I have two primary streams of research: 1) behavioral information security and 2) online social interactions. Within these research areas, I try to develop research questions that have significant theoretical and, equally important, practical value for organizations, managers, or individuals.

**Behavioral Information Security**

In the digital age, protecting an organization’s digital assets from internal and external threats is one of their most important challenges. The focus of my behavioral information security research is on internal threats, particularly the security-related actions of an organization’s well-intentioned (non-malicious) employees. Organizations spend significant time developing their security-related policies and procedures but only a fraction of their employees typically follow those rules. In my research, I investigate theoretically and empirically why this is the case.

A few key findings from my seven published articles in this research area are the following:

1. In my *JAIS* article (“Generally Speaking Context Matters”), we find that different security-related actions generate different attitudes and actions (or intentions thereof).
2. In my *Information Systems Frontiers* article (“A Cross Industry Study of Institutional Pressures”), we find that employees who work in different industries have different perceptions of their organizations’ security environments.
3. In my *Computers & Security* article (“Exploring the Effect of Uncertainty Avoidance”), we find that employees from different national cultures have varying security-related actions (and intentions thereof).

My research in this area has proposed new individual-level, structural-level, and context specific factors that impact employees’ security-related actions, which has advanced the research community’s overall understanding of security-related behaviors. However, much more research is needed to fully understand why seemingly similar employees perform significantly different security-related actions. I have several working papers addressing structural inhibitors or facilitators and additional individual-level characteristics, which should lead to new knowledge in the field and more high-quality publications in the years to come.

**Online Social Interactions**

Organizations and individuals increasingly interact in virtual environments. Organizations use online platforms to engage with stakeholders in new ways, create new business processes, and form new markets (or new actors in existing markets). Individuals use these same platforms to disseminate information, learn, and interact socially or professionally. These platforms continue to change how individuals and organizations communicate, which has significant ramifications for organizations in all industries. The focus of my research in this space is to investigate how organizations and individuals use virtual platforms to interact online. To investigate these online
social interactions, I have incorporated both qualitative and quantitative empirical methods along with multiple theoretical perspectives.

Two of my most significant findings from my four publications in this area are the following:

1. In my *MIS Quarterly* paper (“Talking About Technology”), we find that online platforms allow individuals to tell stories about themselves and others, which has the effect of constructing the identity of a new actor category and establish the new category’s legitimacy within existing market categories.

2. In my *CAIS* paper (“Noise or Quality?”) about virtual knowledge exchanges, I demonstrate that cultural differences at the community, occupation, and national levels interact in unique ways to influence the propensity to give and receive a positive or a negative rating.

My publications in this research stream have created new knowledge in this area by proposing innovative theoretical perspectives that explain how and why individuals or organizations interact the way that they do on virtual platforms. This area of scholarship will continue to be interesting and important as individuals and organizations continue to move face-to-face interactions to virtual environments. I currently have several projects at various stages of development where I investigate online interaction patterns related to a variety of dependent variables such as reputation commons and active participation.

**Excellence in Scholarship**

In our Standards Document (Section B.1.b), excellence in scholarship is defined as follows:

“Excellence in scholarship is characterized by a strong and ongoing commitment to scholarly activities leading to high-quality publications. Faculty members are expected to engage in meaningful research that leads to the creation of new knowledge and that enhances the scholarly reputation of the School and the University.”

During my academic career, I have always maintained a “strong and ongoing commitment to scholarly activities” by actively participating in conferences (as a reviewer, Associate Editor, or author) and constantly having a strong pipeline of work-in-progress research. Furthermore, my prior scholarly activities have resulted in multiple “high-quality publications” that will continue to “enhance the scholarly reputation of the School and the University” in both of my research areas. This is evident by my eight publications in journals with an acceptance rate below 20% and by my five publications in journals with impact factors above two.

Finally, my future scholarly work will continue to focus on “meaningful research that leads to the creation of new knowledge” for both academics and practitioners. My work has been cited roughly 95 times (source: Google Scholar as of 8/20/2019), which suggests that other researchers believe my work is meaningful enough to build from and cite. I am committed to continuing these ongoing scholarly activities in both of my research areas in order to disseminate new knowledge via high-quality journal publications for many years to come.