

Bots Building Bridges (3B): Theoretical, Empirical, and Technological Foundations for Systems that Monitor and Support Political Deliberation Online

Initiative: Künstliche Intelligenz – Ihre Auswirkungen auf die Gesellschaft von morgen

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Online social networks have become an integral part of the public sphere, but they are also criticized for contributing to the crisis in Western democracies by facilitating the emergence of echo chambers, amplifying conflicts, and enabling manipulations of public opinion via social bots. This state of affairs is the result of a complex interplay of technical systems, human actors, and partisan agendas that cannot be understood by one discipline alone. Interdisciplinary understanding of these phenomena needs to be based on theoretical expertise in computer science and the social sciences, empirical analysis and psychological experiments, plus a dialogue with civil society stakeholders. The focus of the project is on three levels of analysis of political communication online: the detection of social bots and their strategies to manipulate communication (actor level); conflictual discussions among users (interaction level); and the emergence of echo chambers (structural level). Based on a deeper understanding of the issues at each level, the 3B project will develop tools and methods that monitor and support political deliberation online. Our tools and methods will (1) discover manipulative social bots, (2) monitor the quality and diversity of political discussions, and (3) build bridges between digital communities in order to contribute to the diversification of opinions in echo chambers.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Philipp Cimiano

Universität Bielefeld

Technische Fakultät

Institut für Informatik

AG Semantic Computing / CITEC

Bielefeld

Dr. Florian Muhle

Universität Bielefeld

Fakultät für Soziologie

Arbeitsbereich Mediensoziologie

Bielefeld

Dr. Ole Pütz

Universität Bielefeld
Technische Fakultät
CITEC
Semantic Computing Group
Bielefeld

Dr. Birte Schiffhauer

Katholische Hochschule
Nordrhein-Westfalen
Paderborn

Prof. Dr. Elena Esposito

Universität Bielefeld
Fachbereich Soziologie
Bielefeld

Dr. Robert Ackland

Australian National University
School of Sociology
Canberra
Australien

Prof. Dr. Udo Seelmeyer

Fachhochschule Bielefeld
Fachbereich Sozialwesen
Bielefeld

Prof. Dr. Tony Veale

University College Dublin
National University of Ireland
School of Computer Science
Dublin
Irland

Open Access-Publikationen

Does Explainability Require Transparency?

Have I Got Views For You! Generating Fair and Balanced Interventions into Online Debates.

The Funhouse Mirror Has Two Sides: Visual Storification of Debates with Comics.

Echo Chambers without Conversation? Enriching Research on Polarization and Fragmentation on Twitter with the Analysis of Reciprocal Communication

