

Joseph Bak-Coleman

PERSONAL DETAILS

Address Craig Newmark Center
Pulitzer Hall
Columbia University
New York, NY, 10027

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Research Scientist July 2022 - Present
Columbia University
Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics and Security

External Affiliate Apr. 2023 - Present
Harvard University
Berkman Klein Center

Affiliate Aug. 2022 - Present
UNC Chapel Hill
Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life

RSM Assembly Fellow Sept. 2022 - Apr. 2023
Harvard University
Berkman Klein Center

Postdoctoral Scholar Sep 2020 - July 2022
University of Washington
Center for an Informed Public

UW Data Science Postdoctoral Fellow Sep 2020 - July 2022
University of Washington
eScience Institute

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 2014-2020
Princeton University
Supervisors: Professor Iain Couzin, Professor Dan Rubenstein
Dissertation Title: Collective behavior in a connected world

M.A. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 2016
Princeton University
Supervisors: Professor Iain Couzin, Professor Dan Rubenstein

M.S. Biology 2014
Bowling Green State University
Supervisor: Professor Sheryl Coombs
Thesis Title: The role of the lateral line during rheotaxis

B.S. Neuroscience 2011
Bowling Green State University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [16] C. Winkylmayr et al. “Collective decision strategies in the presence of spatial and temporal correlations”. In: *Collective Intelligence* (2023).
- [15] J. Bak-Coleman et al. “Collective wisdom in polarized groups.” In: *Collective Intelligence* (2022).
- [14] J. Bak-Coleman et al. “Combining interventions to reduce the spread of viral misinformation”. In: *Nature Human Behavior* (2022).
- [13] J. Jolles et al. “Both prey and predator features predict the individual predation risk and survival of schooling preyx”. In: *eLife* (2022).
- [12] J. Bak-Coleman et al. “Stewardship of Global Collective Behavior”. In: *PNAS* (2021).
- [11] S. Coombs, J. Bak-Coleman, and J. Montgomery. “Rheotaxis revisited: Multi-behavioral and multisensory frameworks for understanding how fish orient to flow.” In: *The Journal of Experimental Biology* (2020).
- [10] L. Liang et al. “Energy savings in freely swimming fish”. In: *Nature Communications* (2020).
- [9] C. Winkylmayr, A. Kao, and J. Bak-Coleman. “The wisdom of stalemates: consensus and clustering as filtering mechanisms for improving collective accuracy”. In: *Proceedings B* (2020).
- [8] M. Sosna et al. “Structural encoding of perceived risk in fish schools”. In: *PNAS* (2019).
- [7] A. Kao et al. “Counteracting estimation bias and social influence to improve the wisdom of crowds.” In: *Journal of the Royal Society, Interface* 15 (2018).
- [6] J. Bak-Coleman, D. Smith, and S. Coombs. “Going with, then against the flow: Evidence against the optomotor hypothesis of fish rheotaxis”. In: *Animal Behaviour* 107 (2015).
- [5] A. Chicoli et al. “Rheotaxis performance increases with group size in a coupled phase model with sensory noise: The effects of noise and group size on rheotaxis”. In: *European Physical Journal: Special Topics* 224 (2015).
- [4] M. Kulpa, J. Bak-Coleman, and S. Coombs. “The lateral line is necessary for blind cavefish rheotaxis in non-uniform flow”. In: *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 218 (2015).
- [3] J. Bak-Coleman and S. Coombs. “Sedentary behavior as a factor in determining lateral line contributions to rheotaxis”. In: *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 217 (2014).
- [2] A Chicoli et al. “The effects of flow on schooling *Devario aequipinnatus*: school structure, startle response and information transmission”. In: *Journal of Fish Biology* (2014).
- [1] J. Bak-Coleman et al. “The spatiotemporal dynamics of rheotactic behavior depends on flow speed and available sensory information.” In: *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 216 (2013).

MANUSCRIPTS

- [2] J. Bak-Coleman et al. “Replication does not reliably measure scientific productivity”. In: (Review).
- [1] K. Tombak et al. “Zebra groups aggregate in response to Petrucci’s passive forces, disaggregate in response to Darwn’s hostile forces.” In: (prep).

AWARDS AND FUNDING

Berkman Klein Center RSM Fellowship	\$18K
CIP Innovation Fund Rapid Response Workshop	\$2.5K
CIP Innovation Fund Experimental approaches to studying misinformation online	\$10K
CIP Postdoctoral Fellowship	≈\$150K
UW eScience Institute Data Science Postdoctoral fellowship	\$2K
BGSU CURS Summer Research Fellowship	\$2.5K

BGSU SETGO Summer Research Fellowship	\$3.5K
Choose Ohio First Bioinformatics Scholarship (3. years)	\$12K
Flow Sensing in Air and Water Travel Award	\$2K

OTHER WRITING

Create an IPCC-like body to harness benefits and combat harms of digital tech, *Nature*
TikTok's API Guidelines Are a Minefield for Researchers, *Tech Policy Press*
Twitter Is Not Rocket Science—It's Harder, *Scientific American*
On Elon Musk's Vision of Twitter as a Hive Mind, *Tech Policy Press*
Promoting sustainability and equity in global social systems , *UNDP Report*, 2021
A High-Speed Scientific Hive Mind Emerged, *Scientific American*, 2021
Meta's 'average user' data obscures harm to thousands... *The Conversation*, 2021
Journalists are exposing Facebook's problems. We'll need academics... *Tech Policy Press*, 2021
How to Mislead with Statistics, *Significance*, 2021
The Long Fuse: Misinformation and the 2020 Election *Election Integrity Partnership*, 2021
Information gerrymandering in social networks skews collective decision-making. *Nature*, 2019
The ignorance of the crowd. *Scientific American*, Nov. 2017
Why did Donald Trump get elected? Ask the bees. *Wired*, Dec. 2016

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Our shared digital future (UNDP)	*2023
Optimizing for What? (Columbia University)	*2023
Future of Mathematical Social Science Workshop, (UPenn)	*2023
Vlasceanu Lab Meeting, (NYU)	*2022
Collective Intelligence Journal Launch (Sage Journals)	*2022
Keynote Speaker, Rebooting Social Media Kickoff (Berkman Klein Center, Harvard)	*2021
Machine Learning Ethics, Transparency and Accountability Seminar Speaker (Twitter)	*2021
Plenary, DARPA ISAT SLICE Workshop (Stanford Internet Observatory)	*2021
Whole U Seminar Series (University of Washington)	*2021
Online Behavioral Interventions Workshop (Max Planck Institute for Human Development)	*2021
Collective Intelligence Workshop (Santa Fe Institute)	*2021
Humphrey Fellowship Seminar (University of Washington)	*2021
IC2S2 Satellite Panel (Konstanz)	*2021
iSchool Seminar Series (University of Washington)	*2021
IC2S2 (Amsterdam)	2019
Invited Lecture (Lenoir-Rhyne University)	*2019
Van Bavel Lab Meeting (New York University)	*2019
Collective Behavior, Social Media and Systemic Risk (Princeton University)	*2018
Yale Institute for Network Science (Yale University)	*2018
Distributed, Collective Computation in Biological and Artificial Systems (Janelia Farm)	2018
Integrated Behavioral Research Group (Princeton University)	2018
Metropolitan Society of Natural Historians (AMNH)	*2016
Integrated Behavioral Research Group (Princeton University)	2016
Animal Behavior Society (Bloomington, IN)	2012
International Congress of Neuroethology (College Park, MD)	2012
Ecological and Evolutionary Ecology of Fishes (Windsor, ON)	2012
J.P. Scott Seminar (BGSU)	2011
Flow Sensing in Air and Water (Bonn, Germany)	*2011
Undergraduate Honors Society Seminar (BGSU)	*2011
SETGO Symposium (BGSU)	2011
J.P. Scott Seminar (BGSU)	2010

SELECTED COVERAGE AND IMPACT

The only thing Elon Musk understands about Twitter is how to kill it *Insider*
2021-22 Human Development Report. *United Nations Development Program*
Big Tech must step up now to fight misinformation in the midterms. *The Hill*
Journals must adapt to better serve misinformation research. *Nature*
Detecting Bullshit. *Science*
As Climate Change Fries the World, Social Media Is Frying Our Brains. *Bloomberg*
It's Time to Treat Social Media Like the Climate Crisis, Researchers Argue. *Gizmodo*
Why some biologists and ecologists think social media is a risk to humanity. *Vox*
The coronavirus pandemic drove life online. It may never return., *NBC News*
Social-Media Companies Took an Aggressive Stance During the Election. Will It Continue?, *WSJ*
Misinformation by a thousand cuts: Varied rigged election claims circulate, *NBC News*
Project Veritas Video Was a 'Coordinated Disinformation Campaign,' Researchers Say. *NYT*

TEACHING

Guest Lecturer <i>Policy Lab: Women in Conflict & Security</i> 2023	University of Pennsylvania
Guest Lecturer <i>Calling Bullshit</i> 2020	University of Washington
Guest Lecturer <i>Comparative Physiology</i> 2017-2018	Princeton University
Assistant in Instruction <i>Comparative Physiology</i> <i>Conservation Biology</i> <i>Life on Earth: Chaos and Clockwork of Biological Design</i> 2014-2018	Princeton University
Adjunct Instructor <i>Introductory Biology, Taxonomy</i> 2014	Owens Community College

SERVICE

Member, **Coalition for Independent Tech Research**, 2022-
Annual Report Consultant, **United Nations Development Programme**, 2022
Lab meeting and Seminar Series Organizer, **Center for an Informed Public**, 2020-2022
Hidden Curriculum Happy Hour Organizer, **Center for an Informed Public**, 2021-2022
Misinfo rapid-response workshop organizer, **Center for an Informed Public**, 2021-2022
Election Integrity Partnership Analyst Team Lead, **Election Integrity Partnership**, 2020
EEB Scholars Host and Speaker, **Princeton**, 2018-2019
DEI Recruiting, **ABRCMS**, 2018
CBSMSR Conference Organizer, **Princeton**, 2017
Graduate Representative, **Princeton**, 2016-2018
DEI Recruiting, **ABRCMS**, 2017
Prospective Student Week Organizer, **Princeton**, 2014-2019
Behavior Seminar Series Organizer, **Princeton**, 2015-2016
Graduate Retreat Organizer, **Princeton**, 2016-2017
President of Biology Graduate Student Association, **BGSU**, 2011-2013

PEER REVIEW

Animal Behavior
Biology Open
Entropy
Journal of Experimental Biology
Nature Communications
Perspectives on Psychological Science
Physics Review Letters
Patterns
PLOS Computational Biology
PNAS
Proceedings B
Science Advances