

Matthew James Facciani

University of Notre Dame
Computer Science & Engineering Department
384 Fitzpatrick Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Email:
Phone:
[Personal Website](#)
[Google Scholar](#)

Areas of Research and Teaching

Social networks, identities, political polarization, misinformation, media literacy, fact-checking, sociology of health, AI, technology, and society, social media, political communication, social psychology, quantitative and qualitative methods, social stratification, gender and sexualities

Employment

Postdoctoral Researcher, 2022-present
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Postdoctoral Researcher, 2020-2022
Department of Medicine, Health, and Society
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Lecturer, 2022
Department of Medicine, Health, and Society
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of South Carolina, 2020
Dissertation: “How Self-Sentiments and Personal Networks Influence Political Polarization”
Committee: Matt Brashears (Chair), Laura Brashears, Andrea Henderson, Kimberly Rogers

M.A. Sociology, University of South Carolina, 2017

PhD Candidate, Cognitive Neuroscience, University of South Carolina, 2011-2015

B.A. Psychology, Minor: Sociology, Westminster College, 2011
Cum Laude, Psychology Honors Program

Books

Facciani, M.J. (Forthcoming 2024). *Misguided: Where Misinformation starts, how it spreads, and what to do about it.* *Columbia University Press.*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Facciani, M.J., Idris, I., & Weninger, T. (2023). Comparison of News Literacy, Media Consumption,

and Trust Between Indonesian and Malaysian Participants. *Asian Journal of Media and Communication*. 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.20885/asjmc.vol7.iss2.art2>

Facciani, M.J., Lazić, A., & Viggiano, G., & McKay, T. (2023). Personal Network Composition Predicts Vaccination Attitudes. *Social Science and Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116004>.

Ford, T., Yankoski, M., **Facciani, M.J.**, & Weninger, T. (2023). Online Media Literacy Intervention in Indonesia Reduces Misinformation Sharing Intention. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*. 15(2), 99-123.

Facciani, M.J. & McKay, T. 2022. Alter Loss during the 2016 Presidential Election among LGBT Adults. *Applied Network Science*. 7, 41. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41109-022-00474-y>

Facciani, M.J. 2021. A Novel Approach for Measuring Self-Affirmation. *Current Research in Social Psychology*. 12-20.

Facciani, M.J., Brashears, M.E. & Zhong, J. 2020. Visual Vignettes for Cross-National Research. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. DOI: 10.1080/13645579.2020.1844897

Facciani, M.J. & Brashears, M.E. 2019. Sacred Alters: The Effects of Ego Network Structure on Religious and Political Beliefs. *Socius*, (5), 1–16.

Facciani, M.J. 2019. The Effects of Power on the Processing of Identity Threat. *Journal of Integrated Social Sciences*, 9(1): 116-130.

Langston, J. Albanesi, H.P. & **Facciani, M.J.** 2019. Toward Faith: A Qualitative Study of How Atheists Convert to Christianity. *Journal of Religion & Society*, (21), 1-23.

Schnabel, L, **Facciani, M.J.**, Sincoff-Yedid, A., & Fazzino, L. 2016. Gender and Atheism: Paradoxes, Contradictions, and an Agenda for Future Research. *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion: Sociology of Atheism*, 75-97.

Facciani, M. J., Warren, P., & Vendemia, J. 2016. A Content Analysis of American Comic Books. *Race, Gender, & Class*. 22 (3/4), 216-226.

Facciani, M.J. 2015. Developing Affective Mental Imagery Stimuli with Multidimensional Scaling. *Quantitative Methods for Psychology*. 11 (2), 113-125.

Shinkareva, S., Wang, J., Kim, J., **Facciani, M.**, Baucom, L., & Wedell, D. 2013. Representations of modality-specific affective processing for visual and auditory stimuli derived from fMRI data. *Human Brain Mapping*. DOI:10.1002/hbm.22421

Manuscripts under Review

Facciani, M.J. & Steenbuch-Traberg, C. How Cognitive Reflection and Political Homogeneity Influence Sharing Fake News. Abstract available.

Facciani, M.J., Apriliawati, D. & Weninger, T. Playing Gali Fakta “Inoculates” Indonesian Participants Against False Information.

Cologna, V., Mede, N., **Facciani, M.J.** + 235 coauthors. Trust in scientists and their role in society: a global assessment in 67 countries.

Wilson, A. E., Parker, V., Kehoe, E.R., Lees, J., **Facciani, M.J.** *What They Don't Want You to Know: Rhetorical Claims of Censorship Affect People's Attraction and Vulnerability to Misinformation*. Paper accepted at the Annual convention of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Facciani, M.J., Adinugroho, I., Apriliawati, D. & Weninger, T. The Impact of Fact-Checking from Political Coalitions and Media Literacy Organizations in Indonesia.

Facciani, M.J., Huang, Q., Adinugroho, I., Apriliawati, D. & Weninger, T. (2024). Comparing The Effectiveness of Two Media Literacy Games Across Indonesian and American Samples.

McKay, T., **Facciani, M.J.**, & Barbee, H. Alter Loss Following a Major Health Event among Older LGBT Adults in the UCNets LGBT Oversample. Working paper available.

Walker, J. **Facciani, M.J.** Terhune, K. Sanfey, H. Needs Assessment for Trainee Curriculum Underscoring Culturally Competent and Compassionate Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) patients.

Fellowships, Grants, Honors, and Awards

Rapid Advancement Micro-Grant from **Vanderbilt University**: \$1900

Research Grant from **LGBT Policy Lab** at Vanderbilt University: \$500

Research Grant from **Medicine Health and Society Department** at Vanderbilt University: \$500

Dissertation Research Grant from the **University of South Carolina**: \$1000

University of South Carolina Research Travel Grant

Conference Presentations

Facciani, M. (2024). Comparing The Effectiveness of Two Media Literacy Games Across Indonesian and American Samples. KISIP 2024: Safeguarding Democracy, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Facciani, M. (2023). Playing Gali Fakta “Inoculates” Indonesian Participants Against False Information. Group Processes Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Machleder, J., Ford, T., **Facciani, M.**, Yankoski, M., Weninger, T., Rocha da Silva., C., & Turner, J. (2023). Democracy in an age of Computational Disinformation. NYU Disinformation Symposium.

Online workshop.

Wilson, A. E., Parker, V., Kehoe, E.R., Lees, J., **Facciani, M.** (2022). What They Don't Want You to Know: Rhetorical Claims of Censorship Affect People's Attraction and Vulnerability to Misinformation. Paper accepted at the Annual convention of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Facciani, M.J., Lazić, Aleksandra, & Viggiano, G., & McKay, T. 2022. Social Media and Ego Network Composition Predict Vaccination Attitudes. Group Processes Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Facciani, M.J. & Steenbuch-Traberg, C. 2022. Personal Network Composition and Cognitive Reflection Predict Susceptibility to Different Types of Misinformation. American Sociological Association conference, Los Angeles, CA.

McKay, T., **Facciani, M.J.**, & Barbee, H. 2021. Alter Loss Following a Major Health Event among Older LGBT Adults in the UCNets LGBT Oversample. American Sociological Association conference. Virtual location.

Facciani, M.J. & Steenbuch-Traberg, C. 2021. How Cognitive Reflection and Political Homogeneity Influence Sharing Fake News. Group Processes Conference, Virtual location.

Facciani, M.J. & McKay, T. 2021. Alter Loss Following 2016 Presidential Election among Older LGBT Adults. International Network for Social Network Analysis, Virtual Location.

McKay, T., **Facciani, M.J.**, & Barbee, H. 2021. "Alter Loss Following a Major Health Event among Older LGBT Adults in the UCNets LGBT Oversample." The 3rd North American Social Networks

Facciani, M.J. & Brashears M.E. 2019. Visual Vignettes for Cross-National Research. Group Processes Conference, New York, NY

Facciani, M.J. & Brashears M.E. 2018. How Culture Influences Our Judgement of Social Scenarios. Group Processes Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Facciani, M.J. 2018. The Effects of Power on the Processing of Identity Threat. Southern Sociological Society Conference. New Orleans, LA

Facciani, M.J. & Brashears, M. E. 2016. Sacred Alters: The Effects of Ego Network Structure on Religious and Political Beliefs. Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Atlanta GA

Facciani, M.J. & Uwanjye, J.B. 2015. Developing a Mental Health Organization in Rwanda. 9th World Congress on the Promotion of Mental Health, Columbia, SC.

Facciani, M.J., Warren, P., & Vendemia, J. 2015. Holy Race and Gender Discrimination, Batman: A Critical Review of American Comic Books. International Conference on Masculinities, New York, NY.

Shinkareva, S., Wang, J., Kim, J., **Facciani, M.**, Baucom, L., & Wedell, D. 2013. Tests of

Modality-specific Affective Processing for Visual and Auditory Stimuli Derived from fMRI. Human Brain Mapping, Seattle, WA.

Facciani, M.J., Kim, J., Wedell, D., Newell, M., & Shinkareva S.V. 2012. Discovering Emotion from Mental Imagery. Graduate Student Day Poster Presentation, University of South Carolina.

Shinkareva, S.V., Wang, J., Kim, J., **Facciani, M.J.**, Baucom, L., & Wedell, D. H. 2012. Decoding Valence from Picture and Sound Stimuli. Human Brain Mapping, Beijing, China.

Facciani, M.J. 2011. When Two Decision Tasks are Better than One: Simultaneous Cognitive Tasks Affect Learning in the Monty Hall Problem Paradigm. Oral Presentation for Hard Data Café, University of South Carolina.

Teaching

Instructor of Record, – *Special Topics in Health: Misinformation and Polarization* -- Vanderbilt University (Spring 2022, Undergraduate/Graduate Level Course)

Instructor of Record, *Psychological Statistics* -- University of South Carolina (Five semesters, Undergraduate Level Course)

Preparing Future Faculty Program

Invited Talks

Gali Fakta Reduces Misinformation Belief and Sharing Intention Among Indonesian Participants — Monash University, 2/23/2023

Digital Misinformation and Media Literacy in Indonesia — UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 10/11/2022

How to Have Conversations in a World Full of Misinformation — Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9/25/2022

Misinformation Research Panelist — Clemson University, 12/4/2021

The Sociology of Fake News — Brigham Young University, 9/23/2020

The Rise of Fake News at a Time of Crisis: Addressing Misinformation Related to COVID-19 — Research-to-Policy Collaboration, 10/16/2020

The Social Science of Religious Belief — University of Minnesota, 03/22/2018

Op-Eds, Policy Briefs, Other Publications & Media

CNN: The Assignment with Audie Cornish – Does Fact-Checking Work?, 10/10/2023

Human-Shaped Hole in AI Oversight— Vanderbilt Project on Unity & American Democracy, 10/04/2022

Saving Icarus 2.0: AI Regulation Requires Extraordinary Partnerships — Vanderbilt Project on Unity & American Democracy, 08/02/2021

Hazardous Misinformation: Key Policy Levers — Vanderbilt Project on Unity & American Democracy, 04/13/2021

How to Support Journalism in the Fight against Misinformation — The Tennessean, 04/12/2021

Policy Brief on Misinformation — Research-to-Policy Collaboration, 01/25/2021

How Did Mask Wearing Become So Politicized? - The Conversation, 09/09/2020

Memberships and Service

Professional Associations:

American Sociological Association
International Network for Social Network Analysis

Professional Service

Social Forces, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Social Psychology Quarterly, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Social Science Quarterly, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Sociological Forum, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Social Currents, Ad Hoc Reviewer
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Poetics, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Social Science Research, Ad Hoc Reviewer
Psychology Graduate Student Association, Elected President (two terms)

Community Service

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, Speakers Bureau member
Carnegie Science Center, Special Events Volunteer

References

Dr. Matthew Brashears

University of South Carolina
803-777-3123
brasheam@mailbox.sc.edu

Dr. Tara McKay

Vanderbilt University
615-322-7626
tara.mckay@vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Tim Weninger

University of Notre Dame
574-631-6770
tweninge@nd.edu