

Avner Kantor, PhD

✉ avnerkantor@gmail.com | 🌐 avnerkantor.com | 📞 +972-54-7820256 | 📍 Jerusalem, Israel

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational Social Science · Online Deliberation · Information Design · Social Network Analysis · Data Journalism

EDUCATION

University of Haifa 2024
PhD, Information & Knowledge Management Haifa, Israel

- Dissertation: *Online Deliberation and Data Journalism*
- Advisor: Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2015
MA, Philosophy Jerusalem, Israel

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2010
BA, Philosophy Jerusalem, Israel

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Reichman University (IDC Herzliya) 2021–2022
Adjunct Lecturer, Lauder School of Government Herzliya, Israel

- Taught “Introduction to Data Science with Python for Government.”

University of Haifa 2015–2018
Research Fellow, Center for Internet Research Haifa, Israel

- Designed and launched *OpenPISA*, an open-data platform for the OECD PISA database.

PUBLICATIONS

Information Systems & Online Deliberation

- Kantor, A., & Rafaeli, S. **Fewer but More Elaborate: How Information Accessibility Filters Participation and Shapes Online News Comments.** *Journalism Studies*. (Forthcoming).
- Kantor, A. **Before Ties Form: How Information Environments Shape Collective Engagement Through Coordination Dynamics.** Under review at *Information Systems Research*. [SSRN]
- Kantor, A., & Rafaeli, S. (2025). Conversations with data: How data journalism affects online comments in the *New York Times*. *Proceedings of HICSS-58*, 8, 2386–2395. [ScholarSpace]

- **Kantor, A., & Rafaeli, S.** (2025). Data, sense, and sensibility: How data journalism style shapes interactivity. *Selected Papers of Internet Research (AoIR)*. [DOI]
- **Kantor, A., & Rafaeli, S.** (2021). Independence through data journalism. *Selected Papers of Internet Research (AoIR)*. [DOI]
- **Kantor, A., & Rafaeli, S.** (2020). Open PISA: Dashboard for large educational dataset. *Proceedings of the Seventh ACM Conference on Learning@Scale*, 253–256. [DOI]

Healthcare Analytics

- Mor Shalom, M., **Kantor, A.**, et al. (2025). Changes in trends of visits and service utilization by mental health patients in the community: a twelve-year study in Israel. *Israel Journal of Health Policy Research*.
- Shapiro Ben David, S., **Kantor, A.**, et al. (2025). Reported penicillin allergy in Israel: Clinical outcomes and antibiotic costs in a nationwide population-based cohort study. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: Global*.
- Kertes, J., Shapiro Ben David, S., . . . , **Kantor, A.**, et al. (2023). Association Between AZD7442 (Tixagevimab-Cilgavimab) Administration and SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Hospitalization, and Mortality. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

CONFERENCES WITHOUT PROCEEDINGS

- (August 2026) **Information Environments and the Structure of Political Discussion Networks**. Political Networks Conference, University of Manchester. (Accepted).
- (July 2026) **Beyond Who Shows Up: Information Design and Online Political Discourse**. “Elections in Times of Crisis” Conference, Israeli Political Science Association, Reichman University. (Accepted).
- (June 2026) **When Information Is Both Costly and Empowering: Equilibrium Selection Under Strategic Complementarities**. 42nd Annual Conference of the Israel Economic Association (IECA), Collier School of Management, Tel Aviv University. (Accepted).
- (May 2026) **The Architecture of Evidence: How Data Journalism Restructures the Topology of Online Deliberation**. COMPTXT Conference, University of Birmingham.
- (2025) **Now You See Me: Using Generative AI to Drive Engagement with Data Visualizations**. IEEE VIS Workshop on GenAI, Vienna. (Poster).
- (2025) **Modeling How Data Journalism Shapes Discussion Networks**. Israel Statistics and Data Science Association (ISDSA). (Poster).
- (2020) **Does Data Journalism Engage Its Audience?** Computation + Journalism Symposium, Virtual Event.

INVITED TALKS & SEMINARS

- (2024) **Data journalism and learning analytics**. *Learning Analytics Café* MOOC (Prof. Ido Roll), Faculty of Education in Science and Technology, Technion.
- (2017) **How can the public be encouraged to investigate educational questions?** Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation, Technion.

- (2017) **Education data journalism**. Open Media and Information Lab, Open University of Israel.
- (2015) **Data journalism**. Special Seminar for World Statistics Day, Israel Central Bureau of Statistics.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

Statistician

2024–Present

Jerusalem, Israel

- Investigating the replacement of traditional official statistical methods with deep learning models to improve accuracy and efficiency.

Maccabi Health Services

Data Scientist

2021–2024

Tel Aviv, Israel

- Led research on physician burnout prediction and patient wait-time forecasting.
- Conducted high-impact retrospective cohort studies on COVID-19 and drug allergies, resulting in publications in top medical journals.

Corona National Information and Knowledge Center

Data Scientist

2020–2021

Israel

- Conducted rapid research on vaccine effectiveness and infection patterns to inform national policy.

Center for Educational Technology (CET)

Data Scientist

2018–2020

Tel Aviv, Israel

- Developed adaptive learning systems by integrating psychometric modeling (IRT) with machine learning algorithms.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- **Trump Family Foundation** (2015–2020): \$120,000 for the Open PISA Project.
- **AllCloud Co.** (2017): \$11,000 for cloud hosting support.
- **DAAD Center for German Studies** (2010–2011): \$10,000 for “Narrative, Dreams, Imagination.”