

CURRICULUM VITAE

Timon Hruschka

(May 2026)

Chair for Psychology of Communication and New Media, Human Computer Media Institute
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EDUCATION

September 2022 – February 2024	Learning Analytics, M.Sc. GPA (US): 4.0 <i>Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY, U.S.</i>
October 2021 – September 2025	Media Communication, M.Sc. GPA (DE): 1.0 <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>
April 2018 – May 2022	Philosophy (120 ECTS) & German studies (60 ECTS), B.A. GPA (DE): 1.1 <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>
October 2017 – September 2021	Media Communication, B.Sc. GPA (DE): 1.3 <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>
October 2014 – September 2015	Precollege in Philosophy <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2024 – present	Predocctoral Researcher & Lecturer <i>Chair for Psychology of Communication and New Media, Human Computer Media Institute, Julius-Maximilians University Würzburg, Germany</i>
January 2024 – April 2024	Computational Research Scientist <i>Reimagine Resilience, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, U.S.</i>
October 2022 – January 2024	Statistic Research Assistant <i>Reimagine Resilience, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, U.S.</i>
September 2021 – now	Freelancer in the Editorial Department of <i>The Buzzard</i> (German online news startup) <i>The Buzzard UG, Berlin, Germany</i>
July 2021 – September 2021	Editorial Intern at <i>The Buzzard</i>

The Buzzard UG, Berlin, Germany

October 2019 – August 2022	Student Assistant at the Chair of Communication Psychology and New Media <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>
October 2018 – August 2022	Student Assistant at the Chair of Philosophy I <i>Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany</i>

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

May 2026 – present	PhD Research Scholarship, Bavarian Institute for Digital Technology (BIDT)
June 2025 – present	Research Fellow, Teachers College, Columbia University
September 2025	Best Contribution Award at the joint conference of Digital Communication (DGPuK) and Human Machine Communication (ICA)
April 2022 – September 2024	Max-Weber-Scholarship <i>Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Germany</i>
August 2022 – May 2023	Fulbright Scholarship <i>German-American Fulbright Commission, U.S. & Germany</i>

PUBLICATIONS

- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (2026). Reducing political polarization through conversations with artificial intelligence. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 31(2). Article zmag003. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcmc/zmag003>
- Hruschka, T., Sabic-El-Rayess, A., & Joshi, V.** (2025). Pathways against educational displacement: Equal access to civil liberties fosters school belonging. *Journal of Transformative Education*, 23(3), 325–343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15413446251352359>
- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (2023). Learning about informal fallacies and the detection of fake news: An experimental intervention. *PloS ONE*, 18(3), Article e0283238. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0283238>
- Sabic-El-Rayess, A., Joshi, V., & **Hruschka, T.** (2023). The epistemology of extremism, bias, and violence in American schools: the shift from religious and racial profiling to social belonging and an identity-agnostic perspective. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 51(4), 292-312. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10852352.2024.2324248>
- Sabic-El-Rayess, A., Joshi, V., & **Hruschka, T.** (2023). Building resilience to hate in classrooms: Innovation in practice and pedagogy to prevent extremism and violence in US schools. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 51(4), 313-331. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10852352.2024.2305562>
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PRESENTATIONS

- Hruschka, T. M. J.** (2026, March 18–20). *Podcasting may blur the lines of truth: Audio modality decreases news discernment* [Conference presentation]. 71st Joint Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft, Dortmund, Germany.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (2026, January 21–23). *Reducing political polarization through conversations with artificial intelligence* [Conference presentation]. Annual Conference of the Fachgruppe Rezeption & Wirkungsforschung (DGPK), Klagenfurt, Austria.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (2025, September 15–17). *Reducing political polarization through conversations with artificial intelligence* [Conference presentation]. 1st Joint Conference of Digital Communication (DGPK) and Human-Machine Communication (ICA), Dresden, Germany.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (2025, September 10–12). *Reducing political polarization through conversations with artificial intelligence* [Conference presentation]. 14th MediaPsych Conference, Duisburg, Germany.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., Hutmacher, F., & Appel, M.** (2025, June 4–8). *Learning through interactivity: Does chatbot interactivity promote knowledge gains?* [Conference presentation]. 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Denver, USA.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., Hutmacher, F., & Appel, M.** (2024, June 19–21). *Learning through interactivity: Does chatbot interactivity promote knowledge gains?* [Conference presentation]. European Communication Science Event 2024, Nijmegen, Netherlands.
- Sabic-El-Rayess, A., Joshi, V., & **Hruschka, T.** (2024, April 11–14). *Educational displacement, radicalization, and resilience: A novel model and an innovative professional development program* [Conference presentation]. 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- Sabic-El-Rayess, A., Joshi, V., & **Hruschka, T.** (2024, March 10–14). *Educational displacement and violence prevention: A proposal for a multilevel model* [Conference presentation]. 68th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Miami, FL, United States.
- Hruschka, T. M. J., & Appel, M.** (May 25-29). *Learning about informal fallacies and the detection of fake news: An experimental intervention* [conference presentation]. Information Systems Promising Student Papers, 73rd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada.
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PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Statistical Analyses: *R*, *IBM SPSS*, *Python*, *MPlus*, *PROCESS* for *SPSS*; including hierarchical linear (growth) modeling (HLM), structural equation modeling (SEM), latent class analysis (LCA), cluster analysis, deep learning, data mining, natural language processing

Data Visualization: *ggplot2 (R)*, *Microsoft Visio*, *Microsoft Excel*, *Gimp*

Teaching Experience: “Introduction to Philosophy” (2021), “Research Project on the Psychology of Online and Mobile Communication” (2024, 2026), “Methods: Experiments & Surveys” (2024-2025), “Psychology of Online- and Mobile Communication” (2025-2026).
