VERMONT EPSCoR

VERMONT COMPLEX SYSTEMS CENTER — THE UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

present

Parler Games: Conspiracy Theory, Conspiracy, and Insurrection

Timothy Tangherlini, PhD
Professor of Folklore, University of California-Berkeley

Friday, March 29th, 12:00-1:00 PM
UVM Alumni House Silver Pavilion

**61 Summit Street
Burlington, VT 05405**

For more information, email epscor@uvm.edu

What role did social media play in the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021? The emergent conspiracy had roots on the social media platform Parler, where conversations about conspiracy theories combined with collaboration on action. Using an interlocking set of NLP tools, this presentation will pinpoint moments when the conversations change, turning whispers and conspiracy theories into major action before, during, and after the January 6th insurrection.

Timothy Tangherlini is Professor of Folklore at the University of California Berkeley, where he also serves as graduate advisor in the Folklore program and the associate director of the Berkeley Institute for Data Science. He has developed computational approaches to stories and storytelling over the past three decades. He has done extensive fieldwork on storytelling among paramedics, and shamanism in South Korea, as well as archival work on rural 19th century Denmark. He has developed generative models of common story genres such as legend, rumor, personal experience narratives. His recent work, featured in *The Guardian*, the BBC, and *Science Friday*, has focused on conspiracy theories such as Pizzagate and QAnon, and the conspiratorial machinations on social media related to the January 6th insurrection.

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