated to contemporary art (*Artenauta.it*) and as project manager for a web design and online content provider company (*Chiocciola Srl*). Drawing on these experiences, I founded in 2005 **Ideaedi Studio**, a small but innovative Web design agency, which developed a series of online platforms related to cultural events and educational initiatives.

# Tommaso Venturini – Publications

All my publications are available on my website, [www.tommasoventurini.it](http://www.tommasoventurini.it)

## Research monograph

**Venturini, T.** & Munk, A. (2021) *Controversy Mapping. A Field Guide* Cambridge: Polity Press.

## Under review

- [1] Castaldo, M., Frasca, P., **Venturini, T.**, & Gargiulo, F. (2024). Fake Views Removal and Popularity on YouTube. Under review at *Scientific Reports*.
- [2] Kerche, F., & **Venturini, T.** (2024). The Rise and Fall of Dabloons: Self-Excitation and Self-Destruction in Social Media Cultures. Under review at *Big Data & Society*.
- [3] Pilati, F., Sacco, P., **Venturini, T.**, & Gargiulo, F. (2024). Some like it hot (and some do not): Pseudo vs Anti-Scientific Conspiratorial Practices in Flat Earth Society's Forum and Reddit Communities. Under review at *New Media & Society*.
- [4] Blanke, T., **Venturini, T.**, and De Pryck, K. (2023). A Peek Inside Two Black Boxes. An Experiment with Artificial Intelligence and IPCC Leadership. Under review at *International Journal of Digital Humanities* (special issue on "Reproducibility and Explainability in Digital Humanities").

## International journals

- [1] **Venturini, T.** (2023). Bruno Latour and Artificial Intelligence. *TECNOSCIENZA*, 14(2). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2038-3460/18359>
- [2] Hagen, S., & Venturini, T. (2023). Memecry: tracing the repetition-with-variation of formulas on 4chan/pol/. *Information, Communication & Society*, 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2023.2216769>
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- [7] Gray, J., Bounegru, L., Rogers, R., **Venturini, T.**, Ricci, D., Meunier, A., ... Munk, A. K. (2022). Engaged research-led teaching: composing collective inquiry with digital methods and data. *Digital Culture & Education*, 14(3), 55–86.
- [8] **Venturini, T.**, Jacomy, M. & Jensen. P. (2021). Social Science Research Network What Do We See When We Look at Networks an Introduction to Visual Network Analysis and Force-Directed Layouts. *Big Data & Society* 8(1). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20539517211018488>
- [9] Castaldo, M., **Venturini, T.**, Frasca, P., & Gargiulo, F. (2021). The rhythms of the night: increase in online night activity and emotional resilience during the spring 2020 Covid-19 lockdown. *EPJ Data Science*, 10(1), 7. <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjds/s13688-021-00262-1>
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- [23] **Venturini, T.**, Ricci, D., Mauri, M., Kimbell, L., & Meunier, A. (2015). Designing Controversies and Their Publics. *Design Issues*, 31(3), 74–87. [http://doi.org/10.1162/DESI\\_a\\_00340](http://doi.org/10.1162/DESI_a_00340)
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- [2] Castaldo, M., Gargiulo, F., **Venturini, T.**, Frasca, P. The Rhythms of the Night: increase in online night activity and emotional resilience during the Covid-19 lockdown. *Complex Systems Society (CSS) Conference*, online, 07-11/12/2020
- [3] Castaldo, M., Gargiulo, F., **Venturini, T.** The path to scientific discovery: Distribution of labor, productivity and innovation in open science. *Complex Systems Society (CSS) Conference*, online, 07-11/12/2020
- [4] **Venturini T.** (2018). Teaching Infrastructures Breaching through Data journalism and Data Activism. *European Association of the Study of Science and Technology Studies (EASST) Conference*, Lancaster 25-28/07/2018
- [5] **Venturini T.** (2018). The Expert Network Quantifying bridging work in the IPCC. *European Association of the Study of Science and Technology Studies (EASST) Conference*, Lancaster 25-28/07/2018
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- [7] **Venturini, T.** (2016). Actor-Network VS Network Analysis VS Digital Networks Are We Talking About the Same Networks? In *4S-EASST Conference Barcelona* (track “Critical Data Studies”), 03/09/16
- [8] De Pryck, K., **Venturini, T.**, Banneyx (2016). Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde: the IPCC a scientific and intergovernmental organization. In *4S-EASST Conference* (track “STS and Climate Change: Perspectives on/from the Global South”), Barcelona, 01/09/16.
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- [15] **Venturini, T.** (2012). Communicating Controversies, Some Example from the Climate Debate. In *Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference*.

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- [2] **Venturini, T.** (2025). The Vanishing Micro/Macro Divide and the Politics of Computational Interactionism. In A. Koed Madsen & A. K. Munk (Eds.), *Handbook of Digital and Computational SSH*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming).



- [3] Gefen, A., Saint-Raymond, L. & **Venturini, T.** (2021). “AI for Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences.” In Braunschweig, B. & Ghallab, M. (eds.) *Reflections on AI for Humanity*. Berlin: Springer.
- [4] **Venturini, T.** (2019). “Fake News Are a Real Problem.” In Kettemann M. & Dreyer S. (Eds.), *Busted! The Truth About the 50 Most Common Internet Myths*. Berlin: Internet Governance Forum.
- [5] **Venturini, T.** (2019). The Fish Tank Complex of Social Modelling. In M. Nagatsu & A. Ruzzene (Eds.), *Frontiers of Social Science: A Philosophical Reflection*. New York: Bloomsbury.
- [6] **Venturini, T.**, Jacomy, M., Bounegru, L., & Gray, J. (2019). Visual Network Exploration for Data Journalists. In S. I. Eldridge & B. Franklin (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook to Developments in Digital Journalism Studies*. Abingdon: Routledge.
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**Venturini, T., & Latour, B.** (2010). The Social Fabric: Digital Traces and Quali-quantitative Methods. In *Proceedings of Future En Seine 2009* (pp. 87–101). Paris: Editions Future en Seine.

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