What Can We Benefit from and Contribute to Computational Social Science?

Abstract

Computational Social Science (CSS) has been an interdisciplinary field of study for nearly two decades. Despite growing collaboration between social scientists and computer/data scientists, CSS faces fundamental tensions between the two camps. Social scientists generally focus on explanatory research, whereas computer/data scientists prioritize predictive research. This seminar aims to identify key phases of CSS where the two approaches differ, ranging from data collection to analysis, interpretation, and representation. Professor Jonathan Zhu will highlight specific areas where social scientists can learn from computer/data scientists and where social scientists can make unique contributions.