



Discussion Paper

## A Review of Information Systems Research on Online Social Networks

by

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# Communications of the Association for Information Systems



## A Review of Information Systems Research on Online Social Networks

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### Abstract:

Over the last decade, online social networks have evolved into a global mainstream medium with increasing social, organizational, and economic impact. This paper provides a structured overview of Information Systems research on this outstanding techno-social phenomenon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century via a structured literature review. Based on our search in information systems journals and conference proceedings that resulted in 510 papers, we carve out and assess the knowledge and the research fields that have been predominantly addressed and impacted by the information systems research community so far. Moreover, we identify research gaps that future research should address. We analyze how the academic discussion on online social networks developed in the information systems literature over time, which publication outlets are most receptive to research on online social networks, which research areas have already been covered by information systems research on online social networks, and what potential future research areas exist that have not been covered by information systems research yet. We hope that our results will stimulate and guide future research in this field.

**Keywords:** Online Social Network, Social Network Analysis, Communication Network, Information Systems Research, Literature Review.

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