



**#Influence12 – Symposium & Workshop on Measuring Influence on Social Media  
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**"Mapping Cyberspace as Reflection or Distortion of Realspace – the VISION Approach"**

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**Abstract:**

This talk introduces the VISION approach developing by our NSF support project at San Diego State University. We are interested in understanding the diffusion of ideas through cyberspace and trying to explain their connections with realspace. Behaviors and interactions in cyberspace have been greatly studied as reflections of realspace while the spatial and temporal distortion of information has yet been recognized and understood. Through two different communication channels – the semi-public internet posting and the semi-private social media, we look into various topics from political campaigns, social movements, disease outbreaks, to awareness of climate change. We presented results from several case studies to highlight interesting findings and data quality issues when considering Space, Time, and Information as three main components. This project is operated with a cross-discipline team integrating geographic information science (GIScience), computational linguistics (CL), collective action, and communication theories.

**Bio:**

Jiue-An (Jay) Yang is a Joint-Doctoral Student in the Department of Geography, San Diego State University