

## Calvin (Cal) Newport

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### Education

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology.** *Cambridge, MA.*

Ph.D. Computer Science, 2009.

Advisor: Nancy Lynch. Thesis: *Distributed Computation on Unreliable Radio Channels.*

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology.** *Cambridge, MA.*

M.S. Computer Science, 2006. Advisors: Nancy Lynch and Gregory Chockler.

Thesis: *Consensus and Collision Detectors in Wireless Ad Hoc Networks.*

**Dartmouth College.** *Hanover, NH.*

A.B. Computer Science (High Honors in the Major), 2004, *Summa Cum Laude.*

### Employment

**Georgetown University.** *Washington, D.C.*

Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Computer Science.

*February 2017 - current*

**Georgetown University.** *Washington, D.C.*

Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Computer Science. *August 2016 - February 2017*

**Georgetown University.** *Washington, D.C.*

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science. *August 2011 - 2016*

### Recent Academic Honors

**Dartmouth College Montgomery Fellowship,** Summer 2023.

**Best Paper Award.** International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October 2022.

**Best Paper Award.** International Conference on Principles of Distributed Systems (OPODIS).  
December 2018.

**Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor.** February 2017.

### Recent Books: Technology & Culture Trilogy

*A World Without Email: Reimagining Work in an Age of Communication Overload.* Portfolio/Penguin, March 2021. (*New York Times* bestseller).

*Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World.* Portfolio/Penguin, February 2019.  
(*New York Times* bestseller; 250,000+ copies sold).

*Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World.* Grand Central/Hachette, January 2016.  
(National bestseller; sold in 40+ foreign markets; 1,500,000+ copies sold.)

## Recent Computer Science Publications

Dr. Newport has published over 75 peer-reviewed papers that have been cited over 4500 times with an h-index of 31. Included below are only more recent publications (since 2015). A complete list including older publications is available online: <http://people.cs.georgetown.edu/~cnewport/publications.html>

**A Note on Conference Papers and Author Order:** Unlike many other disciplines, computer science favors conferences over journals. In this field, conference submissions describe all relevant results and proof details (i.e., they are not abstracts) and undergo rigorous peer review by a program committee of experts with only the best submissions are accepted. Conferences are the main mechanism by which computer scientists disseminate and help judge the rigor of new results. Also notice that in theoretical computer science conferences (where the bulk of the work cited below appears), as in mathematics, the authors are listed in alphabetical order—not in order of contribution

Michael Dinitz, Jeremy T. Fineman, Seth Gilbert, Calvin Newport. Smoothed Analysis of Information Spreading in Dynamic Networks. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2012. *Winner of Best Paper Award.*

Calvin Newport, Nitin Vaidya, Alex Weaver. Preparing for Disaster: Leveraging Precomputation to Efficiently Repair Graph Structures Upon Failures. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Parallelism in Algorithms and Architectures (SPAA). July, 2022.

Seth Gilbert, Calvin Newport, Nitin Vaidya, and Alex Weaver. Contention Resolution with Predictions. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2021.

Calvin Newport, Alex Weaver, and Chaodong Zheng. Asynchronous Gossip in Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Networks. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Distributed Computing in Sensor Systems (DCOSS). July, 2021.

Seth Gilbert, Nancy Lynch, Calvin Newport and Dominik Pajak. On Simple Back-Off in Unreliable Radio Networks. Theoretical Computer Science 806: 489-508. February, 2020.

Michael Dinitz, Magnus M. Halldorsson, Calvin Newport and Alex Weaver. The Capacity of Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Networks. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2019.

Seth Gilbert, James Maguire, and Calvin Newport. On Bioelectric Algorithms. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2019.

Michael Dinitz, Magnus Halldorsson, Taisuke Izumi, and Calvin Newport. Distributed Minimum Degree Spanning Trees. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2019.

Calvin Newport and Alex Weaver. Random Gossip Processes in Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Networks. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Distributed Computing in Sensor Systems (DCOSS). May, 2019.

Jeremy Fineman, Seth Gilbert, Fabian Kuhn, and Calvin Newport. Contention Resolution on a Fading Channel. Distributed Computing 32 (6): 517-533. 2019.

Seth Gilbert, Nancy Lynch, Calvin Newport and Dominik Pajak. On Simple Back-Off in Unreliable Radio Networks. Proceedings of the International Conference on Principles of Distributed Systems (OPODIS). December, 2018. *Winner of Best Paper Award*.

Calvin Newport and Chaodong Zheng. Approximate Neighbor Counting in Radio Networks. Proceedings of the International Conference on Principles of Distributed Systems (OPODIS). December, 2018.

Calvin Newport and Peter Robinson. Fault-Tolerant Consensus with an Abstract MAC Layer. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2018.

Michael Dinitz, Jeremy Fineman, Seth Gilbert and Calvin Newport. Smoothed Analysis of Dynamic Networks. Distributed Computing 31(4): 273-287. August, 2018.

Magnus Halldorsson, Fabian Kuhn, Nancy Lynch and Calvin Newport. An Efficient Communication Abstraction for Dense Wireless Networks. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2017.

Calvin Newport. Gossip in a Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Network. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2017.

Seth Gilbert and Calvin Newport. Symmetry Breaking with Noisy Processes. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2017.

Calvin Newport. Leader Election in a Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Network. Proceedings of the IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS). May, 2017.

Michael Dinitz, Jeremy Fineman, Seth Gilbert and Calvin Newport. Load Balancing with Bounded Convergence in Dynamic Networks. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM). April, 2017.

Christoph Lenzen, Nancy Lynch, Calvin Newport and Tsvetomira Radeva. Searching Without Communicating: Tradeoffs Between Performance and Selection Complexity. Distributed Computing (2016). doi:10.1007/s00446-016-0283-x

Mohsen Ghaffari and Calvin Newport. How to Discreetly Spread a Rumor in a Crowd. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). September, 2016.

Seth Gilbert, Calvin Newport, and Chaodong Zheng. Who are you? Secure Identities in Ad Hoc Networks. Distributed Computing 30(2): 103-125. April, 2017.

Jeremy Fineman, Calvin Newport, and Tonghe Wang. Contention Resolution on Multiple Channels with Collision Detection. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2016.

Jeremy Fineman, Seth Gilbert, Fabian Kuhn, and Calvin Newport. Contention Resolution on a Fading Channel. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2016.

Mohsen Ghaffari and Calvin Newport. Leader Election in Unreliable Radio Networks. Proceedings of the International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP). July, 2016.

Seth Gilbert, Calvin Newport, and Tonghe Wang. Bounds for Blind Rate Adaptation. Proceedings of the International Conference on Principles of Distributed Systems (OPODIS). December, 2015.

Seth Gilbert and Calvin Newport. The Computational Power of Beeps. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2015.

Michael Dinitz, Jeremy Fineman, Seth Gilbert and Calvin Newport. Smoothed Analysis of Dynamic Networks. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC). October, 2015.

Seth Gilbert, Fabian Kuhn, Calvin Newport and Chaodong Zheng. Efficient Communication in Cognitive Radio Networks. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2015.

Nancy Lynch and Calvin Newport. A (Truly) Local Broadcast Layer for Unreliable Radio Networks. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). July, 2015.

Calvin Newport and Wenchao Zhou. The (Surprising) Computational Power of the SDN Data Plane. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM). April, 2015. 2014

## Grants

“AiTF: Collaborative Research: Algorithms for Smartphone Peer-to-Peer Networks,” NSF CCF Award #1733842, 09/01/2017 to 08/31/2020, \$319,578 (PI).

“EAGER: Noisy Computation of Distributed State Machines,” NSF CCF Award #1649484, 9/1/2016 to 8/31/2018, \$72,322 (PI).

“AF: Small: Algorithms for Wireless Networks with Dynamic Links,” NSF CCF Award #1320279, 9/1/2013 to 8/31/2017, \$319,461 (PI).

“Enabling Innovative Infotainment Applications with a Vehicle-to-Vehicle Communication API,” Ford University Research Program (Funding Rate < 10%), 6/1/2012 to 5/31/2015, \$120,000

“Secrecy Preserving Signatures,” Georgetown Security and Software Engineering Research Center (an NSF-Funded Industry/University Cooperative Research Center), Summer 2013, \$15,000.

## Teaching

Spring 2022, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science

Fall 2021, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science, COSC 240: Introduction to Algorithms

Fall 2020, COSC 240: Introduction to Algorithms

Spring 2020, COSC 240: Introduction to Algorithms, COSC 545: Theory of Computation

Fall 2019, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science

Spring 2019, COSC 841: Doctoral Seminar on Blockchain Theory, COSC 545: Theory of Computation

Fall 2018, COSC 240: Introduction to Algorithms

Fall 2017, COSC 240: Introduction to Algorithms

Spring 2017, COSC 844: Doctoral Seminar in Biological Algorithms, COSC 545: Theory of Computation

Fall 2016, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science

Spring 2016, COSC 545: Theory of Computation, COSC 546: Distributed Algorithms

Fall 2015, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science

Fall 2014, COSC 030: Math Methods for Computer Science, COSC 545: Theory of Computation

Fall 2013, COSC 242: Algorithms for Distributed Systems

Spring 2013, COSC 545: Theory of Computation, COSC 747: Wireless Network Algorithms

Spring 2012, COSC 545: Theory of Computation

Fall 2011, COSC 547: Distributed Computing Outside the Box

### Student Supervision

**Alex Weaver.** Doctoral student. *2017 - .*

**Soumyottam Chatterjee.** Postdoctoral associate. *2019 - 2020.*

**Tonghe Wang.** Doctoral student. *2012 - 2017*

**Welles Robinson.** Co-supervised undergraduate thesis (awarded honors). *2013 - 2014.*

### Professional Activities

**Steering Committees.** The Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC), since 2020. The ACM Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC), 2016 - 2018. The Workshop on Realistic Models for Algorithms in Wireless Networks (WRAWN), since 2015.

**Program Committees.** Symposium on the Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC), Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC), International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), Symposium on Parallelism in Algorithms and Architectures (SPAA), International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking (ICDCN), International Colloquium on Structural Information and Communication Complexity (SIROCCO), International Symposium on Stabilization, Safety, and Security of Distributed Systems (SSS), International Conference on Distributed Computing in Sensor Systems (DCOSS), ACM Workshop on Foundations of Mobile Computing (FOMC, previously DIALM-POMC), International Workshop on Algorithmic Aspects of Wireless Sensor Networks (ALGOSENSOR).

**Program Chairs.** Program co-chair of the Workshop on Realistic Models for Algorithms in Wireless Networks (WRAWN), 2013, 2014, 2016. Program co-chair of the International Workshop on Foundations of Mobile Computing (FOMC; formerly known as DIALM-POMC), 2012.

### Major University Service

Co-Chair of Georgetown's Center for Digital Ethics Faculty Search Committee. *Fall 2021 - Spring 2022.* (Committee tasked with hiring three cross-discipline tenure-line faculty positions spread over multiple ranks and departments.)

Co-Chair of the Technology Ethics and Society (TES) Working Group. *Fall 2021 - .* (Committee tasked with the launch of three new cross-discipline TES-related academic programs within Georgetown College.)

Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Computer Science. *Fall 2019 - Fall 2020.*

### Recent Media Activities

Dr. Newport is frequently featured in major media outlets as an expert on technology and its impact on various aspects of our society. Between 2019 and 2022:

**He has appeared on all three network morning shows** (including multiple appearances on *Good Morning America*), as well as other television programs, such as *Amanpour and Company* on PBS, *Tha God's Honest Truth* on Comedy Central, *Communicators* on CSPAN, and the syndicated program, *Matter of Fact* with Soledad O'Brien.

**He has been featured or a guest on most of NPR's major national news/interview programs**, including *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, *Here and Now* (multiple times), *On Point* (multiple times), *1A* (multiple times), *Innovation Hub* (multiple times), and *The New Yorker Radio Hour* (with David Remnick). He has also appeared on the high influentially syndicated radio show, *The Breakfast Club*.

**He has been featured, interviewed, and reviewed in many major print publications**, including *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, *Vogue*, *Real Simple*, *GQ*, *The Week*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Guardian*, among many others.

**He was named a Contributing Writer at *The New Yorker***, where he has published 22 articles since 2019. During this period, he also published multiple op-eds in both the *New York Times* and *WIRED*.

**His podcast, *Deep Questions with Cal Newport*, has been downloaded over 8,000,000 times** since it was launched in the summer of 2020, and regularly ranks among the top technology podcasts on most major podcast charts. He has also been a guest on many top podcast programs, including *The Ezra Klein Show* (three times) and *The Tim Ferriss Show* (twice).

### Earlier Books

*So Good They Can't Ignore You: Why Skills Trump Passion in the Quest for Work You Love.* Grand Central/Hachette, September 2012. (300,000+ copies sold.)

*How to Be a High School Superstar: A Revolutionary Plan to Get into College by Standing Out (Without Burning Out).* Three Rivers/Random House, July 2010.

*How to Become a Straight-A Student: The Unconventional Strategies Real College Students Use to Score High While Studying Less.* Three Rivers/Random House, December 2006. (200,000+ copies sold)

*How To Win at College: Surprising Secrets for Success from the Country's Top Students.* Three Rivers/Random House, April 2005.