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SOMA: Social Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis

D4.2 Report on the centers for excellence studies on online disinformation. Set up and activities

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Document description	This report describes the setup of the two centers for excellence studies on online disinformation (Denmark and Italy) and illustrates the activities undertaken since setup.

Document Revision History

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V0.1	24/07/2019	Draft version	Pagella Politica
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V2	30/01/2020	Final	Pagella Politica

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Executive Summary

Two centres for excellence studies on online disinformation have been established in Denmark and Italy to act as a point of reference within the national/regional stakeholder community. Respectively named EU REMID (Denmark) and ALETHEIA (Italy), those centers work with local communities and provide content both in English and in the local language. This report describes their characteristics, launch events, current activities, network and membership structures.

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1   Introduction

1.1   Purpose and Scope of D4.2

Deliverable 4.2 entitled "Report on the centers for excellence studies on online disinformation. Set up and activities" is part of Work Package number 4 (WP4).

The main goal of WP4, which is entitled "Stakeholder engagement and Media Literacy", is to organize workshops and events to foster the debate on media literacy. Its specific objectives include:

- creating a common platform for sharing information between European fact-checkers;
- establishing two center centers for excellence studies on online disinformation;
- organizing a comprehensive, Europe-wide and inclusive set of activities to share best practices in the misinformation/disinformation field.

1.2   Structure of this report

This report describes the characteristics, launch and activities of the Danish and the Italian centers of excellence respectively. In particular, section 2 reports about the The Danish center, describing its concept and features (2.1), its launch event and current activities (2.2), as well as its structure in terms of partners and research network (2.3). Similarly, section 3 focuses on the Italian Center, discussing its characteristics (3.1), launch and activity (3.2), as well as its current membership (3.3).

2   The Danish Center of Excellence

2.1   Description

The EU Center of Excellence for Research in Social Media and Information Disorder - EU REMID [https://datalab.au.dk/eu-remid/] is a research center hosted by DATALAB [https://datalab.au.dk/], School of Communication and Culture, Aarhus University, for research into information flows on social media with a specific focus on different kinds of information disorder (disinformation, misinformation and hostility).

EU REMID focuses on mapping and advancing research into information flows and disorder on social media, and support teachers, fact checkers, journalists and researchers in their work against disinformation by offering knowledge sharing on latest issues, methods, results and effects, technological infrastructure, debunked lists and tools related to the SOMA project.

The center is led by Professor in Media Studies at Aarhus University and SOMA partner Anja Bechmann. It is her view that better collaboration across disciplines is necessary to win the fight against disinformation: "Instead of having researchers and journalists work with disinformation in their own silos, we will try to make more coordinated efforts in this center," she said.

2.2 Launch and activity

EU REMID was officially presented at the Online disinformation: an Integrated View conference which took place at Aarhus University on 6-7 May 2019. The conference was the first of three international workshops on online disinformation, and kicked off the establishment of an interdisciplinary research network by gathering top researchers from across the globe to present and discuss their research on disinformation.

The event was attended by 41 participants and featured 15 paper presentations. The programme of the conference, including the complete list of speakers, is included as annex to this document.

At the launch event of EU REMID, Lisbeth Knudsen, editor-in-chief of MANDAG MORGEN, Altinget and fact-checking organization TjekDet, said that disinformation challenges for our democracy by polluting our information environment. "We talk a lot about plastic in the sea. We should also talk more about the pollution in our information environment. Disinformation seeks to destroy our confidence in democratic institutions and increase political confusion. Our democracies have never been more vulnerable," she said.

The activity of EU REMID is currently connected to several research projects, including:

- **Research on Online Political Hostility**
  Professor of political science Michael Bang Petersen heads a major new research project at Aarhus BSS aiming to develop counter-strategies to combat hostile behaviour in the political debate on social media. The Carlsberg Foundation has donated DKK 15.7 million to the interdisciplinary project, which brings together leading Danish and international researchers.

  Website [https://ps.au.dk/forskning/forskningsprojekter/research-on-online-political-hostility/
]

- **AI in the service of truth - fact checking the news in Sweden**
  This project addresses the problem of disinformation by building an AI-based toolkit for journalists, policy makers and regular users. The tools will be used to detect false information, verify claims, and quantify the quality of references in texts as well as in videos. Thus, users will be empowered to verify the information they consume and may spread. Moreover, malevolent actors will also be deterred from producing such false content, knowing they will be easily discovered.

  Website [https://www.truthnest.com/]

- **Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories in Europe**

Despite moral debates about the effects that conspiracy theories have on knowledge, democracy and mental health, there has been little systematic research on where they come from, how they work and what, if anything, should be done about them. This project addresses these issues and aim to develop an interdisciplinary and international network to provide a comprehensive understanding of conspiracy theories in different European countries.

Website [https://conspiracytheories.eu/]

Furthermore, since its opening, the Center has produced the following reports:

- **The Siri Commission's report on disinformation & fake news**
  On 8 February 2019 the "SIRI Commission" [https://english.ida.dk/what-is-the-siri-committee] presented 10 recommendations on how to combat the challenges presented by disinformation phenomena to the Danish Parliament. DATALAB and EU REMID director Anja Bechmann has contributed to the Siri Commission's report. The report calls for more transparency, tools for fighting disinformation and continued research on the impact of disinformation. The full report dealing with the relationship between AI, media and democracy is available here [https://ida.dk/media/3441/ai-medier-og-demokrati-2019-siri-komissionen.pdf] (only in Danish).

- **SOMA report on Research Data Exchange Solution**
  As its first deliverable for the SOMA project, DATALAB delivered a report investigating past, present and potential future solutions for social media data transparency and data access.

  The report concludes that the current model for social media data access is flawed. Social media APIs, the most used method for data access for researchers, are heavily restricted and limited, posing several challenges for both researchers and journalists, when it comes to data quality and data reliability.

  Some social media companies have recently released more targeted tools to replace the APIs, but they are for the most part insufficient and limited in scope and information richness. Also, data grants for researchers, such as Facebook's research partnership Social Science One, highly control what is being studied and who is studying it, limiting the field and volume of research significantly.

  While these restrictions might have been made in an attempt to mitigate against privacy breaches, protecting privacy is not only about end-to-end encryption and protecting data. It is also about providing non-filtered access for researchers and journalists to detect if privacy breaches are possible or actual privacy violations take place.

  Therefore, DATALAB propose establishing dedicated APIs for researchers and journalists respectively and establishing safe spaces for researchers to conduct data research without violating privacy laws.

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2.3 Research network and partners

The current official partners of EU REMID are:

- The Danish fact-checking organization **TjekDet** [https://www.mm.dk/tjekdet] (members of The International Fact-Checking Network- IFCN);
- The **Oslo Metropolitan University** [http://www.hioa.no/eng/Studies];
- The **Danish Institute for Human Rights** [https://www.humanrights.dk/] and **Detektor** [https://www.dr.dk/radio/p1/detektor-radio] (fact-checkers for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation);
- The Danish **Media Council for Children and Young People** [https://www.medieraadet.dk/en].

The Center is further connected to an interdisciplinary research network on online disinformation, whose creation received funding by The Joint Committee for Nordic research councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS) [https://www.aka.fi/en/nos-hs] . The network kicked off at the Aarhus conference Online Disinformation on 6-7 May 2019 and includes the following researchers:

Denmark

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Anja Bechmann	Professor	Aarhus University	Media and Journalism Studies
Luca Rossi	Associate Professor	IT University of Copenhagen	Digital Design
Leon Derczynski	Assistant Professor	IT University of Copenhagen	Computer Science
Michael Bang Pedersen	Professor	Aarhus University	Political Science
Mathias Osmundsen	Assistant Professor	Aarhus University	Political Science

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Alexander Bor	Post Doc	Aarhus University	Political Science
Sander Andreas Schwartz	Assistant Professor	University of Roskilde	Communication and Arts
Eva Mayerhöffer	Assistant Professor	University of Roskilde	Communication and Arts
Rebekka Lykke Nørremark	PhD Fellow	Aarhus University	Comparative Literature and Rhetoric
Michael Bossetta	PhD Fellow	University of Copenhagen	Political Science
Alexandra Regina Kratschmer	Associate Professor	Aarhus University	Linguistics
Ana Paulla Braga Mattos	PhD Fellow	Aarhus University	Linguistics
Jakob Linaa Jensen	Research Director of Social Media	Danish School of Media and Journalism	Forskning og Viden
Ane Kathrine Gammelby	PhD Fellow	Aarhus University	Media and Journalism Studies
Rebekah Brita Baglini	Post Doc	Aarhus University	Linguistics
Lynge Asbjørn Møller	Research Assistant	Aarhus University	Media and Journalism Studies

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Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Benjamin Powys Carver	Part-time Lecturer and Research Assistant	Aarhus University	Communication and Culture

Norway

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Oscar Westlund	Professor	Oslo Metropolitan University	Journalism and Media Studies
Bente Kalsnes	Associate Professor	Kristiania University College	Communication

Sweden

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Matteo Magnani	Associate Professor	Uppsala University	Information Technology
Thomas Nygren	Associate Professor	Uppsala University	Education
Mona Guath	Assistant Professor	Uppsala University	Psychology
Anton Axelsson	Teaching and Research Assistant	Uppsala University	Information Technology

Italy

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Fabio Giglietto	Associate Professor	University of Urbino Carlo Bo	Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies
Nicola Righetti	Post Doc	University of Urbino Carlo Bo	Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies
Giada Marino	PhD Fellow	University of Urbino Carlo Bo	Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies

Belgium

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Sophie Morosoli	PhD Fellow	University of Antwerp	Political Science

France

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department

| Philippe Useille | Assistant Professor | Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France | Information and Communication Sciences |
| Angelina Toursel | Teaching and Research Assistant | Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France | Information and Communication Sciences |

United Kingdom

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Alex Krasodomski-Jones	Research Director of Centre for the Analysis of Social Media	Sussex University	Digital political extremism, information environments, disinformation and machine-enabled decision-making
Mari-Liis Madisson	Post Doc	Queen's University Belfast	Semiotics and Culture Studies
Kalina Bontcheva	Professor of Text Analysis	The University of Sheffield	Computer Science

USA

Name	Job Title	Affiliation	Department
Jennifer Stromer-Galley	Professor	Syracuse University	Information Studies
Elaine Yuan	Associate Professor	University of Illinois at Chicago	Communication

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3 The Italian Center of Excellence

3.1 Description

The Italian Center of Excellence was born on the initiative of the two Italian research institutes partners of the SOMA project, LUISS Guido Carli University and T6 Ecosystems. Named ALETHEIA (ἀλήθεια), the Center is physically located at LUISS University headquarters in Rome, Italy.

ALETHEIA promotes research and knowledge exchange on issues related to information, misinformation and forced polarization in online and offline media environment. The Center is aimed at building and reinforcing a research network covering a wide range of topics of particular scientific and political relevance, all potentially affecting public risk judgments and trust in scientific authorities.

To create a new quality benchmark, ALETHEIA promotes research and debate among researchers, journalists, fact-checkers, computer scientists, philosophers, scientists and every other expert in the sector to allow a rapid and punctual dialogue on issues regarding the technological impact on disinformation.

Its core values and methodologies include:

- Exchange and comparison of techniques, research and analysis amongst operators;
- Access to instruments and tools for checking online content without noxious barriers;
- The creation of an international network of experts involved on these issues;
- Training of those most exposed to fake news, from school-age children to the elderly, on media literacy, quality journalism, trust and governance;
- Organizing events, seminars, hackathons, conferences on disinformation, fact checking, equanimity and quality in the media;
- In depth analysis of specific issues focusing on health, climate, and literacy, to nurture a critical public opinion, spurred not dulled by new media;

ALETHEIA uses artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms in parallel to the traditional social science methodologies, that are however complementary to the use of social science methodologies. The lack of confidence in information, and the widespread circulation of false news and artificial opinions, mass-produced in laboratories by propaganda professionals, is pathology often linked to technology and the digital world. ALETHEIA believes the real cruxes are cultural and political, not just technological, a decisive crossroad for our times.

Its key research areas are:

- Public opinion, media and political behavior with the contributions of LUISS Data Lab and LUISS School of Journalism, already involved in the Horizon 2020 SOMA project "Social Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis", under the direction of Gianni Riotta. In parallel,

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the T6 Ecosystem team, in charge of the impact analysis for the SOMA, brings its consolidated research experience on the impact of new technologies on media and society at large;

● Algorithms, big data, and computing: ALETHEIA can rely on the contribution of a number of distinguished scholars at LUISS 'Guido Carli' University. Among others, Giuseppe Italiano, professor of computer science at LUISS University in Rome, known for his work on graph algorithms, data structures and algorithm engineering and Livia De Giovanni, professor of statistics and President of the "Massimo Baldini" School of Journalism. Furthermore, the "Mauro Picone" Institute for Calculation Applications of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) - IAC-, directed by Massimo Bernaschi, (manager Technologist and P.I. of the CRANIC group), will provide expertise in data collection and indexing and high performance computing;

● Source Transparency, thanks to the collaboration with SOMA Partner T6ECO and its network;

● Health-related issues, a crucial area of disinformation in most Western societies. This research area is directed by Walter Ricciardi, professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine at Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, former president of the Italian Higher Health Institute (ISS) and current Italian representative of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO).
● Employment and Labor, thanks to presence of ADAPT, the Association for International and Comparative Studies on Labour Law and Industrial Relations directed by professor Michele Tiraboschi of University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. ADAPT researchers bring their experience in the field of labour law and industrial relations with an international and comparative perspective.

● Truth, post-truth and alternative truth in contemporary societies, thanks to the contribution of Franca D'Agostini, Professor of Philosophy of Science at the Polytechnic of Turin and at the University of Milan, a prominent scholar of the relationship between logic, truth and politics.

All these scholars from different perspectives are thus currently engaged in efforts to study the complex causes for the viral diffusion of misinformation and to develop solutions to tackle this major global risk, which has the potential to undermine both science and society and finally threaten democratic regimes.

3.2 Launch and activity

Formally launched in June 2019, ALETHEIA was then officially presented to the community of stakeholders on 9 September 2019 during an event which took place at Luiss Data Lab headquarters in Rome, Italy. Attended by about 100 stakeholders including social scientists, data scientists, fact-checkers, journalists and thematic experts, the event featured the following agenda and speakers:

- Opening remarks by LUISS Director Giovanni Lo Storto;
- Introduction to SOMA and ALETHEIA by LUISS Data Lab director Gianni Riotta;
- Panel discussion with the members of ALETHEIA (including Massimo Bernaschi, Walter Ricciardi, Alessandra Spada, Simona, De Rosa, Giovanni Zagni, Andrea Nicolai) and EC representatives Roberto Viola and Giuseppe Abbamonte;
- Educational/Scientific Talk by Prof. Guido Caldarelli (Professor of Theoretical Physics at IMT Lucca and member of the SOMA Expert Advisory Group);
- Presentation of LUISS Data Lab activities;
- Cocktail/Appetizer with comedian Saverio Raimondo addressing the funny side of disinformation.

The event received large coverage by Italian press including the following:

- Huffington Post Italia
  [https://www.huffingtonpost.it/entry/lotta-alle-fake-news-e-ricerca-delle-verita-nasce-il-centro-aletheia-diretto-da-gianni-riotta_it_5d750369e4b0fde50c283ff8?ncid=tweetlnkithpmg00000001];
- Repubblica.it
  [https://www.repubblica.it/economia/2019/09/10/news/_le_fake_news_danneggiano_politica_ed_economia_come_fermarle_-235611726/]
- Sole 24 Ore
  [https://stream24.ilsole24ore.com/video/economia/luiss-contro-fake-news-nasce-centro-aletheia/AC08G6i]
- UnoMattina, RAI TV
- Corriere Nazionale
  [https://www.corrierenazionale.it/2019/09/08/luiss-data-lab-nasce-centro-aletheia/]
- Prima Online
  [https://www.primaonline.it/2019/09/03/293730/nasce-il-centro-di-ricerca-aletheia-diretto-da-gianni-riotta-obiettivo-lotta-alle-fake-news-ricerca-delle-verita-oggettive-verifica-dei-dati/]
- Askanews
  [https://notizie.tiscali.it/economia/articoli/luiss-contro-fake-news-nasce-centro-aletheia/]
- i-Talicom
  [https://www.i-talicom.it/primo-piano/gli-algoritmi-e-la-verita-inaugurazione-del-centro-di-eccellenza-aletheia/]

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(all in Italian).

LUISS University offered a live coverage of the event through its Facebook page, the full video of which is accessible at: https://www.facebook.com/uni.luiss/videos/2467231736847525?sfns=mo

The discussion revolved around the main research areas covered by the Center (Public opinion, media and political behavior; Algorithms, big data, and computing; Source Transparency; health related issues, Employment and labor; Truth, post-truth and alternative truth), as each of the participants described the research area and its specific relationship with disinformation.

In terms of the activities carried out by the Center since its launch, its research efforts have been focused on health and scientific communication. In this context, a wide range of official data provided by institutional sources is currently being analyzed and compared with data from social media. The research is carried out by LUISS Data Lab, the Institute for Applied Mathematics "Mauro Picone" (IAC) of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), with the support of Walter Ricciardi, professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine at Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, former president of the Italian Higher Health Institute (ISS) and current Italian representative of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO).

ALETHEIA disposes of a webpage [https://datalab.luiss.it/aletheia-2/?lang=en] where updates on its activities and events are regularly published.

3.3   List of members

A complete list of members to the ALETHEIA center, followed by their short bios, is provided below.

Alice ANDREUZZI

Alice is the coordinator of Luiss Data Lab. Graduated in Social Ethics at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, she earned a master's degree in open government and institutional communication at Luiss Guido Carli and a master's degree in growth hacking at the Talent Garden Innovation School. Certified Scrum Master, she also attended the PMP - Project Management Professional certification course at the GEMA Business School. She deals with digital strategy, service design and project management of transformation processes and digital innovation at the company Alkemy SpA, managing research and development projects concerning the main cutting edge technologies: AI, blockchain, voice assistant, big data analytics, computer vision etc. Together with the activity in Luiss Data Lab and Alkemy, Alice collaborates with the innovative startup Catchy, where she deals with digital project management and data driven journalism.

Massimo BERNASCHI

Since 1998, Massimo has been Technological Manager at the Institute for Calculation Applications (IAC) "M. Picone "of the C.N.R., where he is responsible for the technical-scientific activity of the" Technological Area ". He is a Professor of System Programming (degree in information technology) at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" and of Digital Forensics at the Masters of the University of Rome "La Sapienza" and Modena. He also taught at the University of Rome. Modena, Computational Finance.

Linda BERNSTAIN

A Ph.D. in English from Columbia University, Linda has written hundreds of articles for dozens of nationally known magazines and newspapers. As a consultant, Linda helps other writers set up their social media presence. She is currently working on a novel as well as teaching social media for the Continuing Education Department at Columbia University School of Journalism.

Paola BONOMO

Paola began her career at McKinsey & Company, working for the top management of large Italian and international companies on issues of strategic positioning, growth, entry into new markets, alliances and acquisitions. She held leadership roles such as Senior Director, European Operations in eBay International; Head of Online Services, Commercial Operations in Vodafone Italy; and Regional Director, Southern Europe in Facebook.

Jeremy CAPLAN

Director of Education for the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism at CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism. Jeremy was a Ford Fellow in Entrepreneurial Journalism at the Poynter Institute, and a Wiegers Fellow at Columbia Business School, where he completed my MBA, and a Knight-Bagehot Fellow at the Columbia Journalism School, where he earned an M.S. in Journalism.

Franca D'AGOSTINI

Professor of Philosophy of Science at the Polytechnic of Turin and the University of Milan. Her research interests involve the relationship between logic, truth and politics. Author of a number of books, essays and articles in various languages in journals and collective volumes, she regularly writes for Italian newspapers such as La Stampa, La Repubblica, Il Manifesto, she lectured and lectured in various European and American universities.

Livia DE GIOVANNI

Professor of Statistics. She teaches at the Department of Business and Management and the Department of Political Science at the LUISS 'Guido Carli' University. She is also President of the "Massimo Baldini" School of Journalism. She was a visiting researcher at the France Telecom Research Center CNET (Center national d'études des télécommunications) (Lannion, Paris) and at the Research Center of AT&T Labs Research (Florham Park New Jersey).

Simona DE ROSA

Partner and Senior researcher of T6 Ecosystems srl. Since 2015, she has participated in responsible positions in more than 10 European projects funded by the European Commission under the research frameworks FP7 and H2020. Simona is mainly in charge of policy analysis, participatory processes for policy development and impact assessment analysis. Simona holds a bachelor and a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Naples L'Orientale and a Phd in Economic Geography from the University of Rome La Sapienza. In last year, Simona worked in Media convergence field and is now WP5 leader of the of the SOMA project, being in charge of monitoring disinformation impacts on citizens.

Bill EMMOTT

English journalist, author, and consultant best known as the editor-in-chief of The Economist newspaper from 1993 to 2006. He co-founded the Wake Up Foundation, an educational charity dedicated to raising awareness of the dangers facing Western societies. He is now chairman of the Trinity College Long Room Hub for Arts & Humanities in Dublin, and of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and Japan Society of the UK in London.

Sergio FABBRINI

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He is currently Professor of Politics and International Relations and Dean of the Department of Political Sciences at the Luiss Guido Carli in Rome. He co-founded and served as Director of the Luiss School of Government (2009-2018) and of the Trento School of International Studies (2006-2009). He was the Editor of the "Italian Journal of Political Science" (Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica) in the period 2004-2009 (the first editor after Giovanni Sartori who founded the journal in 1971 and formally directed it till 2003).

Michele GRAZIOLI

Entrepreneur in the field of artificial intelligence with several startups active around the world. He considered among the top experts in the field of Artificial Intelligence for Proactive Decision Making. Currently CEO of Divisible Global Group.

Stefano GUARINO

Born in 1985, MSc and PhD in Mathematics at Roma Tre University. Since 2014 a research fellow at CNR-IAC and since November 2018 part of the Luiss Data Lab. Involved in several national and international research projects, including the recently launched H2020 Project "SOMA: Social observatory for disinformation and social media analysis". His diverse research activity is focused on data analysis and security. He currently works on graphs and complex systems, and on the classification and processing of data and texts, addressing both methodological/algorithmic and implementation/technological aspects.

Giuseppe ITALIANO

Italian computer scientist. Ph.D. in Computer Science at Columbia University, he worked as a Research Staff Member at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights (New York). He is a Professor of computer science at LUISS University in Rome. He is known for his work in graph algorithms, data structures and algorithm engineering.

Andrea NICOLAI

CEO and Founder of T6 (www.t-6.it) a consulting and research SME. Combining a humanistic cultural education, a keen interest in Information and Communication Technology brought him to a variety of working experiences in the field of media, strategic consultancy and local development strategies, deepening his understanding on the impact of new technologies in the respective areas. He was the project manager for numerous research and international development projects since the Fifth, Framework Program of the European Commission, he worked for the European Parliament on issues relating to the problems of software patents and new directives on Intellectual Property Rights. He is a regular reviewer and evaluator of project proposals and results of research projects of the European Commission.

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Moises NAIM

Venezuelan columnist whose writings are published by leading papers worldwide, and the author of more than 10 books. He is a Distinguished Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In 2013, the British magazine Prospect listed Naim as one of the world's leading thinkers. In 2014 and 2015, Dr. Naím was ranked among the top 100 influential global thought leaders by Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI) for work in his latest book, The End of Power.

Francesco NESPOLI

Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. His research focuses on rhetoric and communication issues in labour market reforms and industrial relations. In 2018, he received a Doctoral Degree in Human Capital Formation and Labour Market Relations from the University of Bergamo and ADAPT - Association for International and Comparative Studies in Labour and Industrial relations.

Giovanni ORSINA

He is full professor of Contemporary History and Director of the School of Government at Luiss-Guido Carli University, Rome. At the School, he is the Director of the Master in European Studies, which he founded ten years ago. At Luiss, he is also the Director of the International centre on democracies and democratisations (Icedd). Orsina is the author of five monographs and about fifty essays and the editor of thirteen volumes or journal special issues on Twentieth-century European politics, published in Italian, English, French, German, and Spanish.

Walter RICCIARDI

Professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome. In August 2015 Walter Ricciardi was appointed President of the Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) where he was Commissioner from July 2014 to July 2015. In 2010 he was elected President of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and in 2011 he was re-elected for a second term up to 2014. Since 2014 he is Past President of EUPHA. In 2011 he was appointed Member of the European Advisory Committee on Health Research to the WHO European Regional Director and from 2011 to 2014 he was Member of the Executive Board of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States of America.

Gianni RIOTTA

Gianni is an internationally renowned journalist. He teaches at the University of Princeton, where he holds the Pirelli Visiting Professorship and at the Luiss Guido Carli, of Rome, where he is co-director of the Master in Open Government and Institutional Communication. Columnist for La Stampa, he was director of TG1 Rai and del Sole 24 Ore, deputy director of La Stampa and Corriere della Sera. His editorials were published by The New York Times, The Washington Post, Le Monde, The Wall Street

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Journal, Financial Times, The Guardian, El Pais, Suddeutsche Zeitung, Foreign Affairs. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of French and Italian at the University of Princeton and has collaborated with IMT, School for Advanced Studies in Lucca. He received the America Award from the Italy-US Foundation in 2013. A permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the Foreign Policy Editor, in 2018 he was appointed Executive Vice President of the Council for Relations between Italy and the United States. In December 2017, the European Commission named him among the 39 Experts of the High Level Group for the fight against fake-news and online disinformation, a topic that Riotta also deals with for the WEF in Davos.

Francesco SEGHEZZI

President of ADAPT Foundation and research fellow at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Head of communications and external relations of ADAPT and Director of Adapt University Press. Among his research topics is the analysis of employment dynamics in the labor market, with particular attention to the youth group and the relationship between work and technological innovation, with particular attention to the phenomenon of Industry 4.0 and the impact on work in manufacturing. Columnist at various newspapers, in particular Avvenire and Il Foglio.

Alessandra SPADA

With a 25-year experience in Large Enterprise & SME as a leader for Industrial and R&D projects in digital, Alessandra is now Alkemy's Chief Technology & Research Officer, head of the Alkemy R&D laboratory. She is also co-founder and CTO of the innovative startup Catchy, dealing with Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Data/Geo Intelligence and storytelling on data. She founded the Observatory of Decentralize Artificial Intelligence that supports the Decentralized AI Community.

Sree SREENIVISAN

Former chief digital officer of New York City from October 2016 through May 2017. Before that he was the chief digital officer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and chief digital officer of Columbia University. He has been a technology journalist based in New York City and served as an academic administrator and professor in the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Michele TIRABOSCHI

Professor of Labor Law. Director of the DEAL Study Center (Law, Economics, Environment, Work) at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Scientific coordinator of ADAPT, an association of work studies founded in 2000 by Marco Biagi. Director of the Center for International and Comparative Studies Marco Biagi of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and Coordinator of the Scientific Committee of Adapt. Columnist of Il Sole 24 Ore and Avvenire and author of numerous studies and essays on the issues of work and industrial relations.

[30/1/2020]

Luca TACCHETTI

Research Data Analyst of Luiss Data Lab. He is Data Analyst and Innovation Specialist for Catchy and Alkemy where he deals with research in the field of IoT, AI and Blockchain technologies. Graduated in Law at the University of Roma Tre Law School, in 2018 he obtained a Master's Degree in Data Intelligence and Decision Strategies at the Faculty of Information Engineering, Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Rome La Sapienza.

Noemi TRINO

Ph.D. in Political Science from LUISS 'Guido Carli' University, she worked for six years as a researcher at LUISS Centre for Media and Democratic Innovations "Massimo Baldini". She has also been an adjunct lecturer in Political Sociology and Media Sociology and is a current faculty member of the Executive Courses in Data Driven Journalism and Big Data for P.A. at LUISS School of Government. At the same institution, she was the academic coordinator of the Master in Open Government and Institutional Communication from 2013 to 2019. She's responsible - as WP Leader - of the LUISS Team of the Horizon 2020 SOMA project "Social Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis".

Federica URZO

MSc in Political Science and International Relations at University of Naples Federico II. In 2014 she joined the European Commission - Directorate Financial Markets - where she dealt with corporate bonds, analysis of financial markets, capital movements, securities markets, investment funds and post trade services. In 2016 she became a Journalist and she is still working as freelancer. For the past two years she worked as Public Relations manager for an American corporation, where she tasked with marketing communication as well as fielding media questions and pitching stories to the media. She was also tasked with developing advertising and marketing communications material and social media engagement.

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4 Conclusion

This report has been submitted as part of Work Package number 4 (WP4) entitled "Stakeholder engagement and Media Literacy". The main goal of WP4 is to foster the debate on media literacy through, among other things, the creation of two national centres for excellence studies on online disinformation.

The two centres for excellence studies have been launched in 2019 in Denmark and Italy. Respectively named EU REMID (Denmark) and ALETHEIA (Italy), the two centres aim to act as a point of reference for research and discussion around the topics related to disinformation phenomena in contemporary societies within the national/regional stakeholder communities.

This report has described their characteristics, launch, current activities, network and membership structures.

5   Annex

○   **5.1 Programme of the the Online disinformation: an Integrated View conference (Aarhus University, 6-7 May 2019)**

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

NOS-HS The joint committee for Nordic research councils in the humanities and social sciences

Programme

Online disinformation: an integrated view | #1 Defining and Measuring Disinformation

Time: 6-7 May, 2019
Venue: Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 6B, 8000 Aarhus C

Monday May 6

09.30-10.00:   Registration and coffee

10.00-10.30:   Welcome by Nikolaj Thomas Zinner (Deputy Director, AIAS) and Anja Bechmann (Director, DATALAB)

10.30-11.30:   Keynote talk by Leon Derczynski: *Automatic Detection of Fake News*

11.30-12.30:   Lunch

Track 1: Hate speech, trolling and accusations as viral tactics (Moderated by Matteo Magnani)

12.30-12.50:   Michael Bossetta: *Black Trolls Matter: Sockpuppetry as a Disinformation Tactic in the 2016 US Election*

12.50-13.10:   Sander Andreas Schwartz & Eva Mayerhöffer: *Antagonizing the public: how hyperpartisan media use antagonistic tactics to enhance virality and spread disinformation on Facebook*

13.10-13.30:   Tobias Bornakke: *Viral hate: How hate speech spread partisan messages*

13.30-13.50:   Rebekka Lykke Nørremark: *Using unjustified accusations to ensure attention and spreadability*

13.50-14.20:   Discussion

14.20-14.45:   Break

14.45-15.45:   Keynote talk by Ben O'Loughlin: *Strategic Narratives: Peacemaking through Visual Digital Diplomacy*

15.45-16.00:   Opening of *EU Center for Research in Social Media and Information Disorder* (REMID)

16.00-17.30:   Reception & networking

18:30-21:30:   Dinner at NO16 (Europaplads 16, 8000 Aarhus)

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Tuesday May 7

09.15-09.30:   Welcome

09.30-10.30:   Keynote talk by Jennifer Stormer-Galley: *Conspiracies as disinformation: Defining, measuring, and designing to mitigate conspiracy thinking*

10.30-10.50:   Break

Track 2: Defining and mapping the field of disinformation (Moderated by Oscar Westlund)

10.50-11.10:   Thomas Nygren, Mona Guath & Anton Axelsson *Defining and Measuring Abilities to Debunk Disinformation among Swedish Adults*

11.10-11.30:   Angelina Toursel & Philippe Useille: *Defining an operational definition of disinformation through the fact-checking: toward a new epistemocratic order?*

11.40-12.00:   Sophie Morosoli: *Same Same, But different? A Systematic Literature Review of Online Disinformation from a Multidisciplinary Perspective*

12.00-12.20:   Elaine Yuan: *The Platforms of Disinformation: The Case of Contraceptive Information on the Chinese Internet*

12.20-12.50:   Discussion

12.50-13.50:   Lunch

Track 3: Online Political News and Hostility (Moderated by Luca Rossi)

13.50-14.10:   Fabio Giglietto: *Surfacing disinformation by analyzing divergent patterns of social media interactions*

14.10-14.30:   Michael Bang Petersen: *Craving for Chaos and the Sharing of Hostile Political Rumors*

14.30-14.50:   Alexander Bor: *Why so angry? Understanding hostility in online political discussions*

14.50-15.10:   Mathias Osmundsen: *Who disseminates fake news on social media? Individual-level predictors of fake news sharing on Twitter*

15.10-15.40:   Discussion

15.40-16.00:   Break

16.00-17.00:   Workshop: *Disinformation Research Network*

Keynote Speakers

Leon Derczynski

Leon Derczynski is Assistant Professor at the ITU University of Copenhagen where he has been working on online veracity since 2013, first with the EU FP7 Pheme project, which he co-authored while at the University of Sheffield, UK. His background is in artificial intelligence, in the field of Natural Language Processing. He has researched and led implementations of multi- lingual veracity detection systems in Europe, as well as founding the recurring RumourEval evaluation exercise in automatic estimation veracity of claims.

Ben O'Loughlin

Ben O'Loughlin is Professor of International Relations and Co-Director of the New Political Communication Unit at Royal Holloway, University of London. Ben's expertise is in the field of international political communication. He is Co-Editor of the Sage journal Media, War & Conflict, and since 2007 he has carried out a series of grant funded projects on media and security.

Jennifer Stromer-Galley

Jennifer Stromer-Galley is Professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University and Director for the Center for Computational and Data Science. She has been studying "social media" since before it was called social media, studying online interaction and strategic communication in a variety of contexts, including political forums and online games. Her award-winning book, Presidential Campaigning in the Internet Age (Oxford University Press), provides a history of presidential campaigns as they have adopted and adapted to digital communication technologies.

Speakers

Michael Bossetta

Michael Bossetta is a political and data scientist at the University of Copenhagen where he specializes in new forms of political participation and campaigning through social media. His overarching research interest lies in how social media platforms affect the flow of political information and communication in 21st century democracy.

Sander Andreas Schwartz

Sander Andreas Schwartz is assistant professor of communication at the Department of Communication and Arts, University of Roskilde. Sander studies political communication and citizen engagement on social media. He is also developing digital methods as a founder of the Digital Media Lab at Roskilde University.

Eva Mayerhöffer

Eva Mayerhöffer is assistant professor of journalism at the Department of Communication and Arts, University of Roskilde, where she is also affiliated with the Center for News Research and the Digital Media Lab. She holds a PhD in political communication from Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on journalism cultures, comparative media studies, media and populism, alternative media and the role of elites in political communication.

Tobias Bornakke

Tobias Bornakke is an analyst and researcher specialised in social data science and machine learning. His particular interest lies within exploring the potentials of new digital data. Tobias holds a Ph.D. in digital methods from the University of Copenhagen and is the co-founder of the cooperative agency Analyse & Tal in which he works as a partner.

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Rebekka Lykke Nørremark

Rebekka Lykke Nørremark is a PhD student at the Department of Comparative Literature and Rhetoric, School of Communication and Culture and the PhD Programme for Art, Literature and Cultural Studies. With a background in rhetorical studies, her research focuses on the forms and functions of informal accusatory rhetoric on online social media platforms and the way these differ from "offline accusations". One of her interests involves tracking and mapping accusations as they are raised, spread and evolved across media platforms.

Fabio Giglietto

Fabio Giglietto, PhD, is Associate Professor at the Department of Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies at the University of Urbino Carlo Bo. His main research interests are theory of information, communication, and society with a specific focus on the relationship between social systems and new technologies. On these topics, he has published extensively in journals such as the Journal of Communication, Information, Communication and Society, the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, Social Media + Society, and the International Journal of Communication.

Michael Bang Petersen

Michael Bang Petersen is a Professor of political science at Aarhus University. His research focuses on the psychological underpinnings of political attitudes and behavior and, to this end, he draws on interdisciplinary theories from psychology, biology and anthropology. From this perspective, Michael Bang Petersen has investigated, among other topics, the psychology of partisanship, political violence, immigration attitudes and, more recently, online political hostility. He has published numerous publications in the best journals within political science and psychology and has received several awards including the Erik Eriksson award for early career achievements within the field of political psychology.

Alexander Bor

Alexander Bor is a Post Doc at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark. Broadly, his work focuses on how the evolved human mind navigates the political and social world. His PhD dissertation investigated the role of intentions and competence in political leader evaluations, relying on quantitative and experimental methods. Currently, he is working on a project investigating the causes and consequences of hostility in online political discussions.

Mathias Osmundsen

Mathias Osmundsen is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University. His research draws on insights from political psychology to examine how political communication affects citizens' policy opinions. He has published articles in both political science and psychology journals. He has recently become member of Research on Online Political Hostility (ROPH), a major interdisciplinary research project focusing on why and how online political hostility spread on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook.

Thomas Nygren

Thomas Nygren is Associate Professor at the Department of Education, Uppsala University. His research interests focus on history education, the digital impact on education, critical thinking and human rights education. His previous research, conducted also at Umeå University and Stanford University, has been published in books and journals of history, education, media literacy, and digital humanities. Currently he is involved in projects concerning critical thinking in subject education and digital civic literacy against propaganda and fake news, funded by Vinnova and EU.

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Mona Guath

Mona Guath, PhD, is a researcher in cognitive psychology with focus on cognitive models and complex decision making in online environments. Her dissertation focused on how feedback and goal presentation can facilitate the cognitive processing of electricity consumption presented by a digital display. Presently, she is working in two projects: one that investigates how to induce people to choose more sustainable products when shopping online; the other investigates the cognitive constructs underlying the ability to assess credibility of online information.

Anton Axelsson

Anton Axelsson, PhD, is a researcher in Human-Computer Interaction with a research span from educational technology for young children to IT support systems in professional work domains. He has a B.Sc. in Information Architecture from Malmö School of Technology, an M.A. in Cognitive Science from Lund University, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science with a specialization in Human-Computer Interaction from Uppsala University. His research focus is on human reasoning in complex IT environments, studying how systems can be designed to support decision-making, problem solving, and learning.

Angelina Toursel

Angelina Toursel is a Teaching and Research Assistant in information and communication sciences and PhD student at the DeVisu Laboratory (Visual and Urban Design, EA 2445) at the Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France. Graduate in Philosophy, she has taught philosophy. Her research deals with info-communication phenomena, devices and digital media in topics such as the study of disinformation and fact checking practices, epistemology of information, philosophy of the media, media cultures, forms and writings of media information, innovation & journalism.

Sophie Morosoli

Sophie Morosoli is a PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science at the University of Antwerp. Her research interests are political communication, comparative research, election campaigns and online disinformation. She is part of the joint research project with the University of Zurich: From Uniformed to Disinformed Citizens? – Comparing Western Information Environments.

Elaine Yuan

Elaine Yuan (Ph.D., Northwestern University) is an Associate Professor in Communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Yuan's research focuses on how new and emerging forms of communication mediate various social institutions and relations. She has researched extensively on the subjects of network and mobile communication, social media, activism, and social change. Her more recent works examine issues of privacy, community, nationalism, activism, and online market as mediated social practices in China. Her critical cultural perspectives are empirically rooted in diverse and innovative research methods such as network analysis and big data approaches.

Program committee

Anja Bechmann

Anja Bechmann is Professor at the Department of Media and Journalism Studies at Aarhus University in Denmark where she serves as chair of the research program in Media, Communication and Society and as Director of DATALAB – Center for Digital Social Research. She conducts multidisciplinary research at the intersection between algorithms and media sociology entangling how meaning is created and subsequent action is pushed forward from large-scale digital human communication and behavioral data, and the challenge in doing so both theoretically, methodologically, regulatory and ethically.

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Matteo Magnani

Matteo Magnani is Associate Professor at Uppsala University, with previous jobs at the University of Bologna, the National Research Council in Italy and Aarhus University in Denmark, and he is the director of Uppsala Information Laboratory. Since 2011 Matteo Magnani has developed the area of multilayer network science, a sub-field of data science, and his results are described in his book "Multilayer Social Networks", Cambridge University Press (2016), in several peer-reviewed publications, and implemented in the multinet R and C++ library.

Luca Rossi

Luca Rossi is Associate Professor at IT University of Copenhagen. He has more than 10 years of experience in the field of computational methods for the social sciences. He is co-principal investigator of the FIRB project Information monitoring, propagation analysis and community detection in Social Network Sites funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (2011-2016); in the steering board of the DECIDIS strategic initiative at ITU; and in the ITU team for the EU H2020 project VIRT-EU Values and ethics in Innovation for Responsible Technology in Europe. He authored more than 40 publications in the area of social media studies and social networks.

Oscar Westlund

Oscar Westlund is Professor at the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Oslo Metropolitan University, where he leads the OsloMet Digital Journalism Research Group. He holds secondary appointments at Volda University College and University of Gothenburg. Westlund specializes in journalism, media management and news media consumption for proprietary news media platforms such as news sites and mobile applications, as well as with regards to social media platforms non-proprietary to the news media. Westlund is the Editor-in-Chief of Digital Journalism, and has also guest edited special issues for a handful other leading international journals. He currently leads a research project called the epistemologies if digital news production, funded by the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences.