MIT’s Center for Constructive Communication (CCC) (https://www.ccc.mit.edu), based at the MIT Media Lab, designs and deploys new communications tools and social networks aimed at helping to create more trusted, effective paths for communication. This work combines the ancient wisdoms of human conversation with digital technologies to promote shared understanding and trust rather than reinforcing the “side-taking” and binary thinking that too often divides us. Working closely with the nonprofit Cortico (https://cortico.ai), the center brings together researchers in AI, computational social science, digital interactive design, and learning technologies with software engineers, journalists, political scientists, designers, and community organizations. An important aspect of the center is its commitment to reach both within and beyond academia to work closely with locally based organizations to launch pilot programs.

Professor and Director Deb Roy (https://www.ccc.mit.edu/person/deb-ray) leads a team of more than 40 members. While most graduate students are enrolled in the Program in Media Arts and Sciences (https://www.media.mit.edu/graduate-program/about-media-arts-sciences), students in any MIT department may request to conduct master’s and doctoral thesis research at CCC under the supervision of Professor Roy or another CCC-affiliated faculty member. If accepted, they may be eligible for support as research assistants. Every semester, CCC will host undergraduate students through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) (https://urop.mit.edu). Opportunities for undergraduate students will be posted through the MIT UROP office.