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Disinformation in Open Online Media

Second Multidisciplinary International Symposium, MISDOOM 2020
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Proceedings

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Preface

Fake news, social bots, and disinformation are prevalent phenomena in online media. The potential impact on people's opinion and perception of the truth is substantial. Hence, the automated detection and combat of misinformation is an extremely worthwhile task. Modern techniques from machine learning, text mining, and social network analysis have proven successful in this regard. But not only computer scientists show a keen interest in studying misinformation in online media. Nowadays, a bulk of human-generated content is at the fingertips of those with perhaps the strongest interest in human behavior: social scientists. Misinformation is an exciting topic for researchers in communication sciences, political sciences, and sociology.

Whereas computer scientists and social scientists have found each other in an interdisciplinary field named computational social science, the topic of misinformation in online content appeals to an even broader audience. News content is the object of study of academics in media studies and therefore also gauges the interest of researchers in the humanities. Moreover, practitioners and journalists themselves often have extremely useful and hands-on experience with the matter.

The Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MISDOOM) seeks to bring together the abovementioned communities. This volume contains the papers accepted at the second edition of the symposium, organized in 2020. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the symposium did not take place on the intended dates of April 20–22, 2020, in Leiden, The Netherlands, but was postponed to October 26–27, in a fully virtual format.

In total there were 80 submissions: 57 extended abstracts and 23 full papers. The Organizing Committee decided to accept 18 full paper submissions for publication in



Fig. 1. Topics of MISDOOM 2020. Size is proportional to frequency of the word in the titles of the submissions accepted to the symposium.

this LNCS volume. In addition, 52 extended abstracts were accepted for presentation at the symposium. Figure 1 gives an impression of the topics of all contributions to the symposium.

We want to express our gratitude towards all those who contributed to organizing and running this symposium. This includes the Program Committee, the local organizers, Leiden University, the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS), the European Research Center for Information Systems (ERCIS), and the H2020 RISE-SMA Social Media Analytics project.

We hope that participants of all communities taking part in this multidisciplinary endeavor had a nice symposium and found some new insights and personal connections, especially between communities that usually do not meet so often in a symposium setting.

September 2020

Max van Duijn
Mike Preuss
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