2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Making a Federal Case for Computing

Session Chairs

Diana Franklin
University of Chicago

Rachel Pottinger
University of British Columbia

Two-Part Session

Peter Harsha

Chief Operations Officer and Senior Director of Government Affairs

Computing Research Association

Game Night

Poker

Spades

Collapsing Qubits

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Peter Harsha

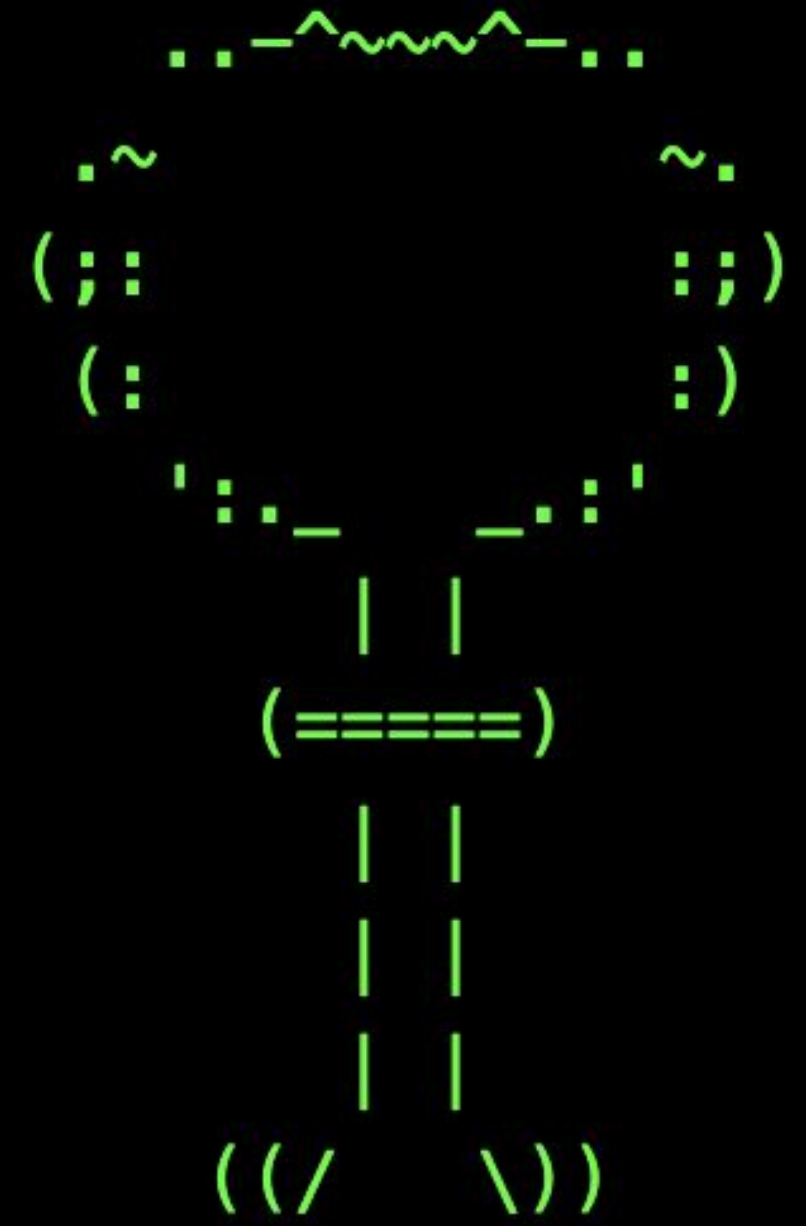
Chief Operations Officer and Senior Director of Government Affairs

Computing Research Association

Making a Federal Case for Computing

or

“Wow, things just got complicated”

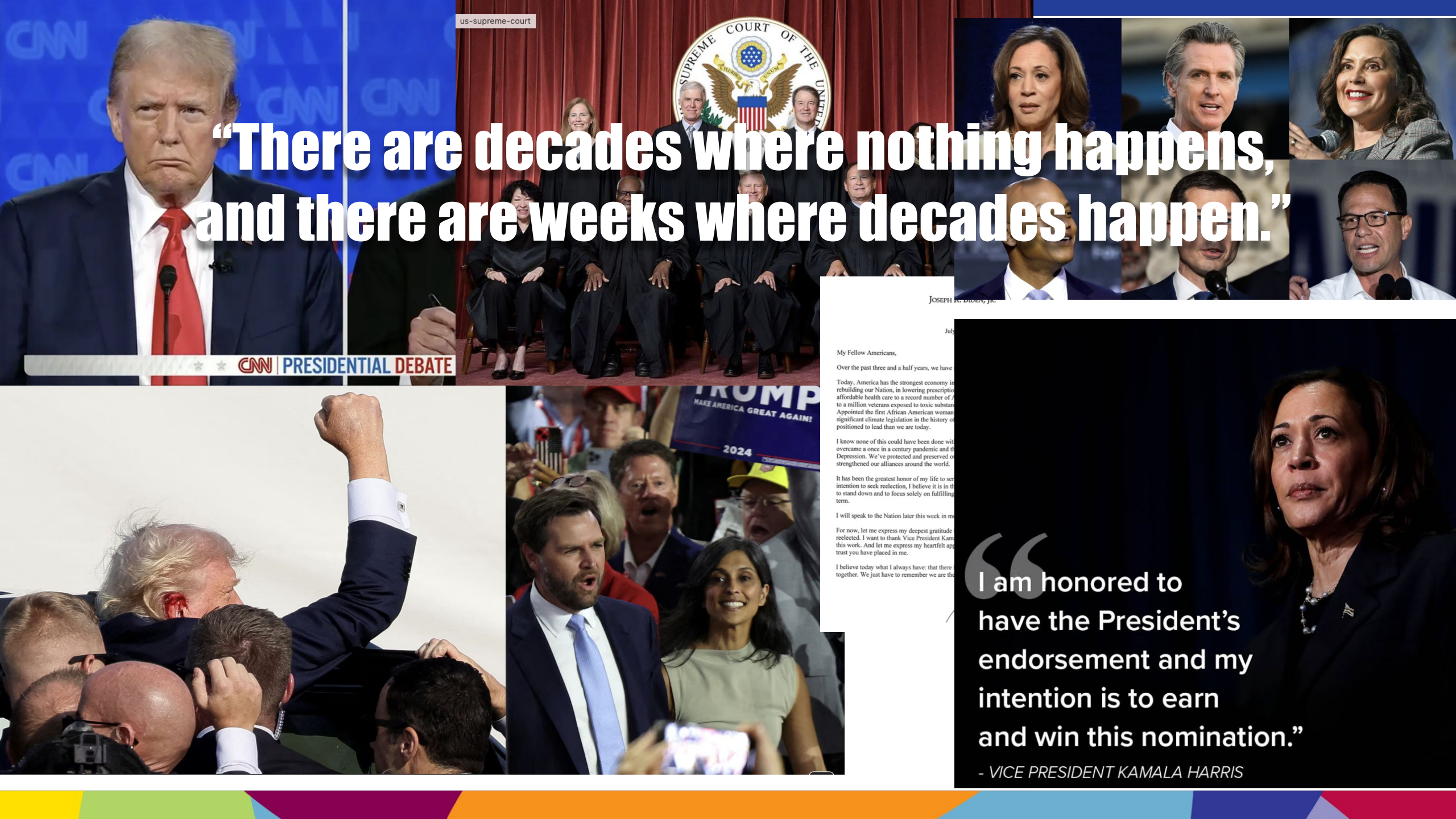


CRA Government Affairs

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Peter Harsha
COO and Senior Director,
Government Affairs

Brian Mosley
Associate Director,
Government Affairs


us-supreme-court
“There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.”
CNN | PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
My Fellow Americans,
Over the past three and a half years, we have
Today, America has the strongest economy in
rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescriptio
affordable health care to a record number of
to a million veterans exposed to toxic substan
Appointed the first African American woman
significant climate legislation in the history o
positioned to lead than we are today.
I know none of this could have been done wit
overcame a once in a century pandemic and th
Depression. We've protected and preserved o
strengthened our alliances around the world.
It has been the greatest honor of my life to ser
intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in th
to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling
term.
I will speak to the Nation later this week in m
For now, let me express my deepest gratitude
reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kam
this work. And let me express my heartfelt ap
trust you have placed in me.
I believe today what I always have: that there
together. We just have to remember we are the
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!
2024
“I am honored to have the President’s endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination.”
- VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

???

Tonight's talk…

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

- A few issues we're watching closely now and what we're doing (or not doing) about them
- How you can engage
- Q&A – time permitting

CRA

Computing Research Association

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Mission:

"to catalyze computing research by joining with industry, government, and academia."

CRA executes this mission by:

- leading the computing research community;
- informing policymakers and the public; and
- championing a diverse, welcoming, equitable, and socially responsible computing research community.

CRA Government Affairs

Stephanie Forrest, ASU

-

  Alex Aiken, Stanford - Chair

Nancy Amato*, UIUC
Ovidiu Daescu, U of Texas, Dallas
Sandhya Dwarkadas, UVA
Yolanda Gill, USC
William Gropp, UIUC
Gillian Hayes, UC Irvine
Ming Lin, Maryland

Dan Reed, Utah
Vivek Sarkar, GaTech
Robert Sloan, U of Illinois, Chicago
Eugene Spafford, Purdue
Alexander Wolf, UC Santa Cruz
Ben Zorn, Microsoft

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

CRA

Computing Research Association

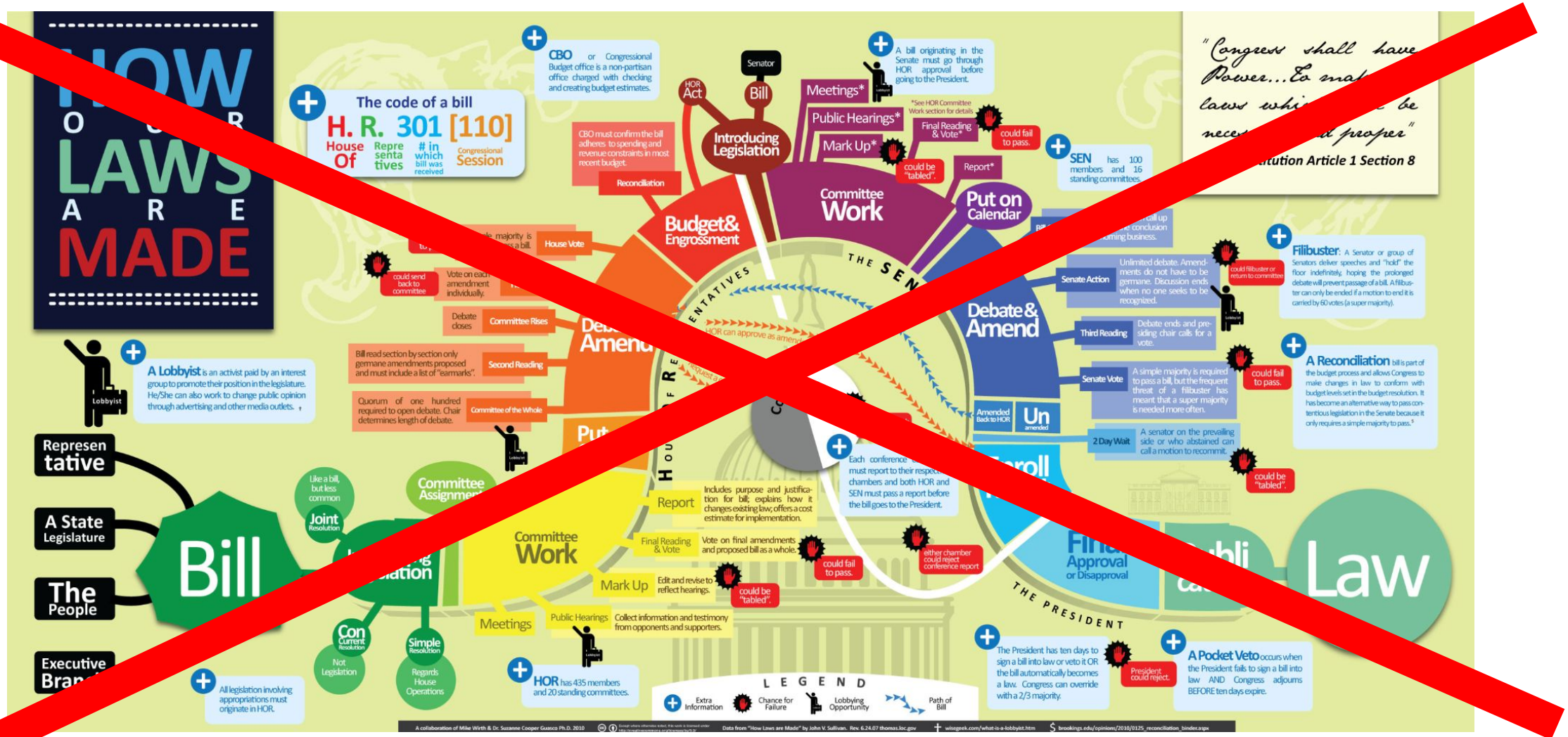
Goal: To be the “organization of record” for computing research issues in DC

“Ensuring the Health of the R&D Ecosystem”

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

- Access to Talent
- Impediments to Research
- Research Funding and Priorities
- Socially Responsible Computing

Challenges - Process

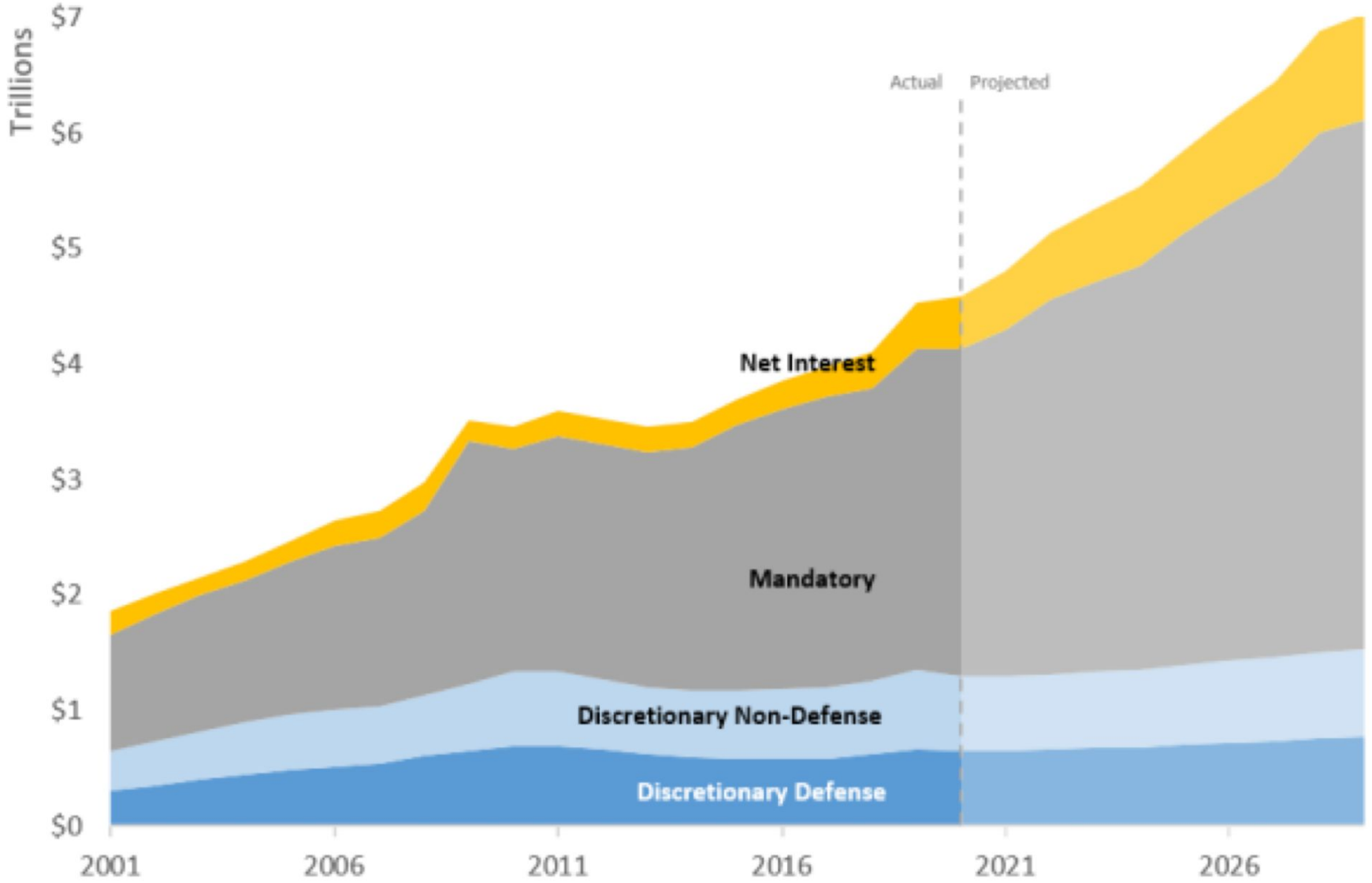


https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/aa/Visualization-of-How-a-Bill-Becomes-a-Law_Mike-WIRTH.jpg

Challenges - Process

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/30/us/politics/omnibus-bills-congress.html

Challenges - Fiscal Reality



Challenges - Ubiquity of Computing

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

What GenAI thinks Congress claiming jurisdiction over AI looks like

Topics

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

- Research Security
- Mis- and Dis-information Research
- Problematic actions by states (primarily around DEI)
- The Next Administration

cra.org/blog – Computing Research Policy Blog

Research Security

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

- Improper foreign influence in federally-funded research
- Research agencies are under pressure from policymakers to take action

Research Security - 2

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

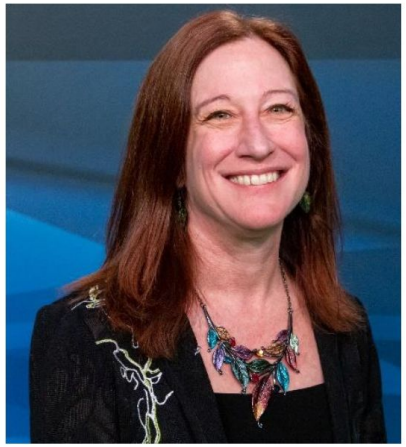
CRA
Computing Research Association

CRA RESEARCH POLICY VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Research Security

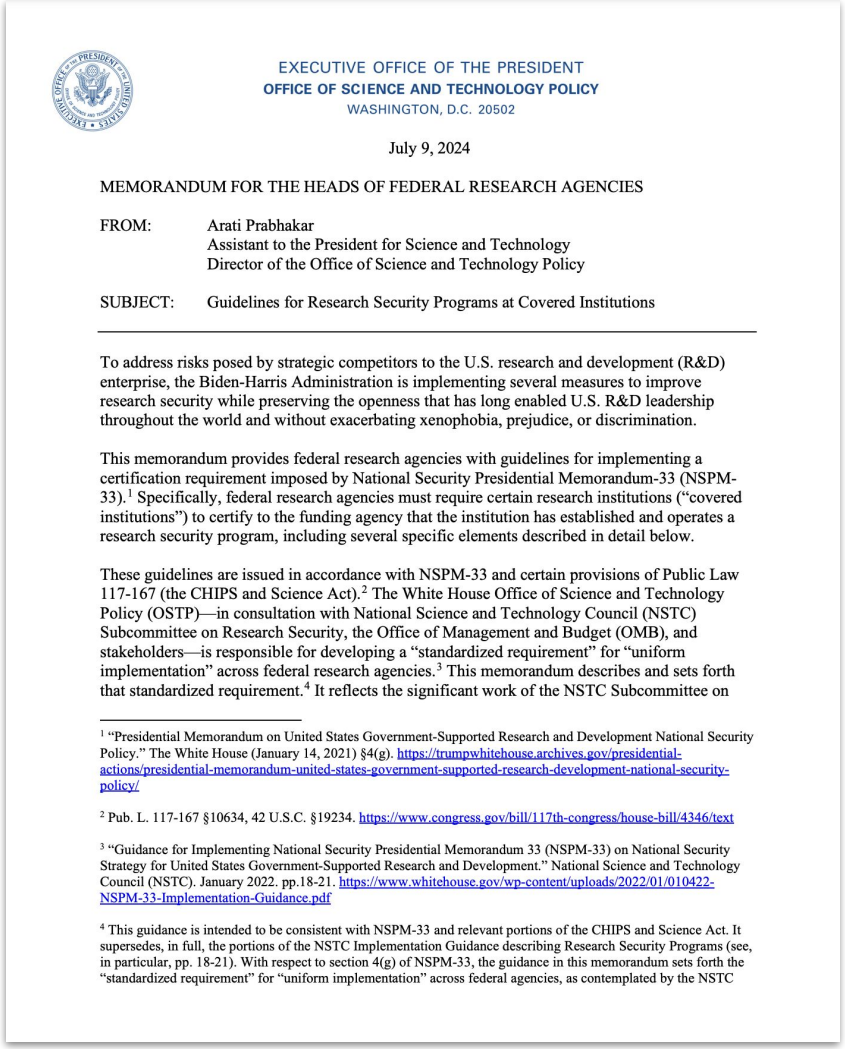
with special guest: Rebecca Keiser,
NSF's Chief of Research Security Strategy & Policy

March 1st, 2024



Rebecca Spyke Keiser, Ph.D.
Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy
National Science Foundation

Research Security - 3



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

July 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF FEDERAL RESEARCH AGENCIES

FROM: Arati Prabhakar
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Research Security Programs at Covered Institutions

To address risks posed by strategic competitors to the U.S. research and development (R&D) enterprise, the Biden-Harris Administration is implementing several measures to improve research security while preserving the openness that has long enabled U.S. R&D leadership throughout the world and without exacerbating xenophobia, prejudice, or discrimination.

This memorandum provides federal research agencies with guidelines for implementing a certification requirement imposed by National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 (NSPM-33).[1] Specifically, federal research agencies must require certain research institutions ("covered institutions") to certify to the funding agency that the institution has established and operates a research security program, including several specific elements described in detail below.

These guidelines are issued in accordance with NSPM-33 and certain provisions of Public Law 117-167 (the CHIPS and Science Act).[2] The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)—in consultation with National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Research Security, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and stakeholders—is responsible for developing a "standardized requirement" for "uniform implementation" across federal research agencies.[3] This memorandum describes and sets forth that standardized requirement.[4] It reflects the significant work of the NSTC Subcommittee on

[1] "Presidential Memorandum on United States Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Policy." The White House (January 14, 2021) §4(g). https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-united-states-government-supported-research-development-national-security-policy/

[2] Pub. L. 117-167 §10634, 42 U.S.C. §19234. https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4346/text

[3] "Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development." National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). January 2022. pp.18-21. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/010422-NSPM-33-Implementation-Guidance.pdf

[4] This guidance is intended to be consistent with NSPM-33 and relevant portions of the CHIPS and Science Act. It supersedes, in full, the portions of the NSTC Implementation Guidance describing Research Security Programs (see, in particular, pp. 18-21). With respect to section 4(g) of NSPM-33, the guidance in this memorandum sets forth the "standardized requirement" for "uniform implementation" across federal agencies, as contemplated by the NSTC

Program elements include:

- Cybersecurity
- Foreign Travel Security (reporting)
- Research Security Training
- Export Control Training

Guidelines:

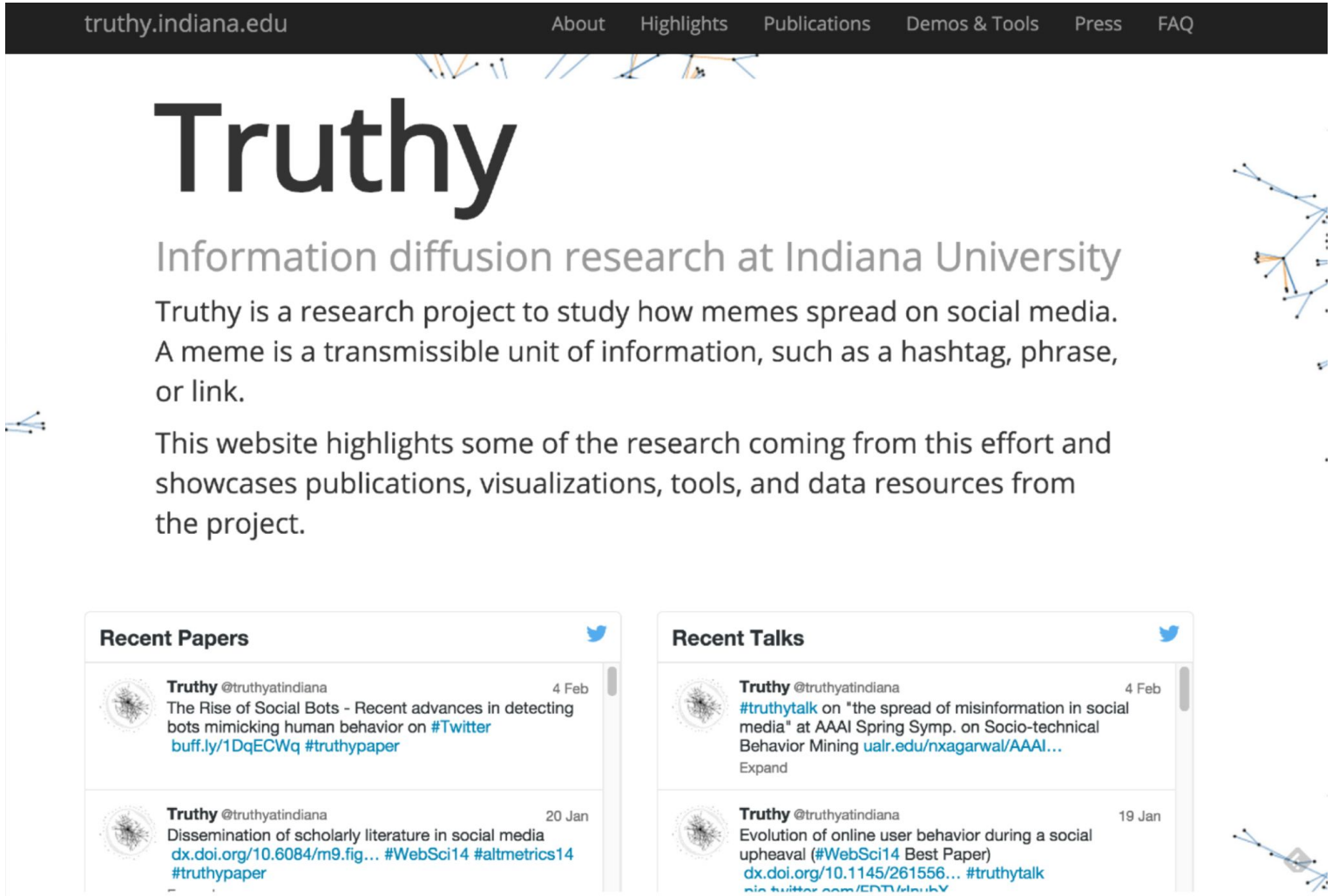
- Don't stigmatize or discriminate
- Flexible
- Minimal admin impact
- Minimal impact to smaller institutions

Mis- and Dis-Information Research

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

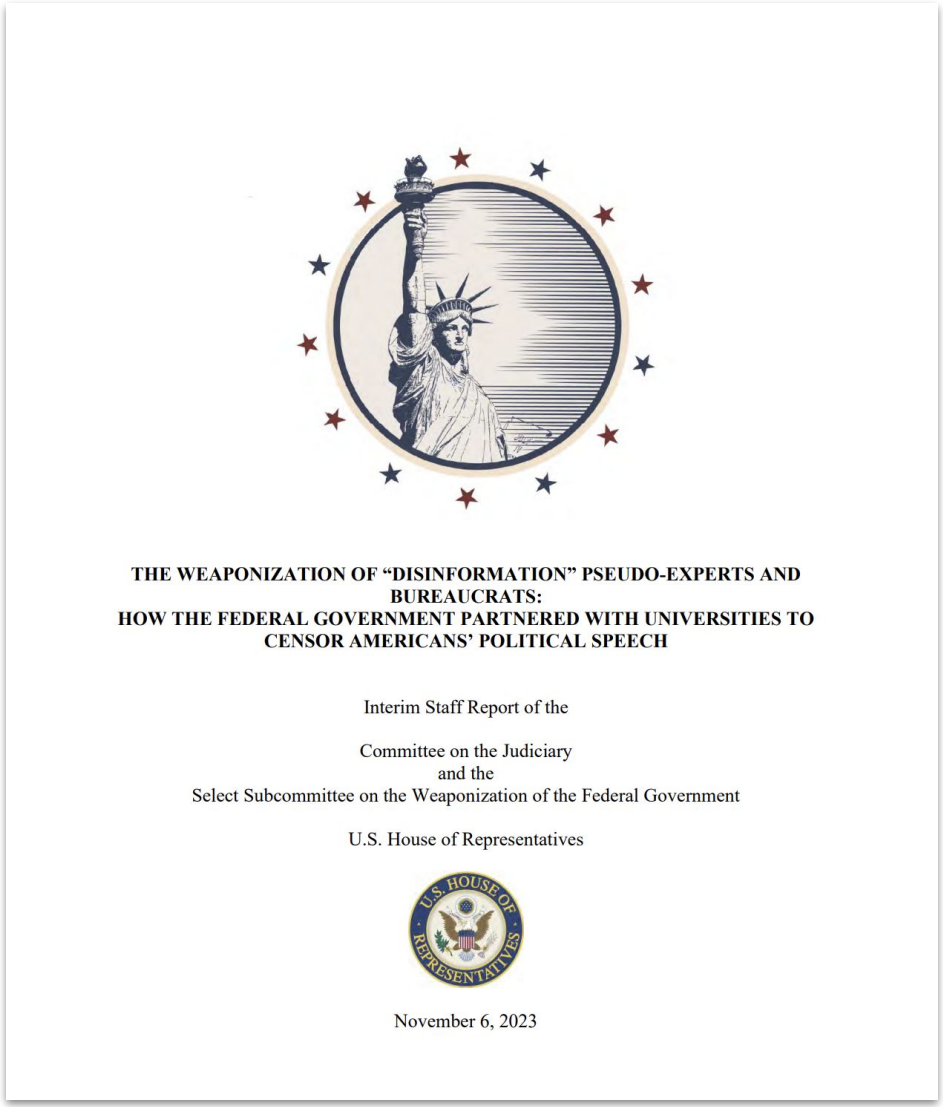
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)

Mis- and Dis-Information Research - 2



Mis- and Dis-Information Research - 3

2024 CRA CONFERENCE



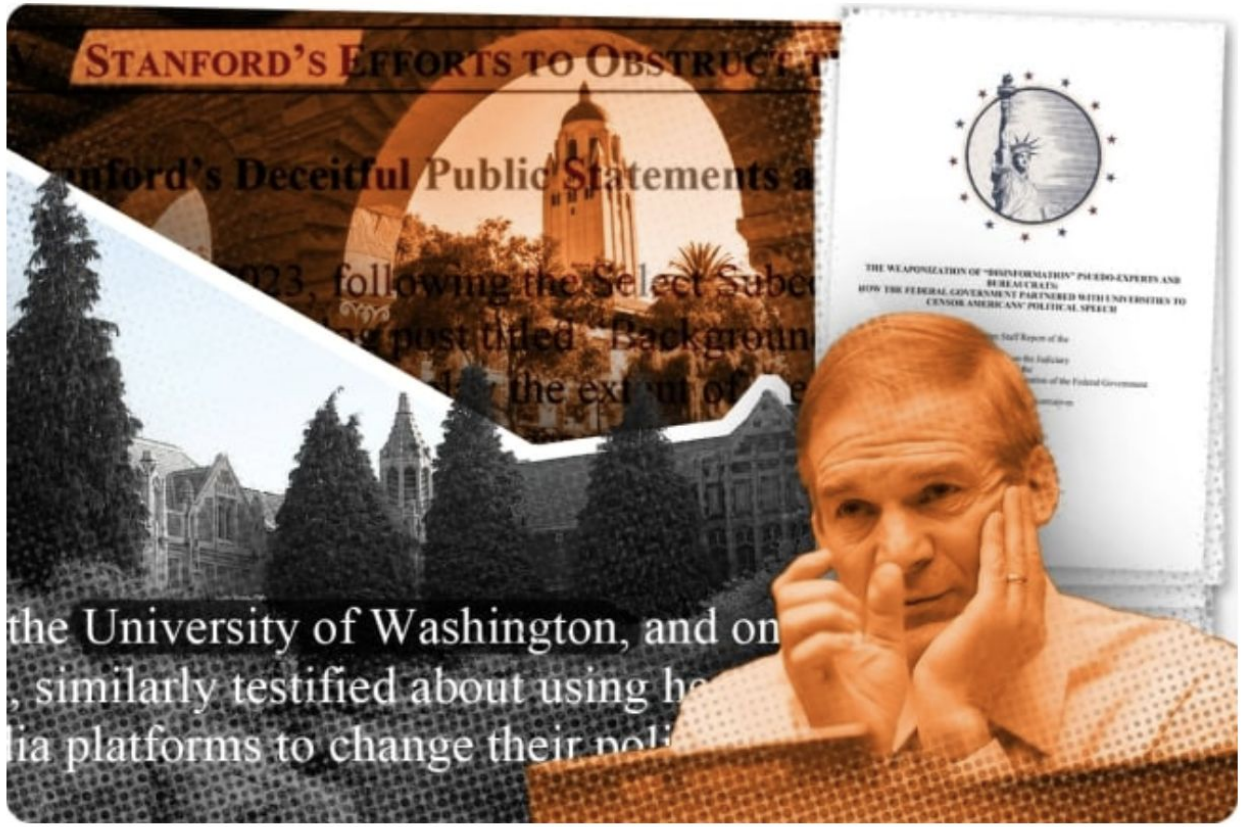
THE WEAPONIZATION OF "DISINFORMATION" PSEUDO-EXPERTS AND BUREAUCRATS:
HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERED WITH UNIVERSITIES TO CENSOR AMERICANS' POLITICAL SPEECH

Interim Staff Report of the

Committee on the Judiciary
and the
Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government

U.S. House of Representatives

November 6, 2023

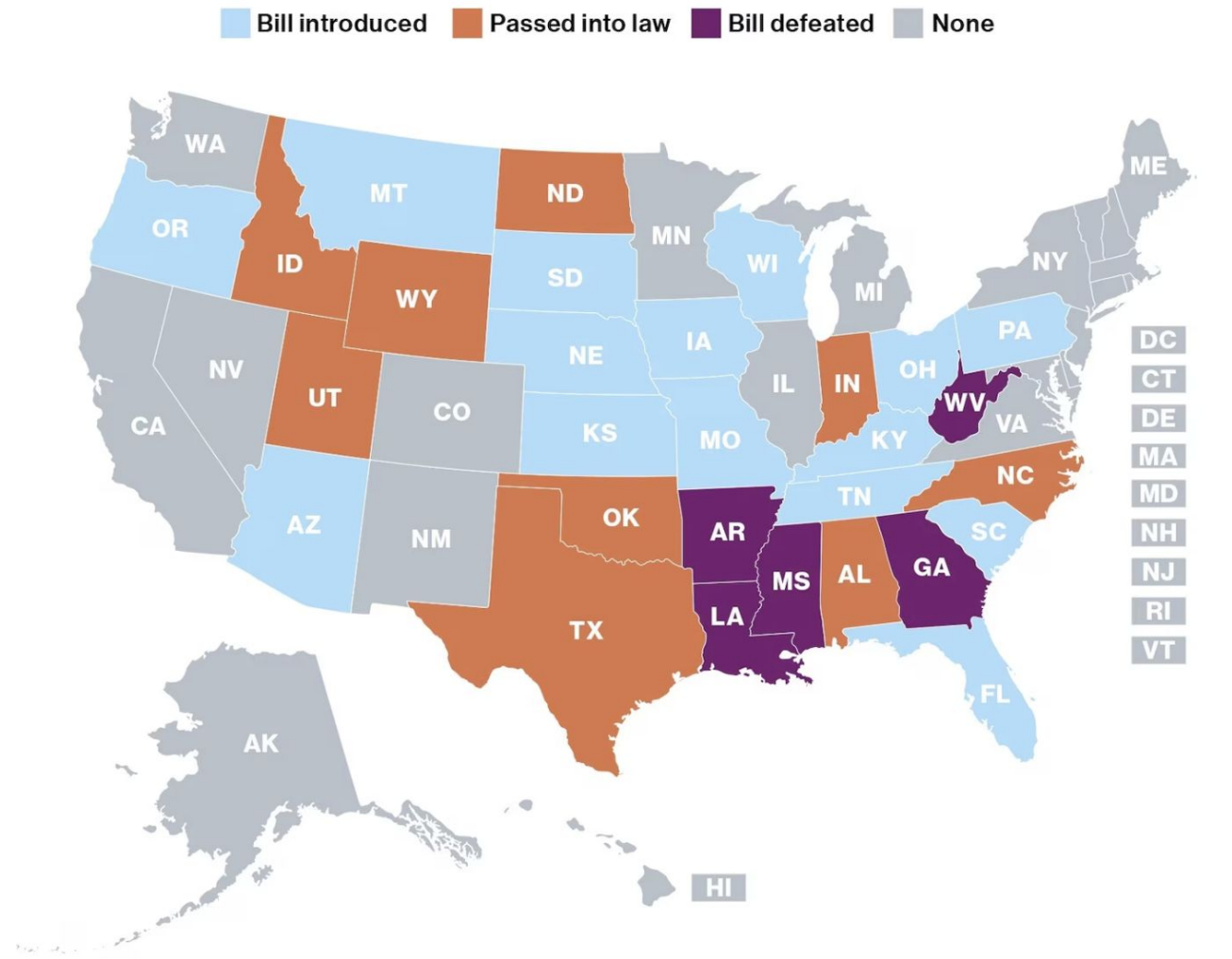


Jim Jordan, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee chairman, is investigating misinformation and disinformation researchers who have partnered with the federal government.

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/academic-freedom/2023/12/04/misinformation-research-plows-ahead-so-do

Anti-DEI laws across the country

STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE RESTRICTING DIVERSITY EFFORTS.

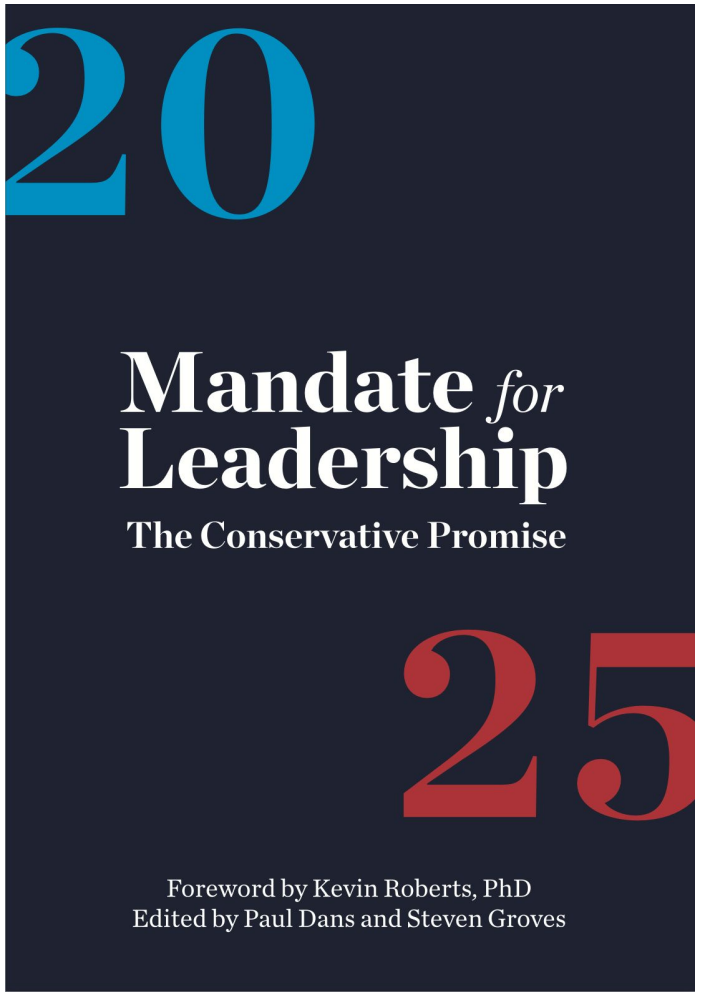


abc NEWS

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

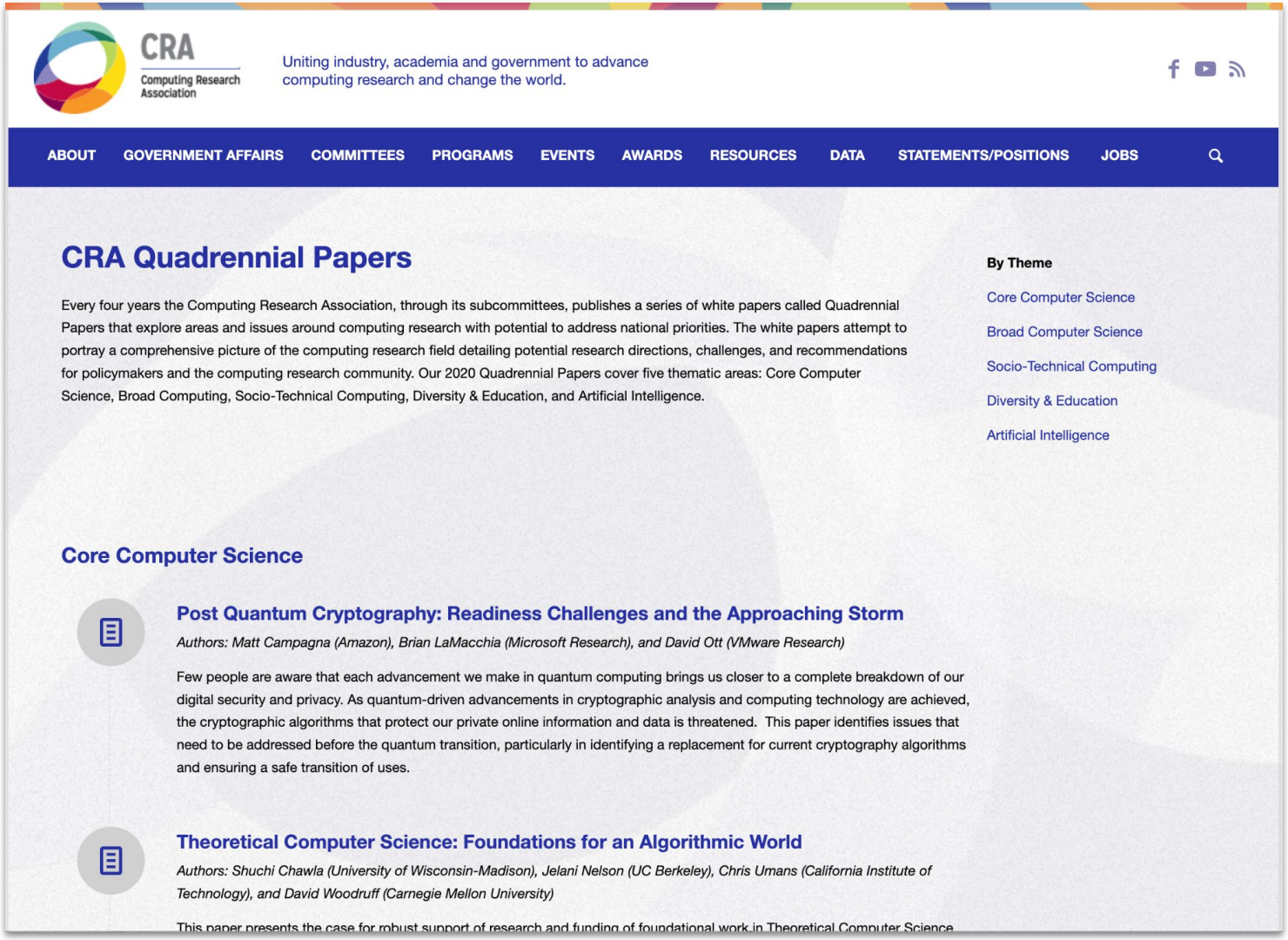
The Election…

2024 CRA CONFERENCE



CRA Quadrennial Papers

2024 CRA CONFERENCE



CRA
Computing Research Association

Uniting industry, academia and government to advance computing research and change the world.

ABOUT | GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS | COMMITTEES | PROGRAMS | EVENTS | AWARDS | RESOURCES | DATA | STATEMENTS/POSITIONS | JOBS

CRA Quadrennial Papers

Every four years the Computing Research Association, through its subcommittees, publishes a series of white papers called Quadrennial Papers that explore areas and issues around computing research with potential to address national priorities. The white papers attempt to portray a comprehensive picture of the computing research field detailing potential research directions, challenges, and recommendations for policymakers and the computing research community. Our 2020 Quadrennial Papers cover five thematic areas: Core Computer Science, Broad Computing, Socio-Technical Computing, Diversity & Education, and Artificial Intelligence.

By Theme

- Core Computer Science
- Broad Computer Science
- Socio-Technical Computing
- Diversity & Education
- Artificial Intelligence

Core Computer Science

Post Quantum Cryptography: Readiness Challenges and the Approaching Storm

Authors: Matt Campagna (Amazon), Brian LaMacchia (Microsoft Research), and David Ott (VMware Research)

Few people are aware that each advancement we make in quantum computing brings us closer to a complete breakdown of our digital security and privacy. As quantum-driven advancements in cryptographic analysis and computing technology are achieved, the cryptographic algorithms that protect our private online information and data is threatened. This paper identifies issues that need to be addressed before the quantum transition, particularly in identifying a replacement for current cryptography algorithms and ensuring a safe transition of uses.

Theoretical Computer Science: Foundations for an Algorithmic World

Authors: Shuchi Chawla (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Jelani Nelson (UC Berkeley), Chris Umans (California Institute of Technology), and David Woodruff (Carnegie Mellon University)

This paper presents the case for robust support of research and funding of foundational work in Theoretical Computer Science

2024 CRA Congressional Visits Day

September 10-11, 2024

Tues, 9/10 - Travel to DC, 1 hour of training, thank-you reception!
Wed, 9/11 - Meetings with Congressional offices that we arrange

Help us make the case for strengthening investments in fundamental computing research!

http://cra.org/govaffairs/blog/cvds/

CRA/CCC Leadership in Science Policy Institute (LiSPI)

- 1.5 day workshop
- Features presentations and discussions with science policy experts, current and former Hill staff, and relevant agency and Administration personnel about mechanics of the legislative process, interacting with agencies, advisory committees, and the federal case for computing.
- Call for nominations late Fall 2024 or early Spring 2025!

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Friends of the Government Affairs Committee Email List

To join, just drop me a line at harsha@cra.org!

Peter Harsha
COO and Senior Director of Government Affairs
Computing Research Policy Blog: cra.org/blog

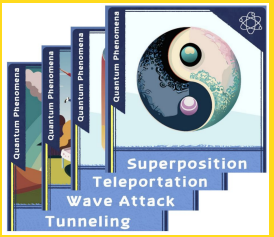
Game Session

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Choose a game

Poker

Spades



Collapsing Qubits

Find the corresponding rules sheet

Play! Have fun!

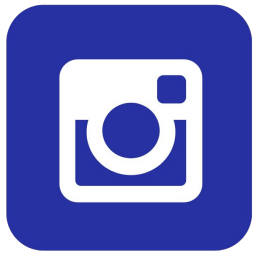
Winner keeps the cards!!
(leave unwanted cards on table)

2024 CRA CONFERENCE

Stay connected!

Follow CRA on social media

@computing-research-association



@computingresearch

@computingresearch