SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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Faculty Search Committee   December 11, 2023
College of Information Studies
Department of Government and Politics
University of Maryland, College Park

Dear members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for your tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the College of Information Studies and Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland. I am a PhD Candidate at the University of Michigan School of Information, working with Professor Ceren Budak. I will defend my dissertation this coming spring and graduate in May 2024.

My research primarily focuses on natural language processing (NLP) and political communication. I develop computational approaches to understand subtle and covert rhetoric in political discussions, and highlight the broader sociopolitical implications of such language, especially on marginalized communities. I have a particular interest in studying the public's production and reception of political frames on social media, and in drawing connections between framing and other concepts such as political participation and online information manipulation.

I have published in journals and top-tier NLP and computational social science conferences, receiving the outstanding methodology award at ICWSM 2023. Additionally, I was awarded a Google PhD Fellowship, Honorable Mention from the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, and was recognized as a finalist for the Twitch and Meta PhD Fellowships. I was an invited speaker at Cornell, McGill, Carnegie Mellon, and the University of Southern California, and have served on panels about hate speech detection and computational social science.

I have a diverse range of teaching experience in data science, computer science, and linguistics. I am interested in teaching courses that introduce students to programming, text analysis, and political uses of language, in addition to more specialized seminars in computational political communication and large language models for political research. I have also advised seven students, several of whom are submitting original research to computational social science venues.

I am committed to nurturing a culture of care and belonging in my university, academic community, and society at large. Specifically, I support diverse recruitment efforts, promote equity in access to academic resources, advocate for students in my department, and make social good a core tenet of my teaching and research. Ultimately, I endeavor to use NLP to support social justice and make the online world a safer and more welcoming place. I believe that the University of Maryland would be an ideal place for me to work towards that goal.

Enclosed are my curriculum vitae, research statement, teaching statement, reference contact information, and sample publications. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Mendelsohn

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