Lorcan McLaren

PhD Researcher in Quantitative & Computational Social Science

Connected_Politics Lab · UCD School of Politics & International Relations
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Education

University College Dublin
PhD Quantitative & Computational Social Sceince   *September 2023 - Present*
- **Thesis:** Taking the green pill – Moral language, emotion, and persuasion in the climate crisis
- **Advisor:** Dr. James P. Cross

University College Dublin
MSc Politics & Data Science   *2021 - 2022*
- **Thesis:** Polarising rhetoric and Twitter rage
- **Advisor:** Dr. James P. Cross

Trinity College Dublin
BA Computer Science, Linguistics & French   *2016 - 2020*
- **Thesis:** Dominance is relative - Automatic gaze annotation and conversational dominance in the MULTISIMO corpus
- **Advisor:** Dr. Carl Vogel

Research Experience

University College Dublin, with Swiss National Science Foundation
Research assistant   *July 2023 - Present*

Trinity College Dublin
Research assistant   *May - August 2020*

Industry Experience

Dataminr
Data analyst, R&D   *2022 - 2023*
- Explored new data sources and built ingests to exploit them via APIs and web scraping
- Developed automations for data extraction, transformation, and quality assurance in consultation with subject matter experts
- Built, maintained, and updated visualisation dashboards and tools to monitor data health
- Developed protocols to systematise processes for future work

Editor, Domain Expert   *2021 - 2022*
- Monitored streams of potentially newsworthy content from around the globe and alerted clients on breaking news
- Developed new techniques for discovering breaking news events using social media and other publicly available data
- Tracked misinformation related to COVID-19 and election integrity across multiple jurisdictions in a variety of languages

Peer-Reviewed Publications

McLaren, L., Koutsombogera, M. and Vogel, C. (2020) 'A Heuristic Method for Automatic Gaze Detection in Constrained Multi- Modal Dialogue Corpora', in 2020 11th IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications, pp. 55–60.

McLaren, L., Koutsombogera, M. and Vogel, C. (2020) 'Gaze, Dominance and Dialogue Role in the MULTISIMO Corpus', in 2020 11th IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications, pp. 83–88.

Presentations

McLaren, L. May 2024. Taking the green pill: Psychological distance and the climate crisis in the European Parliament. Oral presentation: COMPTEXT conference, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands.

McLaren, L. December 2023. Measuring, mapping, and assessing the impact of emotional appeals in European politics. Oral presentation: Connected_Politics Lab, University College Dublin, Ireland.

Teaching

Spring 2024	**Research Methods in Political Science**, Undergraduate, Teaching Assistant
Autumn 2023	**Introduction to EU Politics**, Undergraduate, Teaching Assistant

Scholarships & Grants

2023-2027	**Iseult Honohan Scholarship**, UCD School of Politics & International Relations	*€ 124,190*
	SPIRe PhD Research Grant, UCD School of Politics & International Relations	*€ 1,500*
2020	**Erasmus Mundus Scholarship**, European Commission	*€ 17,250*

Awards

2020	**Best Paper Award**, IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications

Leadership & Professional Development

LEADERSHIP

2017-2018	**TCD School of Computer Science & Statistics**, Student Convenor
	TCD Students' Union Lobby Group, Deputy Chair
2016-2017	**TCD School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences**, Student Convenor

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Political Studies Association of Ireland