

# Laura Kurek

Ph.D. Student | School of Information | University of Michigan

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[laurakurek.github.io](https://github.com/laurakurek)

## Education

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### Ph.D., University of Michigan

School of Information  
Research areas: Social Computing, Computational Social Science  
Advisors: Dr. Ceren Budak and Dr. Eric Gilbert

Expected May 2027  
*Ann Arbor, MI*

### B.S., Georgetown University

Walsh School of Foreign Service  
Major: Science, Technology & International Affairs  
GPA: 3.86, Magna Cum Laude. Concentration: Security  
Certificate: Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies

May 2016  
*Washington, DC*

### Semester Abroad, Moscow International University

American Councils Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP)  
Interviewed and featured on RLASP website after successful semester abroad

Fall 2014  
*Moscow, Russia*

## Work Experience

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### The Fulbright U.S. Student Program

June 2016-June 2017  
*Perm, Russia*

#### **Fulbright English Teaching Assistant**

- Led eight English-language classes weekly of 8-15 students at Perm National Research Polytechnic University, Linguistics Department.
- Taught intermediate Russian language classes to first-year international students.
- Organized a bi-monthly English conversation club. Provide faculty support translating academic papers and administrative documents from Russian to English.

### Accenture Federal Services

Sept 2017-July 2022  
*Washington, DC*

#### **Data Science Associate Manager**

- Managed research production, interfacing between client and internal data science teams. Defined research objectives and developed analytical methods to assess online disinformation.
- Collaborated on joint reports with allied governments. Presented findings to technical and non-technical client audiences. Published over 30 reports.

Dec. 2021-July 2022

#### **Data Science Specialist**

- Co-led a 9-person research team: negotiated report priorities, trained 3 new members, resolved data access issues. Published over 50 reports.
- Developed network- and account-level methods to identify and describe information campaigns.
- Led a 4-part series into a state-aligned network, assessing campaign scope and tactics.

Dec. 2020-Nov.2021

#### **Technology Delivery Senior Analyst**

- Authored social media and network analysis reports. Identified three COVID-19 disinformation campaigns. Developed a hashtag network script, advanced network visualizations, and a Django web app for topic modeling.
- Led a change management software implementation for 10 teams within a HHS IT department.

Dec. 2018-Nov.2020

#### **Technology Delivery Analyst**

- Facilitated two simultaneous agency-wide software implementations using Agile development methodology.
- Managed relationships with over 40 stakeholders to gather and standardize over 200 software requirements.
- Led seven software training sessions for over 150 users and supported 300 users through software testing.

Sept. 2017-Nov.2018

## Professional Communities at Accenture Federal Services

Jan. 2020-July 2022

*Women in Data Science Community – Co-founder*

- Founded the first mentorship program for women in Accenture Federal's AI practice. Organized 42 participants for the mentorship program and 10 events on workplace gender equity.
- Recruited five team members to expand the mentorship program and events planning in the 2022 fiscal year. The second year of the mentorship program involved over 60 participants.

*Blockchain Community of Practice – Thought Leadership Co-Lead*

Oct. 2018-Oct.2019

- Co-authored a white paper on blockchain identity solutions. Contributed to a white paper on blockchain applications for medical records.
- Designed and led educational blockchain workshops for both client and internal audiences.

## Conferences

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### 2023 European Union Joint Research Center Disinformation Workshop

September 2023

*Invited Attendee*

- Invited to attend a 2-day workshop led by EU disinformation experts, researchers and civil servants

## Talks

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### Computational Social Science Working Group

December 2023

*Presenter*

- Presented pre-candidacy research to UMSI students and faculty for feedback and presentation practice

## Teaching

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### Georgetown University, Computer Science Department

July 2015-May 2016

*Teaching assistant*

- Held weekly office hours for first-year computer science students learning the C++ programming language. Graded all homework assignments and projects.

## Internships

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### Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars

May-Aug. 2015

*Wilson Quarterly Writing Intern*

- Researched and authored 7 articles on international issues. Only intern of 10 published in the Fall 2015 *Wilson Quarterly* publication.

## Skills

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**Human Languages:** Advanced Russian language proficiency [reference: CEFR C1 Level, Alta Level 10 Advanced Plus]

**Computer Languages:** Proficient in Python, including the libraries Pandas, Tensorflow, PyTorch, and Transformers

**Data Science Skills:** Jupyter notebook, network analysis, topic modeling, and social media analysis