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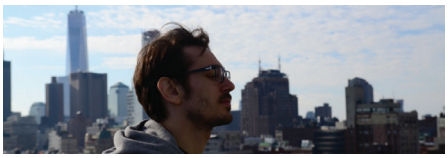

I am fascinated by online discussions. Discussions are at the core of norm formation and collective deliberation. Online environments have the potential to bring discussions to unprecedented scale and efficacy. Yet, discussions online are inhospitable.

This motivates my research. I am passionate about new methods for studying language and nonverbal communication, social structure and individual traits, norm and deviance, that together shape online discussions.

Experience

10/2021 -	Deputy Team Leader, team Data Science GESIS CSS, Germany Department Head: Claudia Wagner	I will manage a team of 4 postdocs and 1 PhD student, support the strategic expansion of the department--which will hire up to 10 people at various ranks within early 2022--and develop interdepartmental programs.
1/2019 - present	Postdoctoral Researcher GESIS CSS, Germany Team Leader: Fabian Flöck	I study hard cases in content moderation, including 1) nuances in sexist language; 2) moderation uncertainty; 3) precursors to conspriacy theory adoption.
8/2017 - 9/2018	Research Scholar Virginia Tech, VA, USA PI: Prof. Tanushree Mitra	I studied the language of conspiracy theories, their diffusion through online discussion, and the communities that discuss them.
1/2017 - 7/2017	Research Assistant University of Padova, Italy PI: Prof. Enoch Peserico	I studied visual memes as commmunity-generated signals of trolling on 4chan. I also developed a recommender system for discussions using quotes.
6/2016 - 12/2016	Research Collaborator University of Padova, Italy PI: Prof. Cinzia Pizzi	I investigated self disclosure and social support in an online community for individuals on the autistic spectrum.
12/2015 - 5/2016	Visiting Student GeorgiaTech, Atlanta, GA, USA Host: Prof. Eric Gilbert	I helped develop a learning strategy for identifying online abuse using existing data from multiple communities. I gathered data, devised and engineered the learning pipeline, and tested the model.
5/2012	Erasmus IP on Secure Web Applications MUAS, Germany Coordinator: Prof. Carlo Ferrari	I was selected to participate in this intensive workshop focusing on network-to-application-layer security, together with students from all over Europe.

Education

2013 - 2017	PhD in Information Engineering University of Padova, Italy Advisor: Prof. Enoch Peserico	My dissertation detailed how structural aspects of online discussion may reveal information of user identity, relationships, and behaviour.
2010 - 2012	MSc in CS and Engineering University of Padova, Italy Grade: 110/110 summa cum laude GPA: 30/30	The thesis project consisted in developing a workflow for mole mapping using a digital dermatoscope. I interviewed dermatologists following GDD principles, and implemented the UI in the prototype Android app.
2007 - 2010	BSc in CS and Engineering University of Padova, Italy Grade: 110/110 GPA: 27.4/30	I designed the interface for PariPari, a novel p2p network and modular application. I developed the architecture and prototype for a web-based, extensible GUI, using Java and Vaadin (GWT).

Service	2013 - present	PC/Reviewer	AAAI ICWSM 2017 - 2021 (best reviewer 2019, 2020, 2021), ACM CHI ‘18, CSCW ‘18-‘21, TheWebConf ‘19-‘21, WebSci ‘20-’21, ICS ‘13, PLoSOne, Royal Society Open Science, JDSA
	2016 - present	Logistics	CSS Summer School 2019 AXA Workshop 2016
Grants	7/2021 - 3/2022	VW Artificial Intelligenge and the Society of the Future	I was added as co-PI to this winning proposal studying comparative agenda setting across EU and US news, together with researchers from OII, UMich, Umass.
	2021 under review	Facebook Foundational Integrity	I am the PI of this proposal for a longitudinal study of individual beliefs in conspiracy theories.
	2021 under review	BMBF	I am a co-PI in this proposal, leading a WP on dataset quality standards for measuring hate speech.
	2019 rejected	Facebook Foundational Integrity	I was the main PI in this proposal on measuring the effects of conspriacy theories in online discussions.
	2019 rejected	VW Artificial Intelligenge and the Society of the Future	I helped in the writing of a grant proposal for this call, together with collaborators from NYU and UCD.
	2016	Ing. Aldo Gini Foundation bourse	This bourse, awarded based on academic merit, supported me during my stay at GeorgiaTech.
	2016	ACM WebScience student travel grant	This grant allowed me to present two papers at Web Science 2016.
	2013 - 2015	PhD Scholarship	This scholarship, awarded based on student merit, supported me in my first three years as a PhD student.
Teaching and Mentoring	2020 - 2021	MSc Thesis Universität Koblenz-Landau	Co-supervised Nico Neufeld, Elif Alkac, Emma Kraft.
	2020	Seminar University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Misinformation and conspiracy theories.
	2019	Lecture Universität Koblenz-Landau	Computational Sociolinguistics.
	2018	Lecture Virginia Tech	Conspiracy theories after dramatic events.
	2018	MSc Thesis University of Padova	Co-supervised Pietro Maria Nobili, Giovanni Pardo.
	2013 & 2015	TA in Software Engineering University of Padova, Italy Instructor: Prof. Enoch Peserico	The course built around a collective project (a web-based game in 2013, an Android application in 2015). I taught lectures and supervised the projects.

Publications

CSCW 2021 running for best paper	S. Phadke, M. Samory, and T. Mitra, "Characterizing Social Imaginaries and Self-Disclosures of Dissonance in Online Conspiracy Discussion Communities," in Proceedings of the ACM CSCW, 2021.	We use the social imaginaries established by Q on chanboards to create a computational framework for distinguishing belief and dissonance in QAnon subreddits. Our measure of dissonance correlates with lower engagement and departure from the communities.
EMNLP 2021	I. Sen, M. Samory, F. Floeck, C. Wagner, I. Augustein, "How Does Counterfactually Augmented Data Impact Models for Social Computing Constructs?".	Leveraging a novel typology of CAD to analyze their relationship with model performance, we find that CAD which acts on the construct directly or a diverse set of CAD leads to higher performance.
ICWSM 2021	M. Samory, "On Positive Moderation Decisions," in 15th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2021.	This work analyzes moderator-approved content from 49 Reddit communities. It sheds light on the complexity of moderation by giving empirical evidence that the difference between approved and removed content is often subtle.
ICWSM 2021	M. Samory, I. Sen,* J. Kohne*, F. Floeck, C. Wagner, "Call me sexist, but... : Revisiting Sexism Detection Using Psychological Scales and Adversarial Samples," in 15th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2021.	We derive a multidimensional codebook and gold-standard dataset of sexist expressions using items from psychological scales of sexism. Using conuterfactual data augmentation, we explore how computational models of sexism can better identify the construct in social media posts.
CSCW 2020 honorable mention	S. Phadke, M. Samory, and T. Mitra, "What Makes People Join Conspiracy Communities?: Role of Social Factors in Conspiracy Engagement," in Proceedings of the ACM CSCW, 2020.	We find that social factors like interactions with current members of the conspiracy communities and marginalization outside of the conspiracy communities, are the most important social precursors to conspiracy joining---even outperforming individual factor baselines.
ICWSM 2020	M. Samory, V. Kesiz Abnousi, and T. Mitra, "Characterizing the Social News Sphere through User Co-Sharing Practices," in 14th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2020.	We characterize the landscape of news sources based on their audience on Twitter. News sources aggregate in communities of shared audience, that uphold distinct factuality standards, political partisanship, and journalistic norms.
ICWSM 2019	M. Samory and T. Mitra, "SENPAI: Supporting Exploratory Text Analysis through Semantic & Syntactic Pattern Inspection," in 13th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2019.	We introduce SENPAI, a novel tool that discovers combined semantic and syntactic patterns fusing neural embeddings, dependency parsing, and graph mining to surface patterns directly from data.
CSCW 2018	M. Samory and T. Mitra, "The Government Spies Using Our Webcams: The Language of Conspiracy Theories in Online Discussions," in Proceedings of the ACM CSCW, 2018.	What do users talk about when they discuss conspiracy theories online? What are the recurring elements in their discussions? What do these elements tell us about the way users think? This work offers a scalable method to answer these questions.
CSCW 2018	E. Chandrasekharan, M. Samory, S. Jhaver, H. Charvat, A. Bruckman, C. Lampe, J. Eisenstein, and E. Gilbert, "The Internet's Hidden Rules: An Empirical Study of Reddit Norm Violations at Micro, Meso, and Macro Scales," in Proceedings of the ACM CSCW, 2018.	Via 2.8M comments removed by moderators, we use computational and qualitative methods to identify three types of norms: macro norms that are universal to most parts of Reddit; meso norms that are shared across certain groups of subreddits; and micro norms that are specifc to individual, relatively unique subreddits.
CSCW 2018	S. Phadke, J. Lloyd, J. Hawdon, M. Samory, and T. Mitra, "Framing Hate with Hate Frames: Designing the Codebook," in Proceedings of the ACM CSCW Extended Abstracts, 2018.	The "Hate Frames Codebook", a hand-coding scheme, offers a two-fold outlook on hateful communications: Collective Action frames analyze how hate groups problematize their targets, while Propaganda Device frames highlight their communication strategies.

ICWSM 2018	M. Samory and T, Mitra, "Conspiracies Online: User Discussions in a Conspiracy Community Following Dramatic Events," in 12th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2018.	New conspiracy theories emerge in the aftermath of dramatic events to offer alternative explanations of the facts. This work examines who participates in conspiracy theory discussions on social media and how they react to four dramatic events.
ICWSM 2017	M. Samory, C. Pizzi, and E. Peserico, "How User Condition Affects Community Dynamics in a Forum on Autism," in Proceedings of the 11Tth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2017.	Forums help connecting individuals on the autistic spectrum, family members, clinicians, and autism advocates. This work investigates how users in these different categories contribute to the forum and engage with each other.
CHI 2017	E. Chandrasekharan, M. Samory, A. Srinivasan, and E. Gilbert, "The Bag of Communities Approach: Identifying Abusive Behavior Online with Preexisting Internet Data," in Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2017.	Supervised learning approaches to moderation face dearth of ground-truth annotated data. This paper proposes a way of leveraging unannotated, readily available data from multiple communities to bootstrap moderation classifiers.
CHI 2017	M. Samory and E. Peserico, "Sizing Up the Troll: A Quantitative Characterization of Moderator-Identified Trolling in an Online Forum," in Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2017.	Qualitative research highlights the importance of differentiating trolling from other forms of abuse. Quantitative research, however, mostly ignores this distinction. This work quantitatively analyzes trolling, as defined by human mods.
CSCW 2017	M. Samory, V.-M. Cappelleri, and E. Peserico, "Quotes Reveal Community Structure and Interaction Dynamics," in Proceedings of the 20th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, 2017.	Quotes are not only a dialectic device: they signal acknowledgement, attribution, and endorsement. This work leverages quotes to characterize users, relationships, and community structure that are implicit in online forums.
WebSci 2016	M. Samory and E. Peserico, "Content attribution ignoring content," in Proceedings of the 8th ACM Conference on Web Science, 2016.	Can we tell who is the author of a message, without looking at its content? This work evaluates content-agnostic features for authorship analysis.
WebSci 2016	M. Samory, F. Bogo, and E. Peserico, "Community structure and interaction dynamics through the lens of quotes," in Proceedings of the 8th ACM Conference on Web Science, 2016.	This work builds upon results from [WebSci15], extending them to four online forums of different size, topic, and language. Quotes not only help navigate long discussions, they also reflect aspects of the forum community.
WebSci 2015	M. Samory and E. Peserico, "Quotes in forum.rpg.net," in Proceedings of the 7th ACM Conference on Web Science, 2015.	The graph that connects forum users through the quotes they exchange with one another shows properties typical of a social network.
ICMC/SMC 2014	M. Samory, M. Mandanici, S. Canazza, and E. Peserico, "The Counterpoint Game: Rules, Constraints and Computational Spaces," in Proceedings of the Joint International Computer Music Conference and Sound and Music Computing, 2014.	First species counterpoint is supposedly governed by a well-defined set of rules. This work performs a comparative analysis of the literature, gives a formal definition of the rules, and algorithmically discovers a set of cantus firmi that do not allow valid counterpoint.
EMBS 2012	F. Bogo, M. Samory, A. Belloni Fortina, S. Piaserico, and E. Peserico, "Psoriasis segmentation through chromatic regions and Geometric Active Contours," in Proceedings of the Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, 2012.	A novel computational approach to discerning lesional from healthy skin in full-body images of patients with psoriasis.