

Fall 2022 Colloquium Series Presents:

Investigating novel risk factors for suicide: Data, inferences, and the spaces between



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Abstract: Most research on suicide relies on either population-wide mortality records and similar large-scale healthcare administrative data that have minimal data on psychosocial and contextual factors, or on small, highly-selected, often clinical samples of people who have suicidality which lack representation and diversity. As a bridge between these two extremes, this presentation will discuss ongoing work to analyze large-scale textual data (>250,000) of suicide decedents in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) mortality registry, including the use of machine learning tools to explore how major life transitions relate to suicide. Strengths and limitations of the NVDRS textual data, and of applying machine learning tools to situations where there is no criterion to benchmark against, to identify novel antecedents to suicide will be discussed.