

Proyecto PID2021-123983OB-I00 financiado por:



CALL FOR PAPERS I INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND HATE SPEECH ONLINE: COMPARISON OF PATTERNS IN NARRATIVES AND SOCIAL MEDIA ABOUT COVID-19, IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE”/ II International Workshop on Methodological Advances and Applications in Science

University of Huelva, July 12-14, 2023

Campus El Carmen. Aulario José Isidoro Morales and online (Zoom)

Presentation and objectives

The *I International Workshop on Conspiracy theories and hate speech online: Comparison of patterns in narratives and social media about Covid-19, immigrants, refugees and LGBTIQ+ people/ II International Workshop on Methodological Advances and Applications in Science* will take place at the University of Huelva between July 12-14, 2023.

This Workshop is organised in the context of the research project “Conspiracy theories and online hate speech: Comparison of patterns in narratives and social networks about COVID-19, immigrants, refugees and LGBTIQ+ people [NON-CONSPIRA- HATE!]” (Ref. PID2021-123983OB-I00). The project has been funded by the Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, la Agencia Estatal de Investigación (DOI: 10.13039/501100011033) and by ERDF “A way of making Europe” in the framework of the 2021 State Subprogram for Knowledge Generation Projects.

The Workshop is organised around the main thematic axes of conspiracy theories and online hate speech, without forgetting other aspects that connect with them, such as misinformation or fake news, as well as other topics, such as collecting and analysing strategies for automatic detection and analysis of narratives and social networks. Specifically, the Workshop aims to examine and compare the research advances in these axes in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the experience of immigrants, refugees and LGBTIQ+ people, considering gender transversally.

With the spirit of integrating and connecting advances that occur in different scientific fields, and with a particular interest in fields such as the Computational Sciences, we call the proposal of communications that can contribute methodological advances that are of interest to the Social, Computational, Human and Health Sciences. In this sense, this first Workshop of the research project mentioned above is configured as an advance and a deepening of the *I International Workshop on Methodological Advances and Applications in Social Sciences: Quantitative, Qualitative and Computational New Strategies* (July 7-8, 2022).

The Workshop has been organised by the project research team composed of the *Center for Research in Contemporary Thought and Innovation for Social Development* (COIDESO), the research group *Social Studies and Social Intervention* (ESEIS), the research group *Information and Knowledge Engineering* (I2C), the *Technology, Energy and Sustainability Research Center* (CITES) and the *Applied Computational Social Sciences Lab* (CISCOA-Lab), all of them belonging to the University of Huelva. Other European entities involved in the organisation are the *Andalusian Sociological Association* (Spain), the international group *Narratives & Social Changes – International Research Group* (University of Salerno, Italy), the *Research Center for Tourism, Sustainability and Well-*



being (CinTurs, University of the Algarve, Portugal), the *Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciências Sociais* da Universidade de Évora (CICS.NOVA.UÉvora, Portugal) and the *International Lab for Innovative Social Research* (University of Salerno, Italy). In Latin America, the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (INHUS), a unit dependent on the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the National University of Mar del Plata (UNMdP) in Argentina, and the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Education from the Technical University of Cotopaxi in Ecuador (UTC).

CALL FOR PAPERS

1. NARRATIVES, DISCOURSES AND SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND HEALTH IMAGINARIES ABOUT COVID-19 ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

After the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, social networks, as areas of public opinion dispute, channel the circulation of information flows and narratives built by different social and political groups. A diversity of investigations has identified campaigns on social networks that promote the dissemination of hate speech and conspiracy theories that tend to destabilise democracies. In this context, this panel proposes to discuss problems related to anti-democratic political movements that used the pandemic context to disseminate narratives and actions in the digital public space.

The topics that will be discussed at the panel will be:

- Narratives, discourses, and imaginaries around anti-vaccine movements and disinformation campaigns about the pandemic.
- Hate speech and stigmatisation of social groups reproduced on social networks in different parts of the world.
- Conspiracy theories and misinformation about the pandemic spread through the internet.
- Sources, actors and means of the spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cyberactivism and online actions to counter conspiracy theories and misinformation about the pandemic.
- Hybrid, computational, and ethnographic methods in constructing a multiscale view of the digital phenomenon in the global and local scene.
- Methodological and technical approaches for studying discourses, narratives and theories of conspiracy and disinformation in social networks, as well as the dynamics that occur online and offline.

2. CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND ONLINE HATE SPEECH ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND/OR REFUGEES

With the development of the internet and participation in social networks, it is common to find a diversity of hate narratives online, as well as the spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation related to immigrants and refugees. In addition, polarised messages with a strong emotional component frequently appear on the networks, with the spread of stereotypes, prejudices and false or distorted information that contribute to the construction of negative narratives and imaginaries about immigrants and refugees.



The topics that will be discussed at the panel will be:

- Online hate speech directed towards immigrants and/or refugees.
- Conspiracy theories about immigrants and/or refugees disseminated through the internet.
- Sources, actors and means of propagating hate and conspiracy theories online towards immigrants and/or refugees.
- Cyberactivism and online actions to counteract and neutralise hate speech and conspiracy theories towards immigrants and refugees
- Methodological and technical approaches for studying discourses, narratives and conspiracy theories in social networks, as well as the dynamics that occur online and offline.

3. CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND ONLINE HATE SPEECH ABOUT LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

In recent years, in line with the pandemic, which sometimes associates the spread of COVID-19 with LGBTIQ+ people or, in connection with intense debates regarding the proposal for the so-called “transgender law”, it has not been uncommon for Social networks have spread a variety of hate speech and anti-LGBTIQ+ conspiracy theories, such as those related to grooming or abuse. These negative messages, sometimes subtle, propagate stereotypes, prejudices, and false or distorted information that contribute to the construction and deepening of the processes of stigmatisation of LGBTIQ+ people or even of social and political leaders or institutions that support or defend them.

The topics that will be discussed at the panel will be:

- Quantitative or qualitative case studies, as well as those related to social networks, related to online hate speech, conspiracy theories, grooming, and detection of misinformation or false news aimed at LGBTIQ+ people.
- Sources, actors and means of propagating hate speech and conspiracy theories related to LGBTIQ+ people.
- Cyberactivism and online actions to counteract and neutralise hate speech and conspiracy theories towards LGBTIQ+ people.
- Methodological and technical approaches for the study of discourses, narratives, conspiracy theories, and disinformation in social networks directed towards LGBTIQ+ people, as well as the dynamics that occur online and offline.

4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING TO DETECT OFFENSIVE OR POSITIVE MESSAGES ON SOCIAL NETWORKING PLATFORMS

Techniques and tools capable of analysing human language are evolving and reaching significant levels of efficiency and effectiveness. There are many fields in which Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques are already being applied to solve different tasks. The objective of this panel is to present and share research and developments related to the automatic detection of messages disseminated on social networks that denote attitudes (positive or negative) towards minorities and vulnerable groups.

The topics that will be discussed at the panel will be:

- Natural language processing in social networks applied to different scientific fields.
- Unsupervised learning methods applied to different scientific fields.



- Early detection of risks.
- Detection of misinformation: fake news, conspiracy theory, etc.
- Identification of offensive messages towards minorities and vulnerable groups.
- Sentiment analysis and opinion mining.
- Linguistic and semantic resources.
- Automatic generation of summaries.
- Deep neural networks.
- Transformers.
- Corpus annotation.
- Datasets (characteristics, construction methods, challenges).

5. COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES: RESEARCH WITH THE SUPPORT OF PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

At this panel, we are interested in communications that present works focused on Computer Science, highlighting the methodological and technical aspects of the research. Things like: What languages/programs/packages were used? Why were these used and not others? At what point in the research process were they used (data download, analysis, etc.)? Who implemented it: social scientists or others? Use of algorithms. Has the code been published somewhere for other researchers to know? What advantages and disadvantages were obtained when developing social research with code support? What challenges did the team have to overcome? How did it affect the results of the research? Main innovations. Future challenges.

The topics that will be discussed at the panel will be:

- Computational Social Sciences and Digital Humanities: Computational Sociology, Computational Social Work, Computational History, Communication, and others developments.
- Applications of Computational Social Sciences and Digital Humanities for detecting and analysing online hate speech and conspiracy theories.
- Data sources in the virtual world for studying hate speech and conspiracy theories online.
- Other methodological and technical strategies in the computational field: experiments, simulations, etc.

KEY DATES

May 4-5, 2023	Publication and dissemination of the Call for Papers
June 4, 2023	Deadline to receive communications proposals
June 12, 2023	Communication and publication of accepted papers.
July 12-14, 2023	Workshop. Note: Together with the acceptance of the communications, the day and time for the presentation will be communicated.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The Workshop will be held in Spanish, English, Italian and Portuguese.



MODALITY

The Workshop will take place **online, via Zoom**, under the technical coordination of the University of Huelva. The Local Organizing Committee, most of the International Scientific Committee, and others will attend the Workshop in person at Campus El Carmen in the José Isidoro Morales Lecture Room.

REGISTRATION AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS PROPOSAL

Registration is free. Registration to attend the Workshop can be done by completing the following form. The same form will be used to propose a communication, in which case the title, author/s, abstract (up to 300 words), panel to which the communication is proposed and the preferred language or languages for the presentation of the communication (Spanish, English, Italian and/or Portuguese) must be provided.

- **FORM:** <https://forms.gle/Av56GzELmQhPtTKn6>

CERTIFICATION

The attendance and the presentation of communications at the Workshop will be certified.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dr. Estrella Gualda. Full Professor of Sociology, University of Huelva, Spain (Coordinator).

Arias Medina, Blanca Lilia. Master in Communication, Technical University of Cotopaxi, Ecuador.

De la Villa Cordero, Manuel. Lecturer. Area of Computer Languages and Systems, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. da Silva, Carlos Alberto. Full Professor of Sociology at the School of Health and Human Development, Department of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Évora, Portugal.

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Dr. Ferreyra, Silvana. Researcher at INHUS-CONICET. National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Dr. Fernández Prados, Juan Sebastián. Full Professor of Sociology University of Almería, Spain.

Dr. García Navarro, Esperanza Begoña. Associate Professor. Area of Nursing, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. Hinojosa Becerra, Monica. PhD Assistant Professor in Audiovisual Communication, University of Malaga, Spain.



Mangone, Emiliana. Associate Professor of Sociology of Culture and Communication, Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy.

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Dr Masullo, Giuseppe. Associate Professor of Sociology. University of Salerno, Italy.

Dr. Mata Vázquez, Jacinto. Professor of Engineering. Area of Computer Languages and Systems, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. Morales Marente, Elena. Professor of Social Psychology, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. Nieto, Agustín. INHUS-CONICET Researcher. Professor of History at the National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Dr. Pachón Álvarez, Victoria. Associate Professor. Area of Computer Languages and Systems, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. Palacios Gálvez, Marisol. Professor of Social Psychology, University of Huelva, Spain.

Dr. Rebollo Diaz, Carolina. Postdoctoral researcher Margarita Salas, Sociology and Social Work, University of Huelva.

Dr. Saragoça, José. Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology of the School of Social Sciences of the University of Évora.

Dr. Ventura Martins, Paula Cristina. Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Universidade do Algarve, Portugal.

Dr. Zacarías, Marielba Silva de. Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Universidade do Algarve, Portugal.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA)

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Dr. Rebollo Diaz, Carolina. Postdoctoral researcher Margarita Salas, Sociology and Social Work, University of Huelva.

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Santos Fernandez, Francisco Javier. Predoctoral Researcher. PhD student in the Social Sciences and Education Programme, Sociology and Social Work, University of Huelva.

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MORE INFORMATION

Contact the event organisers by email at the Project accounts: nonconspirahate@uhu.es or nonconspirahate.project@gmail.com.