

Alejandro Ruiz

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[Google Scholar](#)

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Education

- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2008-2011)**: Bachelor of Science in Physics.
- **University of Vermont (2025-)**: Currently pursuing a PhD in Complex Systems and Data Science under Christopher M. Danforth and Peter Sheridan Dodds.

Awards and Funding

- Funded as a Graduate Research Assistant on NSF grant #2419830.

Academic Work

- **“False memories to fake news: The evolution of the term ‘misinformation’ in academic literature”**. In review.
- **“Tokens, the oft-overlooked appetizer: Large language models, the distributional hypothesis, and meaning”**. In review.
- **“Matters arising: A response to loneliness and suicide mitigation for students using GPT3-enabled chatbots”**. Published in NPJ Mental Health.
- **“Designing a Critical Reflection Tool to Address Power Asymmetries in Global Health Practitioners: Introducing the (Re)imaginator”**. Collaborated with University of Washington researchers to develop design tool.
- **“Information System Membranes”**. Presented at Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics’s 2025 conference at the INDEP miniconference.
- **“Social Eyes and Observables”**. Presented at 8th Annual Congress of the French Association for Political Economy in 2024.
- **“Quantifying hegemony: Media Bias/Fact Check in the misinformation literature”** Accepted talk to be presented at the Society for the Social Study of Science’s 50th Conference: “TechnoPower • Technoscientific Futures.”

Professional Experience

- **Interstitial Technology PBC (June 2020 - June 2025)**: Co-Founder, Member/Owner, President (2024). Co-founded a worker cooperative focused on using technology to support NGOs, activists, and socially responsible businesses. Oversaw both technical development and strategic operations. Lead consultant on multiple high-impact projects, including work on human rights and climate change. Clients include Global Rights Compliance, BellinCAT, and the University of California.
- **Aulera Authentication (July 2018 - March 2020)**: Co-Founder. Developed industrial IoT solutions for physical goods authentication, leading the creation and deployment of factory integration systems across two continents.
- **Eastern Labs/Numerated Growth Technologies (February 2016 - May 2018)**: Senior Software Engineer. Lead developer on several codebases responsible for devops on multiple high-availability systems.
- **Pluralsight (November 2014 - February 2016)**: Full Stack Engineer. Worked with data team to take prototypes to production.
- **Lattis (November 2013 - November 2014)**: Co-Founder. Architected and developed a comprehensive RDBMS-backed web application similar to Airtable (Airtable launched their invite-only beta in 2014).
- **Wayfair (October 2012 - November 2013)**: Search and Recommendations Team.

- **Intrepid Pursuits (September 2011 - June 2012):** Internship creating iOS applications.

Press and Media

- **“How Walgreens’ Sloppy Covid-19 Test Registration System Exposed Patient Data”**, published in *Vox* (Note: I was the researcher who uncovered the data leak, not the author).
- **“AI Chatbot Credited With Preventing Suicide. Should It Be?”** from *404 Media*. Covers our “Matters arising: A response to loneliness and suicide mitigation for students using GPT3-enabled chatbots” *“A Web of Problems”*. The *Herald* from Randolph, VT covers my work on internet privacy and security.
- **“We’ve Always Been at War with Computers”**. A talk for 2025 Public Philosophy week in Randolph, VT on the fundamentals of computation and their implications for social impact.
- **“Serious Inquiries Only, Episode 420”**: Interviewed about my tech work and criticism.
- **“Serious Inquiries Only, Episode 477”**: Interviewed to debunk bad AI research, including about our response in NPJ Mental Health.

Additional Leadership Experience

- **Randolph, VT Planning Commission (2024-)**: Member. Write the town plan; assist the Selectboard in drafting ordinances and land use regulations.
- **International Network for Democratic Economic Planning (INDEP) (2023-)**: Co-Founder and Steering Group Member of a global network of students and researchers interested in democratic economic systems.
- ***The Luddite* (2021-)**: Founder and Lead Author. Created and maintain *The Luddite* (theluddite.org), a technology criticism and theory blog with tens of thousands of monthly readers.
- **Green Mountain Democratic Socialists of America (2020-)** Elected Communications Chair in 2024 then again in 2025. Highly involved member in GMDSA since its founding in 2024, and before that in one of its precursors. Experienced running legislative campaigns, political communications (press releases, social media, media interviews, etc.), labor campaigns (e.g., strike ready campaigns, organizing pickets, etc.)
- **UAW-GSU 2322 (2025-)** Member of union organizing committee since 2025.

Skills

- **Programming Languages:** Python, Javascript, R, HTML/CSS, PHP, Bash, Rust, C++, SQL, and others.
- **Databases:** Postgres, MySQL, MSSQL, and various NoSQL databases.
- **Other Technical:** Linux (Ubuntu, RHEL), Fabric, Nginx, Apache, WSGI, Cron, Pandas/Numpy, RabbitMQ, Celery, Redis, ReactJS, LaTeX, JQuery, Flask, Django, SQLAlchemy, systemd.
- **Communication:** Strong writing and communication skills. Native fluency in Spanish. Basic conversational French. Experienced in media relations, short and long-form writing, giving talks, doing interviews, etc.