Language Technology and Resources for a fAir, Inclusive, and Safe SociEty (LateRAISSe)

This one-day workshop will provide a forum to present and discuss research work on creation and use of language resources and tools focusing on identifying and raising awareness of bias and discrimination in social computational systems on one hand and harassment and bullying in the online spaces on the other hand. This workshop is intended to bring together technical and non-technical experts in the computing and social science sub-disciplines to focus on the issue of social inclusion and safety from different perspectives.

The aim of the workshop is to provoke and solicit research work that implements relevant state-of-the-art machine learning and natural language processing technologies for a fair, inclusive and safe society. The workshop also aims to promote research and the development of unbiased and inclusive language technologies. The workshop also aims to promote research and the development of unbiased and inclusive language technologies.

Topics of Interest

While this is not exhaustive, we encourage authors to submit academic work on the intersection of:

- *Bias and Discrimination in Recruitment and Workplace*

Hiring is critical to society because it determines who can access economic opportunities to support themselves and their families (Bogen and Rieke, 2018). Studies have shown that hiring decisions are not always objective, therefore giving room to bias, discrimination, and unfair decisions influenced by look, gender, race, sexuality, etc. (Bendick Jr and Nunes, 2013; Gaucher et al., 2011). However, studies have established a strong correlation between diversity and inclusiveness in the workplace and an increase in innovation, productivity, and profitability of businesses, thereby making the elimination of bias not only a moral issue but equally an economic one (Zhang, 2020). In today's changing society, there is an increasing need for equality of opportunity and inclusiveness in the workplace. **We expect papers which use NLP and Artificial Intelligence technologies to illustrate or mitigate bias in Human Resources (HR) and workplace.**

- *Bias and Discrimination in Legal Decison Making*

Similarly, studies have established the negative influence of bias and stereotypes in the application of police force and criminal justice system, especially towards racial minorities (Goff et al., 2016; Yang, 2015). Text analytics on court documents have proven implicit racial bias in appellate court opinions from US states and federal courts (Rice et al., 2019). Moreover, studies have found that gender attitudes may play a role in the judicial process and court decisions by female judges are more likely to be overturned (Ahola et al., 2009; Ornaghi et al., 2019). The ultimate motto of the legal profession is 'equality before the law', and in fact, society will not be safe if justice were easily miscarried or trampled on. Therefore, there is an increasing need to develop techniques and tools to promote equality and fairness in the legal decision making process. **We expect papers with application of NLP tools in the legal domain for developing a fair legal decision-making system towards various social groups.**

- *Exclusive and Offensive language identification especially in the low-resource language settings*

On the other hand, the prevalence of harmful content and abusive behaviour on social media has become more concerning with the pandemic that has forced more people to be online now than at any other time. More than ever, many people undergo emotional trauma and heightened mental health issues due to overexposure to harmful contents on the internet. For instance, 44% of pre-adolescents have encountered more cyberbullying incidents during the COVID-19 lockdown (Armitage, 2021). While there have been solutions to identify harmful content online, their impacts and performances have been limited due to data and annotation challenges. Moreover, most works have been applied to English and other widely spoken EU languages with plenty of resources.

Systems that can provide real-time analysis of online content to detect harmful content must be designed if we are to make the internet a better and more respectful virtual space. However, for a global impact, it is equally important to develop data and tools for many widely spoken but not well-documented languages, e.g. African and Asian languages. **We expect research papers focusing on building NLP tools and resources targeting the low resource languages, e.g. classification and/or information extraction models, datasets, and multilingual Transformer-based language models fine-tuned for detecting a wide range of antisocial online behaviours, such as those already highlighted in the literature (Nadali et. al., 2013; Slonje et. al., 2013, and Bauman, S. 2015) for non-English societies.**

Contributions that describe **tools** and **datasets**, especially multilingual resources, that can make critical actors in these sectors to be more conscious of the ethical/bias instances, both implicit and explicit, in the decision making processes while also eliminating discrimination towards minority and other people-at-risk based on their protected attributes, will be most welcomed.

We invite technical contributions for original, high-quality submissions that explore the following (non-exhaustive) list of topics:
- Analysis of bias in word embeddings and/or texts in the HR and Legal domains
- Methods for debiasing pre-trained language models/word embeddings in multiple domains
- Language technologies for identifying/mitigating biased and non-inclusive language (gender, race, LGBTQ) in cross-disciplinary documents and online platforms
- Tools, technologies, datasets and multilingual resources to detect bias/discrimination and harmful contents, including flagging and reporting unethical practices such as workplace harassment and online cyberbullying to guarantee an inclusive society
- NLP applications for detecting offensive/abusive online content (e.g., cyber-aggression, cyberbullying, hate speech, misogyny, sexism, Homophobia and Transphobia etc.)
- Corpus and Lexicon for offensive/abusive online content in various languages, especially in the multi-domain, low resource and multilingual settings.
- Analysis of fairness and reliability of tools developed for bias-free recruiting, adjudication, and online harmful contents detection
- Text analysis and processing related to humanities using computational methods and especially focusing on low-resource languages.

A goal of the workshop is to connect computational linguists and interdisciplinary researchers working to promote fairness, equality, and inclusion in different sectors of the society.

Presentations

We will have both oral presentation sessions and a poster session. With respect to Covid-19, arrangements for a virtual presentation will be put in place where necessary. The decision on whether a presentation will be oral or poster will be made by the Organizing Committee on the advice of the Program Committee, taking into account the subject matter and how the content might be best conveyed. Oral and poster presentations will not be distinguished in the Proceedings.

Submissions

We invite researchers to submit original and unpublished work on the topics listed above. In line with our goal of reaching different academic communities, we offer two different modes of submission: extended abstract and full paper. The mode of submission does not influence likelihood of acceptance.

Submissions must be uploaded to the START system no later than April 8, 2022, 11:59PM UTC ("anywhere on Earth"). Please indicate clearly which of the two modes (Extended abstract or Full paper) you are submitting to.

All submissions must be anonymous and will be peer-reviewed by the Programme committee. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by May 3, 2022.

A. Extended abstract: Please submit anonymous abstracts of up to 1500 words or 1- 2 pages.

B. Full paper: Please submit anonymously either
        a) long papers (max. 8 pages plus unlimited pages for references) or
        b) short papers (max. 4 pages plus references) following the LREC style and formatting guidelines accessible on the main Conference website.
Further technical details for reproducibility can be included in the appendix section and this would not count towards the maximum page limit.

Proceedings

The authors of accepted full papers (long or short) will be invited by the Organizing Committee to submit their papers for publication in LREC proceedings. Furthermore, authors of selected full papers (long) may be invited at a later time to submit extended versions of their papers for consideration in a Journal Special Issue or an Edited book as will be determined by the organizing and Programme Committee. Final versions of long and short papers will be allotted one additional page (altogether 5 and 9 pages) excluding references. Extended abstracts will be allotted up to 5 pages (according to the short paper format) excluding references. Any revisions should concern responses to reviewer comments or the addition of relevant details and clarifications, but not entirely new, unreviewed content. Proceedings papers should be revised and improved versions of the version that was submitted for, and which underwent, review. Camera-ready versions of the articles for publication will be due on May 23, 2022. At least one author for each accepted paper has to attend the workshop to present the paper. Submissions to multiple venues are allowed, but papers must be withdrawn from other venues if accepted by the workshop. Further submission instructions will be made available on the workshop website.

Identify, Describe and Share your LRs

- Describing your LRs in the LRE Map is now a normal practice in the submission procedure of LREC. To continue the efforts initiated at LREC 2014 about "Sharing LRs" (data, tools, web-services, etc.), authors will have the possibility, when submitting a paper, to upload LRs in a special LREC repository. This effort of sharing LRs, linked to the LRE Map for their description, may become a new "regular" feature for conferences in our field, thus contributing to creating a common repository where everyone can deposit and share data.
- As scientific work requires accurate citations of referenced work so as to allow the community to understand the whole context and also replicate the experiments conducted by other researchers, LREC 2022 endorses the need to uniquely Identify LRs through the use of the International Standard Language Resource Number (ISLRN, www.islrn.org), a Persistent Unique Identifier to be assigned to each Language Resource. The assignment of ISLRNs to LRs cited in LREC papers will be offered at submission time.

Important Dates:

Friday, April 8, 2022   Deadline for submission of papers or short abstracts
Tuesday, May 3, 2022   Notification of acceptance

Monday, May 23, 2022 Camera-ready papers due
Saturday, June 25, 2022   Workshop date

Programme Committee

Prof. Guido BOELLA (University of Turin, Italy)
Dr. Luigi Di Caro (University of Turin, Italy)
Dr. Livio Robaldo (Swansea University, UK)
Dr. Giovanni Siragusa (University of Turin, Italy)
Dr. Cristiana Santos   (Utrecht University)
Dr. Emilio Sulis (University of Turin)
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Dr. Alunge Rogers (European Data Protection Office)
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Dr. Robert Muthuri (Strathmore University)
Dr. John Roberto (ADAPT Centre, Ireland)
Dr. Reka Markovich (University of Luxembourg)
Dr. Edouard Fosch (Leiden University)
Dr. Nishtha Jain (ADAPT Centre, Ireland)

Organizing Committee

Dr. Kolawole Adebayo, (Dublin City University / ADAPT Centre, Ireland)
Dr. Rohan Nanda, (Institute of Data Science (IDS) and Maastricht Law and Tech Lab, Maastricht University, Netherlands)
Kanishk Verma,(Dublin City University / ADAPT Centre / National Anti-Bullying Centre, Ireland)
Prof. Brian Davis, (Dublin City University / ADAPT Centre, Ireland)

Tentative Keynote Speaker

Dr. Serena Villata (Institute 3IA Côte d'Azur, France)
Prof. Vivianna Patti (University of Turin, Italy)
Monojit Choudhury (Microsoft Research India)