

Calvin Isch

Curriculum Vitae

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SUMMARY

I am a fourth year PhD student, studying the Computational Social Sciences at the Annenberg School for Communication, the University of Pennsylvania. In my present and future roles as a creator, educator, and scientist, I hope to utilize academic ideas to improve the systems that shape our lives. From back-packing across China to completing a 100-mile ultra-marathon, I set non-traditional goals for myself and work diligently to achieve them.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA GPA: 4.00/4.00 – Present
PhD, Computational Social Science, Annenberg School for Communication
M.A., Statistics and Data Science, Wharton Business School Spring 2024
Master of Art in Teaching, Relay GSE, Indianapolis, IN GPA: 4.00/4.00 – 2022
AmeriCorps funded online master's program completed as part of *Teach for America*.
Bachelor of Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN GPA: 4.00/4.00 – 2020
Major: Cognitive Science
Minors: Liberal Arts and Management Program (Honor's Certificate), Math
Cox Research Scholar: Faculty-selected as one of twenty students in the IU Class of 2020 to receive the full ride, merit-based Cox Research Scholarship.

HONORS & AWARDS

2015	President's Volunteer Service Award
2015	National Merit Commended Scholar
2016	Valedictorian of Class
2017	Finalist Deloitte Case Competition
2018	Hutton International Experience Program Scholarship
2019	Hutton Honor's College Honor's Thesis grant
2019	Outstanding Achievement Award, IU Cognitive Science Program
2019	Inducted to Phi Beta Kappa
2020	Faculty-panel-selected winner of IUJUR Research Slam
2020-2021	AmeriCorps educational grant recipient
2021	Teacher of the Year Nomination
2022	Admitted to Fully funded PhD programs at Harvard (Biostatistics); Indiana University (Cognitive Science); and the University of Pennsylvania (Communication/Computational Social Science)
2023	Accepted to Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Max Planck Institute
2024,2025	Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student, The University of Pennsylvania

August 2023 – Present

As a PhD student in the computational social sciences, I study topics related to statistics, network science, and metascience.

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Design and run experiments on web-portals where participants are placed in networks, and answer questions related to the wisdom of the crowds
- Create data visualizations and conduct data analysis in Python and R, write up results.
- Implement web-scraping methods and work with APIs to gather data relevant to our questions of interest with Dr. Cory Clark and Prof. Phillip Tetlock
- Work with NLP tools including generalized large language models (GPT4) and specialized models from Hugging Face for Prof. Duncan Watts
- Authored articles in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Journal of Public Health*, and *Social Science and Medicine*
- Skills: LLM Evaluation, SQL, AWS, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX, Git, Microsoft Office, Python, R.

Lead Teacher, Indiana Math and Science Academy North

August 2020 – June 2022

As a 6th grade math teacher, I was responsible for the social and academic growth, well-being, and safety of 56 students.

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Designed rigorous and engaging lessons matched to Common Core State Standards and inspired by *EngageNY* curriculum for virtual, hybrid, and in-person format.
- Differentiated instruction for students of diverse backgrounds and learning abilities.
- Set clear and specific rules and expectations to ensure that students felt safe and valued in the classroom; enforced these equitably.
- Received individualized coaching and engaged in weekly professional development throughout the year.
- Hosted Mathematician Monday where students heard from a diverse array of individuals who use math in their lives: a neuroscientist from IU, a mathematician from LSE, a principal, and a chef.
- Member of the Response to Intervention (RTI) committee to help identify and support students with learning and behavioral needs.
- CYPSP Young Scholars' mentor; host weekly meetings to develop academic skills, complete cultural exposure activities, and learn about community resources and opportunities.
- Received the highest possible teacher evaluation, "Accomplished", from administrators.

Research Assistant, Indiana University

August 2016 - 2022

As a research assistant, I collaborated with faculty and graduate students to develop ideas, created experiments to test those ideas, ran those experiments, and presented the findings.

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Collaborate with Professor Peter M. Todd and graduate students to design, develop, and run lab experiments, field experiments, and internet data studies on future-thinking.
- Code lab experiments in JSPsych, a JavaScript library built for psychology experiments.

- Analyze data using Python, SPSS, R, and Excel; write up results in reports.
- Conducted an Honor's thesis on future cognition using big data from Twitter and a cross-population analysis with an Amish population.
- Presented original research talks to labs at Indiana University, Arizona State University, Newcastle University, and Northumbria University.
- First- or second-authored two papers: one published in *Behavior Research Methods* and the other with *Indiana University Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

S&C Imagery LLC, Founder

July 2017 – March 2020

As a cofounder and director of both finance and digital marketing, I performed accounting and legal services while ensuring that every customer was blown away by their photo shoot.

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Researched and executed the procedures required to incorporate as a business and stay in good standing with the state of Indiana.
- Executed digital marketing campaigns on Facebook and Google.
- Designed and maintained a user-friendly website.
- Interacted with clients and attended client shoots.

PRESENTATIONS

National Children and Youth Education Conference, Indianapolis IN	September 2017
• Paid to address an audience of 100+ American Legion educators on my education experience.	
American Legion National Americanism Conference, Indianapolis IN	October 2017
• Paid to present the Keynote speech to 300+ American Legion leaders from across the country. I discussed my experience at Boys State and shared ideas for future improvement.	
Midwest Undergraduate Cognitive Science Conference	April 2018
• Presented a Poster, "Meat O'Vision: The effects of hunger on perception."	
Hutton Honors College	January 2019
• Presented a research-talk called "Future Goals & Present Performance" to 30+ Honors scholars.	
Data Science for Public Good Symposium	August 2019
• Presented posters "Skilled technical workers" and "Innovation with OSS." To 150+ attendees	
HON-H241 Thinking about Tomorrow Guest Lecturer,	November 2019
• Presented a 75-minute lecture including original research, "Considerations of future Consequences, Procrastination, and Psychological Distance" to a class of ~20 students.	
IU Undergraduate Research Conference, Bloomington, IN	November 2019
• Presented a talk "Thoughts on tomorrow: How considering the future relates to present activity".	
IUJUR Research Slam, Virtual	March 2020
• Faculty-selected winner of a short talk, "Measuring psychological distance with twitter data"	
Honor's Thesis Defense, Virtual	April 2020
• Presented a 60-minute presentation on my honor's thesis, "Thoughts on tomorrow: An exploration of future thinking in humans."	
COVID-Sociality group	August 2020
• Presented new research on community mask wearing and COVID prevalence, sparking a long-term collaboration with this lab.	
Todd-Goldstone Lab Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	October 2020

- Co-presented a 60-minute talk on new work from the COVID-Sociality group collaboration on mask wearing and COVID prevalence.
Allen, Nettle, & Pepper Labs, Newcastle, UK March 2021
- Presented a 60-minute talk, “Shifts in future orientation: COVID-19 mortality rates, political affiliation, and a decline in consideration of future consequences”.
Hirt Lab, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN March 2021
- Co-presented a 60-minute talk, “Determinants of mask wearing: Attitudes, intentions, and behaviors”.
Perception, Evolution and Behavior Lab, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK May 2021
- Presented a 60-minute talk on Twitter-data and my paper, “Temporal measures of societal optimism reveal inversion of sentiment toward the near and distant future”.
Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Max Planck Institute, Berlin June 2023
- Presented a poster on original research, “Social learning can mitigate the influence of unhelpful anchors in an estimation task”.
AIMOS Conference, QUT, Brisbane, AU November 2023
- Presented a short talk on original research, “Narrative License in the Social Sciences: An Exploration with GPT-4.0”.
International Conference on Computational Social Science, University of Pennsylvania July 2024
- Co-presented a poster on original research, “Narrative License in the Social Sciences”.
FIRE Faculty Conference, Boston, MA, USA October 2024
- Presented a talk on original research with Prof. Diana Mutz, “The Political Impact of Virtue Signaling”
Philosophy of Science Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA November 2024
- Presented a talk on original research, “On collaborating with Adversaries: Lessons from those who have tried it.”
International Conference on Computational Social Science, Sweden July 2025
- Presented a talk on original research, “Quantifying the prevalence of overreaching causal language in the social sciences.”
Political Networks and Computational Social Science (PoINETS), Harvard University August 2025
- Presented on original research, “Quantifying the prevalence of overreaching causal language in the social sciences.”
SCIFY, DARPA research group September 2025
- Presented on original research, “Quantifying the prevalence of overreaching causal language in the social sciences.”
New(s) Knowledge: From Research to Intelligence, MIT October 2025
- Presented on original research, “Media portrayals of mortality risks || Using large language models for large-scale qualitative analysis.”

PUBLICATIONS

- Isch, C., Tetlock, P. E., & Clark, C. J. (2025). Reflections on adversarial collaboration from the adversaries: was it worth it? *Theory and Society*, 1-18.
- Isch, C. (2025). Media Bias in Portrayals of Mortality Risks: Comparison of Newspaper Coverage to Death Rates. *Social Science & Medicine*, 117542.
- Clark, C. J., Isch, C., & Shariff, A. (2024). Why do organizations take political stances? A review of reasons and risks. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 18(7), e12985.

- Clark, C. J., **Isch, C.**, Connor, P., & Tetlock, P. E. (2024). Assume a can opener. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 47, e36.
- Clark, C. J., Connor, P., & **Isch, C.** (2023). Failing to replicate predicts citation declines in psychology. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(29), e2304862120.
- Isch, C.**, Brown, R., Todd, P. M., Aktipis, A., & Pepper, G. (2023). Objective risk exposure, perceived uncontrollable mortality risk, and health behaviors. *Journal of Public Health*, 1-11.
- Clark, C. J., **Isch, C.**, Everett, J. A. C., & Shariff, A. (2023). Even When Ideologies Align, People Distrust Politicized Institutions. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/sfubr>
- Isch, C.**, Ten Thij, M., Todd, P. M., & Bollen, J. (2022). Quantifying changes in societal optimism from online sentiment. *Behavior Research Methods*, 1-9.
- Heiman, S. L., Hirt, E. R., **Isch, C.**, Brinkworth, J. F., Cronk, L., Alcock, J., ... & Todd, P. M. (2022). Identities as predictors of vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Social Issues*.
- Guevara Beltran, D., **Isch, C.**, Ayers, J. D., Alcock, J., Brinkworth, J. F., Cronk, L., ... Aktipis, A. (2021, April 18). Mask wearing behavior across routine and leisure activities during COVID-19. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2qya8>
- Isch, C. G.** (2020) [Book Section] The (not so) miraculous healing power of placebos. *Critical Medical Humanities*, Leah Savion, ClassPak IUB.
- Sonmez, G., & **Isch, C.** (2020). Do Environmental Resource Distributions Affect Attentional Styles?. In *CogSci*.
- Isch, C. G.**, Nordli, S.A., & Todd, P.M. (2019) Back to the future consequences. *IU Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

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| Teach for America, | 2020-2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected (~15% acceptance rate) for the 2020 cohort; committed to serve under-resourced public schools for two years. • Engaged in professional development activities including seminars, workshops, and individual coaching throughout the school year and breaks. | |
| Coding Club and Robocon, | 2020-2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a coding club that met twice weekly; introduced middle schoolers to resources such as MIT's Scratch, App Inventor, and Code Academy. • Students competed in Robocon and our team was awarded an Honorable Mention out of over 20 contestants. | |
| Board of AEONS, | 2019-2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty-nominated and committee-selected (~8% selection rate) to serve on an advisory board to the University President. • Researched University functions and offered pathways forward to improve the quality of current systems. | |
| Southern Care Hospice, | 2018-2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke with members of hospice on a weekly basis. | |
| Midwest Undergraduate Cognitive Science Conference, Assistant Director | 2018-2020 |

- Performed various tasks for the conference including speaker selection, photography, advertisement, selection committee, and funding pitches.

Teacher Assistant - H241 The Cognition of Future Thinking, Fall 2019

- Developed content and presented a 75-minute lecture on my research

TEDxIndianaUniversity, 2016-2019

- *Director of Curation*: elected to the position responsible for selecting speakers and developing talks for events with 1000+ attendees and videos that amass millions of views.

- Facilitated discussion on TED Talks in several community salon events with 50+ attendees.

English Teacher, China Summer 2018

- Taught English to Chinese students of various ages as part of a 6-week volunteer program.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 Sub-24 Hour 100-mile Ultra-Marathon, Split 22:38;42

2022 Boston Marathon Qualifier – Split 2:51;06

2023 Top 100, Ironman Maryland – Split 9:08;19

2024 100km Ultramarathon Champion – Split 9:23;26

OTHER INTERESTS

Data Science Python & R NLP Teaching Climbing/Ultra-running Goodreads