

## SCS WEDNESDAY WIRE | August 11, 2021

A midweek update from the SCS Dean's Office | [SCS NEWS](#) | [SCS EVENTS](#)

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### URGENT REMINDER FOR U.S.-BASED FACULTY & STAFF

If you are vaccinated and have not already done so, upload documentation of your COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible to the [CMU Vaccine Database](#). This requirement is in addition to any surveys you may have completed.

### REMINDER: STARTING SUNDAY

CMU will reinstate the requirement for everyone to [wear facial coverings](#) when on campus, starting Sunday, August 15.

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### SCS NEWS + AWARDS

— Bailey Flanigan and Paul Gözl, Ph.D. candidates in the Computer Science Department – along with Anupam Gupta, a professor in CSD – are part of a team that developed an algorithm to [maximize the randomness and fairness of choosing a citizens' assembly](#), essentially innovating on the roots of democracy.

— Kayo Yin, a master's student in the Language Technologies Institute, co-wrote a paper calling for natural language processing (NLP) researchers to include signed languages in their efforts. Advancements in NLP enable computers to understand what humans say and help people communicate through tools like machine translation, voice-controlled assistants and chatbots. But NLP research often focuses on spoken languages, excluding more than 200 signed languages and roughly 70 million people who might rely on them to communicate.

— To more effectively combat misinformation about climate change, messaging needs to be focused on the conspiracy theories that gain the most traction, according to Kathleen Carley, a professor in the Institute for Software Research, and Aman Tyagi, an engineering and public policy Ph.D. student. In a recent [paper](#), they look at [polarization of climate change beliefs on social media](#) and offer targeted approaches toward reshaping beliefs, also determining that climate change conspiracy messaging is more cohesive and effective than the fact-based responses aimed at debunking the myths.

Until next week,

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### REMEMBER YOUR RESOURCES

Connect with a [Dean's Advisory Committee](#) if you have questions or concerns you want to share.

Connect with a representative leader from [SCS Council](#) if you'd like to submit a topic for Council to consider.

Coronavirus [Updates & Information](#) and [FAQs](#)

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