Stefano Cresci, PhD

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Short Bio

Stefano received his PhD in Information Engineering from the University of Pisa in 2018. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Engineering from the University of Pisa respectively in 2007 and 2013. He also received a post-graduate Master's degree in Big Data Analytics & Social Mining from the University of Pisa in 2016. Currently, he is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the National Research Council (IIT-CNR) in Pisa, Italy. His professional experiences encompass national and international collaborations with renowned institutions such as the MIT Senseable City Lab, University of Southern California, and Indiana University at Bloomington (USA); University of Sheffield (UK); SUPSI (Switzerland); and more.

Stefano has an h-index of 45, has received over 8,600 citations, and has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles (source: Google Scholar). He published papers, attended, and presented his work at major international conferences (e.g., ACM WWW, AAAI ICWSM, ACM CSCW, IJCAI, ACM KDD). He also published in both high-impact generalist journals (e.g., PNAS) as well as in top technical computer science and engineering journals (e.g., IEEE TDSC, ACM TOIS, ACM TWEB). Results of his research have also been discussed in local and national newspapers, tv and radio shows, as well as in international scientific magazines and blogs. Stefano currently is, and has been, part of the organization and technical program committee of many top international conferences (e.g., AAAI ICWSM, ACM WWW, ACM SIGIR, ACM KDD, AAAI). He also serves as a reviewer and editor for multiple international journals (e.g., Nature, Science, Nature Communications, Scientific Reports, IEEE TKDE, IEEE TMC, IEEE TIFS, ACM TWEB, PLoS One). In 2023 he was awarded a prestigious ERC Starting Grant for his project DEDUCE on the moderation of major online platforms. He is also PI of a PRIN 2022 Italian National project. Previously, he won the IEEE Computer Society Italy Section Chapter 2018 PhD Thesis Award and the IEEE Next-Generation Data Scientist Award. In 2020, he was selected and invited to participate to the 8th Heidelberg Laureate Forum and he won the ERCIM Cor Baayen Young Researcher Award.

His interests broadly fall at the intersection of Web Science and Data Science, and encompass the following topics:

- content moderation;
- human-centered AI;
- coordinated online behavior;
- online social networks security;
- Web, data, and network science.

Throughout this curriculum vitæ, the following color conventions are applied:

Portions of text colored in cyan and showing the hyperlink icon, represent clickable links.

Portions of text colored in red and showing the trophy icon, represent notable accolades and accomplishments.

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Projects

DEDUCE

01/04/2024 - 31/03/2029

Full name: Data-driven and User-centered Content Moderation
Type: European project (ERC Grant)
Total funding: 1,494,775 €
Unit funding: 1,494,775 €
Role: Principal Investigator

DEDUCE aims to revolutionize content moderation on online platforms by addressing current challenges through a science-driven and user-centered approach. The main goal is to move beyond the current intuitive and generic practices, transforming moderation from an art to a science. This change is motivated by the awareness of user diversity and the need for more effective and targeted moderation interventions. To achieve this goal, DEDUCE takes a data-driven approach, making use of and developing state-of-the-art data science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence techniques. Through the analysis of publicly available data and the training of predictive models, the project develops tools that can assess the effects of future moderation interventions in advance, thus supporting moderators in planning and implementing interventions. A special focus is placed on the automatic generation of personalized moderation interventions using innovative generative AI technologies. The project involves a large-scale scientific experimentation with various types of participants in order to collect additional data and validate project results. This experimentation will make it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed interventions and will open up new avenues of research, such as the design of personalized interventions based on user characteristics. DEDUCE aims not only to advance scientific knowledge in the field of online content moderation, but also to provide important practical and social benefits through the adoption of a rigorous data-driven approach.

CARISMA

17/05/2023 - 31/12/2026

Full name: Call for Regulation Support In Social Media
Type: National Project
Total funding: 2,342,135 €
Unit funding: 0 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

To date, attempts, measures, and other actions taken by the social media companies, government, and civil society in an attempt to mitigate or prevent the harms of social media actors responsible for abusive and illicit behaviors have not been effective. The CARISMA project aims at reverting this trend by establishing a clear, traceable, and replicable methodology that combines computational social science tools and media policy and governance instruments. The project will generate policy recommendations and quantitative evidence to classify regulatory policies and assess their expected impact within the information ecosystem. This will form the basis, for platforms and regulators of any country, to craft policy interventions and react in a timely fashion to social media misuse through effective and transparent regulation.

PIANO

28/09/2023 - 28/02/2026

Full name: Personalized Interventions Against Online Toxicity
Type: National project
Total funding: 228,076 €
Unit funding: 107,528 €
Role: Principal Investigator

PIANO aims to address the problem of toxic and hateful speech in online environments. The spread of such toxic behavior hinders healthy conversations, promotes radicalization, and can even lead to offline harm. Current moderation interventions have not been effective in reducing toxicity, as they use a "one-size-fits-all" approach. PIANO proposes a novel approach by designing personalized moderation interventions based on user personality traits. The project employs a cross-disciplinary approach, combining psychology, machine learning, and artificial intelligence techniques. The system employs methods to infer user personality traits from their online activity and uses this information to craft tailored text-based interventions. The project will be validated through psychological surveys and experimental campaigns on platforms such as Reddit, Twitter, and Il Sole 24 Ore. PIANO also aims to address ethical, privacy, and legal concerns associated with online moderation. By adopting a user-centered approach and leveraging psychology and data analytics, PIANO seeks to advance the theory and practice of online moderation.

DETERRENCE

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2025

Full name: Decision Support System for Cyber Intelligence
Type: National project
Total funding: 349,938 €
Unit funding: 176,688 €
Role: Work Package Leader (WP1)

Social media play a crucial role in information disorder. In this context, colluding users carry out coordinated activities (also using automation) to spread malicious content for manipulating others. The consequences of such manipulations are polarization, radicalization, and misinformation, which contribute to a climate of distrust and negatively affect public opinions, other than undermining online participation. The project studies social media information disorder to design and implement digital supporting tools to tackle and mitigate its impact, both for individuals and for society at large.

SoBigData RI PPP

01/10/2022 - 30/09/2025

Full name: SoBigData RI Preparatory Phase Project
Type: European project (Horizon Europe)
Total funding: 3,222,266 €
Unit funding: 68,750 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

SoBigData RI, with its tools and services, empowers researchers and innovators through a platform for the design and execution of large-scale data science and social mining experiments, open to users with diverse backgrounds, accessible on cloud (aligned with EOSC guidelines), and also exploiting supercomputing facilities. SoBigData RI will render social mining experiments more efficiently designed, adjusted, and repeatable by non-data scientists' domain experts by pushing the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable) and

FACT (Fair, Accountable, Confidential and Transparent) principles. SoBigData RI will orient resources from multiple perspectives: e-infrastructures and online services developers; big data analytics and AI; complex systems focussed on modeling social phenomena; ELSEC (Ethical, Legal, SocioEconomic and Cultural) aspects of data protection (as defined by the HLEG-AI); privacy-preserving techniques. SoBigData RI PPP will move our RI forward from the simple awareness of ethical and legal challenges in social mining to the development of concrete tools that operationalize ethics with value-sensitive design, incorporating values and norms for privacy protection, fairness, transparency, and pluralism.

SoBigData.it

03/11/2022 - 30/04/2025

Full name: Strengthening the Italian RI for Social Mining and Big Data Analytics
Type: National project
Total funding: 10,106,700 €
Unit funding: 1,287,900 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

The SoBigData.it research project, funded with the Italian PNRR funds, is aimed at strengthening the Italian node of the European research infrastructure on social mining and big data analytics and brings together the expertise of the country's leading computing and social research centers. The infrastructure has the ambition to support the growing demand for interdisciplinary research and innovation on multiple social aspects from combined data and model perspectives. Research results are produced within Virtual Laboratories (VLs), the infrastructure's virtual research environments where researchers collaborate and provide datasets, methodologies and experiments related to a given topic.

SoBigData++

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2024

Full name: European Integrated Infrastructure for Social Mining and Big Data Analytics
Type: European project (Horizon2020 Research Infrastructure)
Total funding: 9,997,170 €
Unit funding: 275,000 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

SoBigData++ strives to deliver a distributed, Pan-European, multi-disciplinary research infrastructure for big social data analytics, coupled with the consolidation of a cross-disciplinary European research community, aimed at using social mining and big data to understand the complexity of our contemporary, globally-interconnected society.

SCARLET

18/05/2022 - 17/05/2024

Full name: Servizi Professionali per lo Sviluppo di Soluzioni in Ambito Social Media Analysis
Type: National project
Total funding: 280,000 €
Unit funding: 280,000 €
Role: Work Package Leader (WP3)

The objective of the requested study is to provide consulting on social media analysis aimed at the development of software modules capable of providing high value-added solutions that can be easily integrated

into existing client-side platforms.

E-CORRIDOR

01/06/2020 - 31/05/2023

Full name: Edge enabled Privacy and Security Platform for Multi Modal Transport
Type: European project (Horizon2020)
Total funding: 4,999,858 €
Unit funding: 651,250 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

E-CORRIDOR aims at providing a flexible, secure and privacy aware framework allowing confidential, distributed and edge enabled security services, as threat analysis and prevention as well as privacy aware seamless access mechanism in multi-modal transport systems. The project's mission is to define a framework for multi-modal transport systems, which provides secure advanced services for passengers and transport operators. The framework includes collaborative privacy-aware edge-enabled information sharing, analysis and protection as a service. The project plans to show the applicability of this framework in at least two domains: (i) collaborative and confidential cyber threat management and (ii) seamless access mechanism in multimodal transport systems.

EPIMONITORING 2.0

24/06/2019 - 31/12/2019

Full name: EPIMONITORING 2.0
Type: National project
Total funding: 50,000 €
Unit funding: 50,000 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

The goal of the EPIMONITORING 2.0 project is to design and develop the first Web-based digital platform for collecting, storing and retrieving data about drugs addiction in Italy. The platform will be used by analysts from the Italian Department of Antidrugs Policies and by researchers of the Institute of Clinical Physiology (IFC-CNR).

SoBigData

01/09/2015 - 31/12/2019

Full name: Social Mining & Big Data Ecosystem
Type: European project (Horizon2020 Research Infrastructure)
Total funding: 5,917,500 €
Unit funding: 144,000 €
Role: CNR Unit Leader, Work Package Leader (WP8), Task Leader (T8.2)

Stefano is currently holding a research position within the SoBigData research infrastructure Horizon2020 EU project. SoBigData proposes to create the Social Mining & Big Data Ecosystem: a research infrastructure (RI) providing an integrated ecosystem for ethic-sensitive scientific discoveries and advanced applications of data science and social data mining on the various dimensions of social life, as recorded by big data. Stefano is a Task Leader of the project for the task T8.2 "Crowdsensing platform" of the work package WP8 "Big data ecosystem", and he is also the internal reference of the WAFI Laboratory for the project. Within SoBigData, Stefano coordinates the activities related to the design and development of the crowdsensing platform of the project. He is also involved in research activities around the topics of monitoring social discussions,

characterizing and detecting deception in online social networks, and text analysis of microblogs. Members of SoBigData are actively involved in the organization of scientific events to promote big data and data science applications for solving socially relevant problems. As part of these initiatives, Stefano is a chair and the contact person for the Data Science in Societal Debates (DSSD) special session of the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA).

DDNA

27/03/2018 - 26/03/2019

Full name: Digital DNA Toolbox
Type: European project (SAGE Ocean Concept Grant)
Total funding: 35,000 $
Unit funding: 35,000 $
Role: Principal Investigator

The Digital DNA Toolbox (DDNA) provides researchers and practitioners from many disciplines with a set of cutting-edge tools and techniques for assessing the veracity, trustworthiness, and reliability of content (and content producers) in online social networks. Techniques made available via the DDNA Toolbox combine sophisticated behavioral models with powerful off-the-shelf DNA analysis techniques to study and classify online user behaviors.

The DDNA Toolbox will be made available as a Python and R library. At the core of the DDNA Toolbox lies a bio-inspired behavioral modeling technique where the behavioral lifetime of a digital account is encoded in a sequence of characters that represents its "digital DNA". The core techniques that will constitute the DDNA Toolbox have already been successfully employed for the detection of fake and bot accounts in online social networks, for the detection of fake content, and for the analysis of discussion forums. As such, the DDNA Toolbox could prove useful to researchers and practitioners in computer science, security, social and political sciences, journalism.

Smart News

14/03/2016 - 14/09/2018

Full name: Social Sensing for breaking news
Type: Regional project
Total funding: 260,000 €
Unit funding: 260,000 €
Role: Principal Investigator, Work Package Leader (WP3), Task Leader (T3.1)

Stefano recently held a WP Leader position within the Smart News (Social Sensing for breaking news) FAR-FAS regional project. The aim of the SmartNews project is to exploit the paradigm of social sensing, in which social media users act as human sensors of real-life events, for the detection of breaking news. To achieve the goal, participatory and opportunistic crowdsensing techniques are used for data acquisition. In addition, event detection and eyewitness detection algorithms are designed and employed in order to provide journalists with a tool that helps them create news articles in quasi real-time. Focus is also posed on the detection of rumors and fake news. Stefano is a Work Package Leader of SmartNews for the WP3 "Social media analysis and Mining" and he is also the internal reference of the WAFI Laboratory for the project. He coordinates all activities of WP3, which are related to data acquisition from social media and online social networks, and to the analysis of such data. Analyses are carried out by means of data science and machine learning techniques with the multifold goals of: (i) detecting events and breaking news, (ii) detecting rumors and fake news (and discarding them), (iii) detecting witnesses of events, (iv) summarizing text and multimedia data to support newsroom journalists.

CRAIM

19/11/2015 - 04/08/2018

Full name: Centro di Ricerca per l'Analisi delle Informazioni Multimediali
Type: National project (Italian State Police)
Total funding: 841,200 €
Unit funding: 841,200 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

Stefano is involved in the CRAIM national project (Centro di Ricerca per l'Analisi delle Informazioni Multimediali), funded by the Italian State Police. CRAIM aims at employing data mining, data science, and machine learning techniques within the context of open source intelligence (OSINT), with the goal of providing advanced tools and analyses to police officers, detectives, and analysts. Results of the analyses carried out within the CRAIM project are used by the Italian State Police for intelligence purposes and for enforcing public safety. Stefano's role within CRAIM is that of performing social network analyses on suspicious users. Moreover, Stefano is involved in the design of hate speech detection algorithms, and in the design of techniques for reducing polarization and prevent extremization in online communities.

CASSANDRA

02/02/2015 - 02/02/2017

Full name: Computer Assisted Solutions for Studying the Availability aNd DistRibution of novel psychoActive substances
Type: European project (DG Justice)
Total funding: 510,683 €
Unit funding: 227,394 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

Stefano held a research position in the CASSANDRA (Computer Assisted Solutions for Studying the Availability aNd DistRibution of novel psychoActive substances) EU project. CASSANDRA seeks to create a multidisciplinary, cost-effective approach to investigating the supply chain and diffusion of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), by incorporating cutting-edge technologies and new social trend indicators into the monitoring of NPS. The project aims at using infodemiology, open-source intelligence, and data science methods to map the Internet in order to describe the supply chain and diffusion of widely used NPS. Within CASSANDRA, Stefano contributed to data acquisition from online discussion forums and social media. He performed analyses on collected data by employing time series analysis techniques with the goal of detecting discussion anomalies related to the diffusion of new NPS.

SoS

01/01/2014 - 31/12/2016

Full name: Social Sensing
Type: National project (Italian ccTLD R&D project)
Total funding: 101,000 €
Unit funding: 101,000 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

SoS is a special R&D project funded by the Italian ccTLD ".it" domain registration authority. It aims at exploiting opportunistic crowdsensing, data science, and data mining in the social media scenario to enhance situational awareness and emergency management procedures. Stefano carried out research activities related to the detection of emergency events (via anomaly detection techniques), the assessment of damage

(via natural language processing and statistical predictive models), crisis mapping (via machine learning and data visualization), and more. He extensively published about these topics in top journal and conferences of the field. The Italian Department of Civil Protection and the Italian Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) are among the end-users of the algorithms and tools developed within SoS. Results of the SoS project have also been endorsed by the United Nations (http://unglobalpulse.org/node/14799 🔗) and by Springer (http://blogs.springeropen.com/springeropen/2016/03/03/harnessing-hashtag-using-social-media-detect-crises 🔗).

MIB

01/06/2014 - 30/09/2016

Full name: My Information Bubble
Type: National project (Italian ccTLD R&D project)
Total funding: 129,000 €
Unit funding: 129,000 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

Stefano has been involved in the MIB "My Information Bubble" project. MIB is a special R&D project funded by the Italian ccTLD ".it" domain registration authority, whose aim is to design and implement new web search algorithms, for a controlled, dynamic, and reliable information management. The new algorithms developed within MIB moved beyond the existing ones that operate by filtering contents according to criteria that are hidden to the users, leading to the well-known phenomenon of the "filter bubbles". In addition, research activities within MIB focused on the study and detection of deceptive accounts in online social networks, and on the detection of fake reviews. Among these activities, Stefano was and is still particularly involved in those related to the study and detection of deceptive accounts, with many papers published in this field.

ASIA

01/07/2013 - 30/06/2014

Full name: Analisi Semantica delle Informazioni per l'Anti-evasione
Type: Regional project
Total funding: 80,000 €
Unit funding: 80,000 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

Stefano held a research position within the ASIA project. The goal of the project is to extract targeted information from the Web about local firms, to build ad-hoc semantic resources, and to analyze collected data in order to detect possible firms responsible of tax evasion. Within ASIA, Stefano contributed to the design and development of a prototype of application deployed for analysts of the public administration. Analysts used the application to cross-check data extracted from the Web with public administration about the firms under investigation.

OpeNER

21/01/2013 - 30/06/2014

Full name: Open Polarity Enhanced Name Entity Recognition
Type: European project (FP7)
Total funding: 2,425,530 €
Unit funding: 294,308 €
Role: Researcher (Participant)

Since his employment at IIT-CNR, Stefano took part in the OpeNER (Open Polarity Enhanced Name Entity Recognition) EU project, belonging to the 7th Framework Programme. OpeNER's main goal was to provide a set of ready-to-use tools to perform natural language processing tasks in the Web environment. Stefano's role was that of performing data acquisition from a set of location-based online social networks (e.g., Foursquare) and to contribute to the development of a natural language processing pipeline for the analysis of Web content. Stefano is among the developers of the OpeNER linguistic pipeline (https://github.com/orgs/opener-project 🔗) and the TourPedia Web application (http://tour-pedia.org/about/credits.html 🔗). Within the OpeNER project, Stefano also published papers related to the exploitation of geographic information contained in location-based online social networks for touristic purposes.

Publications

Google Scholar: Jsd83JgAAAAJ
Sc Scopus: 56178304900
ORCID: 0000-0003-0170-2445
Web of Science: 1869094/stefano-cresci
ACM Digital Library: 99658631478
IEEE *xplore*: 37085638879
dblp: https://dblp.uni-trier.de/pers/hd/c/Cresci:Stefano
R⁶ ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stefano_Cresci
arXiv: https://arxiv.org/a/cresci_s_1.html

Online academic IDs and profiles.

	h-index	citations	documents
Google Scholar	45	8,602	126
Scopus	34	4,470	91
Web of Science	26	2,890	68

Current bibliometrics.

Citation counts are included for publications with 100 citations or more (according to Google Scholar).

Submitted

viii E. Ricco, E. Onofri, L. Cima, **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro. "PRISM: Phase-enhanced radial-based image signature mapping framework for fingerprinting AI-generated images". *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing*. IEEE.

vii B. Tessa, A. Moreo, **S. Cresci**, T. Fagni, F. Sebastiani. "Quantifying feature importance for online content moderation". *EPJ Data Science*. Springer Nature.

vi A. Cerulli, L. Cima, B. Tessa, S. Tardelli, **S. Cresci**. "The Big Ban Theory: A pre- and post-intervention dataset of online content moderation actions". *The 20th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'26)*. AAAI.

v E. Ricco, E. Onofri, L. Cima, **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro. "A geometric analysis of small-sized language model hallucinations". *The 43rd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML'26)*.

iv B. Tessa, G.K. Shahi, A. Trujillo, **S. Cresci**. "When transparency falls short: Auditing platform moderation during a high-stakes election". *EPJ Data Science*. Springer Nature.

iii L. Cima, A. Miaschi, A. Trujillo, M. Avvenuti, F. Dell'Orletta, **S. Cresci**. "Contextualized counterspeech can be more persuasive than generic counterspeech". *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology*. ACM.

ii A. Cerulli, B. Tessa, G. La Selva, O. Mazzeo, L. Cima, L. Monacis, **S. Cresci**. "Dark personality traits and online toxicity: Linking self-reports to Reddit activity". *Computers in Human Behavior*. Elsevier.

i L. Mannocci, M. Mazza, A. Monreale, M. Tesconi, **S. Cresci**. "Detection and characterization of coordinated online behavior: A survey". *ACM Computing Surveys*. ACM.

Journals

[J42] **S. Cresci**, K. Yang, A. Spognardi, R. Di Pietro, F. Menczer, M. Petrocchi. "Demystifying misconceptions in social bots research". *Social Science Computer Review:1-21*, 2025. SAGE. doi10.1177/08944393251376707 🔗. *(in press)*

[J41] B. Tessa, L. Cima, A. Trujillo, M. Avvenuti, **S. Cresci**. "Beyond trial-and-error: Predicting user abandonment after a moderation intervention". *Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence 162:1-20*, 2025. Elsevier. doi10.1016/j.engappai.2025.112375 🔗.

[J40] L. Cima, B. Tessa, A. Trujillo, **S. Cresci**, M. Avvenuti. "Investigating the heterogeneous effects of a massive content moderation intervention via Difference-in-Differences". *Online Social Networks and Media:1-14*, 2025. Elsevier. doi10.1016/j.osnem.2025.100320 🔗.

[J39] A. Al-Qahtani, H. Abbas, **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro. "The COVID-19 infodemic: A Survey". *IEEE Access 13:176639-176669*, 2025. IEEE. doi10.1109/ACCESS.2025.3618510 🔗.

[J38] L. Mannocci, **S. Cresci**, M. Magnani, A. Monreale, M. Tesconi. "Multimodal coordinated online behavior: Trade-offs and strategies". *Information Sciences 737:1-53*, 2025. Elsevier. doi10.1016/j.ins.2026.123125 🔗.

[J37] L. Cima, L. Mannocci, M. Avvenuti, M. Tesconi, **S. Cresci**. "Coordinated behavior in information operations on Twitter". *IEEE Access 11:61568-61585*, 2024. IEEE. doi10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3393482 🔗.

[J36] S. Tardelli, L. Nizzoli, M. Avvenuti, **S. Cresci**, M. Tesconi. "Multifaceted online coordinated behaviour in the 2020 US Presidential Election". *EPJ Data Science 13:1-27*, 2024. doi10.1140/epjds/s13688-024-00467-0 🔗.

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[J32] T. Fagni, **S. Cresci**. "Fine-grained prediction of political leaning on social media with unsupervised deep learning". *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research 73:633-672*, 2022. doi10.1613/jair.1.13112 🔗.

[J31] **S. Cresci**, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, S. Tognazzi. "Adversarial machine learning for protecting against online manipulation". *IEEE Internet Computing 26(2):47-52*, 2022. IEEE. doi10.1109/MIC.2021.3130380 🔗.

[J30] M. Cinelli, **S. Cresci**, W. Quattrociocchi, M. Tesconi, P. Zola. "Coordinated inauthentic behavior and information spreading on Twitter". *Decision Support Systems 160:1-12*, 2022. Elsevier. doi10.1016/j.dss.2022.113819 🔗.

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[J27] **S. Cresci**, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, S. Tognazzi. "The coming age of adversarial social bot detection". *First Monday 26(7):11474*, 2021. doi10.5210/fm.v26i7.11474 🔗.

[J26] D. Assenmacher, D. Weber, M. Preuss, A. Calero Valdez, A. Bradshaw, B. Ross, **S. Cresci**, H. Trautmann, F. Neumann, C. Grimme. "Benchmarking crisis in social media analytics: A solution for the data sharing problem". *Social Science Computer Review:1-27*, 2021. SAGE. doi10.1177/0894439321101226 8 🔗.

[J25] Y.T. Uriarte, M. Petrocchi, M.L. Catoni, **S. Cresci**, R. De Nicola, M. Tesconi, R.B. Uriarte. "Exploring the relation between festivals and host cities on Twitter: A study on the impacts of Lucca Comics & Games". *Information Technology & Tourism:1-24*, 2020. Springer. doi10.1007/s40558-020-00185-z 🔗.

[J24] R. Prieto Curiel, **S. Cresci**, C.I. Muntean, S. Bishop. "Crime and its fear in social media". *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications 6(1):57*, 2020. Springer Nature. doi10.1057/s41599-020-0430-7 🔗. Ranked among the top 50 papers of the decade by the journal 🏆. Highly cited: 128 citations 🏆.

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[O17] G. Nogara, L. Luceri, **S. Cresci**, S. Giordano. "Users susceptibility in online social media". *The 11th International Conference on Complex Networks and their Applications (CNA'22):450-452*, 2022. doi10.5281/zenodo.7593062.

[O16] L. Porfilio, M. Mazza, M. Avvenuti, M. Tesconi, **S. Cresci**. "Characterizing different actors in IOs through a large-scale quantitative analysis". *The 2020 Workshop Series on Understanding Information Operations With Twitter Data*, 2020. Partnership for Countering Influence Operations, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

[O15] A. Calamusa, S. Tardelli, M. Avvenuti, **S. Cresci**, I. Federigi, M. Tesconi, M. Verani, A. Carducci. "Twitter monitoring evidence of COVID-19 infodemic in Italy". *The 16th World Congress on Public Health (WCPH'20):29*, 2020. doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckaa165.066.

[O14] **S. Cresci**, B. Rapisarda. "Cashtag piggybacking: Uncovering spam and bot activity in stock microblogs on Twitter". *SoBigData Newsletter 2:21-22*, 2019.

[O13] **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, M. Tesconi. "Social fingerprinting – or the truth about you". *ERCIM News 106:26-27*, 2016. ERCIM.

[O12] C. Meletti, **S. Cresci**, M. Tesconi. "Rapid estimation of earthquake intensity from Twitter's social sensors". *The 35th General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission (ESC'16)*, 2016. ESC.

[O11] M. Mazza, **S. Cresci**, F. Del Vigna, M.N. La Polla, M. Tesconi. "#selfie: Mapping the phenomenon". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-08/2016*, 2016.

[O10] **S. Cresci**, M.N. La Polla, S. Tardelli, M. Tesconi. "#tweeTag: A web-based annotation tool for Twitter data". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-07/2016*, 2016.

[O9] S. Bellomo, **S. Cresci**, F. Del Vigna, M.N. La Polla, M. Tesconi. "A platform for gathering eyewitness reports from social media users in the aftermath of emergencies". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-10/2015*, 2015.

[O8] **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, M. Tesconi. "Fame for sale: Efficient detection of fake Twitter followers". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-05/2015*, 2015.

[O7] F. Del Vigna, **S. Cresci**. "Social media for the common good: The case of EARS". *The 1st International Workshop on Community Intelligence for the Common Good (CI4CG'15)*, 2015.

[O6] **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, M. Tesconi. "A criticism to society (as seen by Twitter analytics)". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-05/2014*, 2014.

[O5] **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, M. Tesconi. "A fake follower story: Improving fake accounts detection on Twitter". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-03/2014*, 2014.

[O4] **S. Cresci**, M.N. La Polla, A. Marchetti, C. Meletti, M. Tesconi. "Towards a timely prediction of earthquake intensity with social media". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-12/2014*, 2014.

[O3] C. Meletti, **S. Cresci**, M.N. La Polla, A. Marchetti, M. Tesconi. "Social media as seismic networks for the earthquake damage assessment". *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts:4338*, 2014. AGU.

[O2] **S. Cresci**, R. Di Pietro, M. Petrocchi, A. Spognardi, M. Tesconi. "Fake accounts detection on Twitter". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-15/2013*, 2013.

[O1] **S. Cresci**, M.N. La Polla, A. Marchetti, M. Tesconi. "Social sensing: Using social media for an early warning system". *IIT-CNR Technical Report IIT-TR-19/2013*, 2013.

Professional Services

Editorial Board

[9] **Role:** Associate Editor. *EPJ Data Science*. ISSN: 2193-1127. 15/01/2025 - Present

[8] **Role:** Associate Editor. *Frontiers in Communications and Networks (specialty section on Security, Privacy and Authentication)*. Frontiers. ISSN: 2673-530X. 15/08/2020 - Present

[7] **Role:** Associate Editor. *Frontiers in the Internet of Things (specialty section on Security, Privacy and Authentication)*. Frontiers. ISSN: 2813-3110. 15/08/2020 - Present

[6] **Role:** Associate Editor. *PLoS ONE (Section: Computer and information sciences – Artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science)*. PLoS. ISSN: 1932-6203. 19/01/2021 - 05/03/2025

[5] **Role:** Member of the Editorial Review Board. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI)*. MDPI. ISSN: 2220-9964. 18/11/2019 - 21/10/2024

[4] **Role:** Guest Editor (Special Issue: "Security and Privacy of Avatar in Metaverse"). *ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications*. ACM. ISSN: 1551-6857. 30/06/2023 - 30/09/2024

[3] **Role:** Action Editor. *ACL Rolling Review*. ACL. 01/11/2021 - 27/05/2022

[2] **Role:** Guest Editor (Special Issue: "Misinformation, Manipulation and Abuse on social media in the era of COVID-19"). *Journal of Computational Social Science*. Springer. ISSN: 2432-2717. 18/05/2020 - 15/10/2020

[1] **Role:** Member of the Editorial Review Board. *International Journal of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (IJISCRAM)*. ISSN: 1937-9390. 27/04/2016 - 25/03/2020

Invited Speaker

[28] **Panelist** titled "Tavola rotonda: Esperienze di successo ERC al CNR". *Dalle proposte ai grant ERC: Il supporto del CNR ai ricercatori*. CNR. 11/02/2026

[27] **Invited Talk** titled "Tackling Information Disorder in the Digital Age: Challenges for Online Platforms and Content Moderation". *The 2025 DIITET Conference*. CNR. 11/12/2025

[26] **Invited Talk** titled "Detection and characterization of dynamic, multimodal, and multifaceted coordinated behavior". *The 2024 Coordinated Sharing Behavior Detection Conference, Sheffield (UK)*. University of Sheffield. 29/10/2024

[25] **Keynote** titled "Fostering Safe Online Spaces: Insights from a Career in Online Harms Research, from PhD to PI". *The 10th Software Engineering Doctoral Symposium, Pisa (Italy)*. 11/09/2024

[24] **Invited Talk** titled "How I got my ERC Grant". *The 2024 Summer School on Artificial Intelligence for a Secure Society, Capo Vaticano (Italy)*. ICAR-CNR. 07/09/2024

[23] **Keynote** titled "From Detection to Intervention: Insights into Harmful Content Diffusion and Content Moderation Practices". *The 2019 ACM Workshop on Diffusion of Harmful Content on Online Web, Stuttgart (Germany)*. ACM. 21/05/2024

[22] **Invited Talk** titled "How I got my ERC Grant". *Institute of Information Science and Technologies "Alessandro Faedo", Pisa (Italy)*. ISTI-CNR. 16/11/2023

[21] **Keynote** titled "How I got my ERC Grant". *Future IIT 2023, Pisa (Italy)*. IIT-CNR. 24/10/2023

[20] **Invited Talk** titled "Content moderation: Are we doing it right?". *European University Institute (EUI), Florence (Italy)*. EUI. 22/03/2023

[19] **Invited Talk** titled "Detecting and investigating coordinated online behavior". *The 4th Workshop on Integrity in Social Networks and Media (INTEGRITY'23) at the 16th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM'23), Online*. ACM. 03/03/2023

[18] **Invited Talk** titled "Online Social Media: Challenges and Opportunities". *ERCIM Spring Meeting 2022, Online*. ERCIM. 25/05/2022

[17] **Keynote** titled "Automation in Social Media". *Theme Development Workshop "AI: Mitigating Bias and Disinformation". Breakout session on "Automation in Online Media", Online*. Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe (CLAIRE). 18/05/2022

[16] **Panelist**. *Live Q&A session on "Innovative use of Social Media for Remote Sensing and SDG Monitoring" of the 2021 UN World Data Forum*. United Nations. 05/10/2021

[15] **Invited Talk** titled "Information warfare in the financial domain: Problems and a few solutions". *Topical program on "Algorithmization and Social Interaction"*. European Research Center for Information Systems (ERCIS), University of Münster. 04/05/2021

[14] **Invited Talk** titled "Computational propaganda and social bot detection". *Seminar series on "Political Communication in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia"*. University of Passau. 22/03/2021

[13] **Panelist**. *The 2020 Workshop Series on Understanding Information Operations With Twitter Data. Panel on "Tracking trolls, fake influencers and fake personas"*. Partnership for Countering Influence Operations, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 24/11/2020

[12] **Panelist**. *Live Q&A session on "Innovative use of Social Media for Remote Sensing and SDG Monitoring" of the 2020 UN World Data Forum*. United Nations. 19/10/2020

[11] **Invited Talk** titled "Timely and targeted information acquisition from witnesses via hybrid crowdsensing". *The 2020 UN World Data Forum, session on "Innovative use of Social Media for Remote Sensing and SDG Monitoring"*. United Nations. 12/10/2020

[10] **Panelist**. *Webinar "Reporting on coronavirus: Inauthentic and coordinated online activity", with Stefano Cresci, Carlotta Dotto and Seb Cubbon*. First Draft. 04/06/2020

[9] **Invited Talk** titled "Characterization and detection of disinformation-spreading social bots". *Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Doha (Qatar)*. QCRI. 26/11/2019

[8] **Invited Talk** titled "AI/ML for the collection, analysis, and visualization of emergency posts in social media". *Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Doha (Qatar)*. QCRI. 25/11/2019

[7] **Invited Talk** titled "Characterization and detection of disinformation-spreading social bots". *College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha (Qatar)*. HBKU. 24/11/2019

[6] **Invited Talk** titled "Spotting content-polluting botnets in Twitter". *Kickoff Meeting of the TOFFEe (Tools for Fighting Fakes) project, Lucca (Italy)*. IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca. 17/04/2019

[5] **Keynote** titled "Detecting malicious social bots: the never-ending clash". *The 2019 Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media, Hamburg (Germany)*. Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. 01/03/2019

[4] **Invited Talk** titled "Intelligenza Sociale & Sensing". *The 2018 Internet Festival, Pisa (Italy)*. University of Pisa. 11/10/2018

[3] **Invited Talk** titled "Detecting malicious social media accounts: the never-ending clash". *The 2018 International Conference on Exploring Media Ecosystems, Boston, MA (USA)*. Media Lab (MIT), Berkman Klein Center (Harvard University). 05/03/2018

[2] **Invited Talk** titled "Social Robot Wars". *The 2017 Internet Festival, Pisa (Italy)*. University of Pisa. 05/10/2017

[1] **Invited Talk** titled "Social Sensing: Digital DNA fingerprinting for spambots detection". *The 2017 International Robotics Festival, Pisa (Italy)*. University of Pisa. 07/09/2017

Workshop and Special Session Chair

[12] **Role:** Conference Chair. *ICWSM Global Initiative Chair at the 20th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'26)*. AAAI. 07/07/2025 - 29/05/2026

[11] **Role:** Organizer. *PIANO Workshop (Personalized Interventions Against Online Toxicity)*. 20/02/2026 - 20/02/2026

[10] **Role:** Organizer. *The 1st International Tutorial and Workshop on Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics and Democracy (AIDEM'25) at the 25th European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML-PKDD'25)*. 19/09/2025 - 19/09/2025

[9] **Role:** Organizer, Contact person and Chair. *The 1st International Workshop on Computational Approaches to Content Moderation and Platform Governance (COMPASS'25) at the 19th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'25)*. AAAI. 23/06/2025 - 23/06/2025

[8] **Role:** Organizer. *The 5th workshop on Integrity in Social Networks and Media (INTEGRITY'24) at the 17th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM'24)*. ACM. 08/03/2024 - 08/03/2024

[7] **Role:** Organizer. *DETERRENCE Workshop (DEcision supporT systEm foR cybeR intelligENCE)*. 28/03/2023 - 28/03/2023

[6] **Role:** Track Chair. *Track on Big Data & Analytics at the 14th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'23)*. 15/03/2023 - 17/03/2023

[5] **Role:** Track Chair. *Track on Big Data & Analytics at the 13th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'22)*. 22/03/2022 - 25/03/2022

[4] **Role:** Track Chair. *Track on Big Data & Analytics at the 12th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'21)*. 23/03/2021 - 26/03/2021

[3] **Role:** Organizer, Contact person and Chair. *Workshop on Information Disorder (DisInfo'20) at the 12th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo'20)*. 05/03/2020 - 06/10/2020

[2]	**Role:** Organizer. *Workshop Smart News at the 2018 Internet Festival in Pisa*. University of Pisa.	19/07/2018 - 11/10/2018
[1]	**Role:** Organizer, Contact person and Chair. *Special Session on Data Science in Societal Debates (DSSD) at the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA'17)*. IEEE.	17/03/2017 - 21/10/2017

Technical Program Committee

[49]	The 35th ACM Web Conference (WWW'26). ACM. **Track:** Web4Good.	2026
[48]	The 20th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'26). AAAI. **Senior TPC Member**.	2026
[47]	The 17th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'25). ACM. **Senior TPC Member**.	2025
[46]	The 33rd ACM Web Conference (WWW'24). ACM. **Track:** Web4Good: Sustainable Development and Vulnerable Populations.	2024
[45]	The 18th International Conference on Network and System Security (NSS'24).	2024
[44]	The 6th Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MISDOOM'24).	2024
[43]	The 37th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI'23). AAAI. **Senior TPC Member**.	2023
[42]	The 9th International Symposium on Security and Privacy in Social Networks and Big Data (SocialSec'23).	2023
[41]	The 16th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'22). AAAI.	2022
[40]	The 31st ACM Web Conference (WWW'22). ACM. **Track:** Web4Good: Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Ethics, Sustainable Development, Healthy Society.	2022
[39]	The 2022 IEEE World Congress On Computational Intelligence (WCCI'22). IEEE. **Track:** Disinformation and Information Warfare.	2022
[38]	The 34th AAAI International Conference of the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS'21). AAAI. **Track:** Main Track.	2021
[37]	The 8th IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA'21). IEEE.	2021
[36]	The 13th International ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'21). ACM.	2021
[35]	The 3rd Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MISDOOM'21).	2021
[34]	The 15th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'21). AAAI.	2021
[33]	The 3rd Conference on Truth and Trust Online (TTO'21).	2021

[32]	The 33rd AAAI International Conference of the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS'20). AAAI. **Track:** Special Track on Artificial Intelligence for Big Social Data Analysis.	2020
[31]	The 11th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'20). **Track:** Cloud Computing.	2020
[30]	The 17th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM'20). **Track:** Social Media for Disaster Response and Resilience.	2020
[29]	The 12th International ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'20). ACM.	2020
[28]	The 6th Annual International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2'20).	2020
[27]	The 14th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'20). AAAI.	2020
[26]	The 29th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI'20). **Track:** AI in FinTech.	2020
[25]	The 2nd Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MISDOOM'20).	2020
[24]	The 8th International Conference on Building and Exploring Web Based Environments (WEB'20). IARIA.	2020
[23]	The 7th IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA'20). IEEE.	2020
[22]	The 10th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'19). **Track:** Cloud Computing.	2019
[21]	The 13th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'19). AAAI.	2019
[20]	The 32nd AAAI International Conference of the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS'19). AAAI. **Track:** Special Track on Artificial Intelligence for Big Social Data Analysis.	2019
[19]	The 16th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM'19). **Track:** Social Media in Crises and Conflicts.	2019
[18]	The 13th International Conference on Advances in Semantic Processing (SEMAPRO'19). IARIA.	2019
[17]	The 7th International Conference on Building and Exploring Web Based Environments (WEB'19). IARIA.	2019
[16]	The 6th IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA'19). IEEE.	2019
[15]	The 9th International Conference on Social Media Technologies, Communication, and Informatics (SOTICS'19). IARIA.	2019
[14]	Special Session on Sentiment, Emotion, and Credibility of Information in Social Data (SeCredISData) at the 2018 IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA'18). IEEE.	2018

[13]	The 11th International Conference on Security, Privacy and Anonymity in Computation, Communication and Storage (SpaCCS'18).	2018
[12]	The 2nd International Workshop on Knowledge Discovery from Mobility and Transportation Systems (KNOWMe'18).	2018
[11]	The 40th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR'17). ◈ACM. **Track:** Short papers.	2017
[10]	The 10th International Conference on Security, Privacy and Anonymity in Computation, Communication and Storage (SpaCCS'17).	2017
[9]	The 4th Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics (CLiC-it'17).	2017
[8]	The 39th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR'16). ◈ACM. **Track:** Short papers.	2016
[7]	The 22nd International ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (SIGKDD'16). ◈ACM. **Track:** Applied data science.	2016
[6]	The 3rd Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics (CLiC-it'16).	2016
[5]	The 10th International Conference on Mobile Ubiquitous Computing, Systems, Services and Technologies (UBICOMM'16). IARIA.	2016
[4]	The 2nd International Conference on Human and Social Analytics (HUSO'16). IARIA.	2016
[3]	The 9th International Conference on Mobile Ubiquitous Computing, Systems, Services and Technologies (UBICOMM'15). IARIA.	2015
[2]	The 1st International Conference on Human and Social Analytics (HUSO'15). IARIA.	2015
[1]	The 14th IEEE International Conference on Trust, Security and Privacy in Computing and Communications (TrustCom'15). ◈IEEE. **Track:** Security.	2015

Journal Reviewer

The following journal review activity is certified by Publons 🔗.

[43] Science Advances. AAAS.

[42] Science. AAAS.

[41] Journal of Computational Social Science. ♘ Springer.

[40] Nature. Nature Publishing Group.

[39] Scientific Reports. Nature Publishing Group.

[38] Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review. Harvard University.

[37] IEEE Internet Computing. ◈IEEE.

[36] ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing Communications and Applications. ◈ACM.

[35] Social Network Analysis and Mining. ♘ Springer.

[34] Online Social Networks and Media. Elsevier.

[33] Nature Human Behaviour. Nature Publishing Group.

[32] EPJ Data Science. ♘ Springer.

[31] Computers & Security. Elsevier.

[30] IET Information Security. IET.

[29] Engineering Reports. Wiley.

[28] ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information. MDPI.

[27] ACM Transactions on Internet Technology. ◈ACM.

[26] PLoS ONE. PLoS.

[25] Artificial Intelligence Review. ♘ Springer.

[24] IEEE Access. ◈IEEE.

[23] International Journal of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. IGI Global.

[22] Journal of Network and Computer Applications. Elsevier.

[21] Computer Communications. Elsevier.

[20] Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing. ♘ Springer.

[19] Nature Communications. Nature Publishing Group.

[18] Social Science Computer Review. SAGE.

[17] International Journal of Computers and Applications. Taylor & Francis.

[16] ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data. ◈ACM.

[15] Applied Network Science. ♘ Springer.

[14] International Journal of Digital Earth. Taylor & Francis.

[13] Decision Support Systems. Elsevier.

[12] International Journal of Information Management. Elsevier.

[11] Applied Computing and Informatics. Elsevier.

[10] ACM Transactions on the Web. ◈ACM.

[9] Information Systems. Elsevier.

[8] Knowledge-Based Systems. Elsevier.

[7] IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems. ◈IEEE.

[6] IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering. ◈IEEE.

[5] IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing. ◈IEEE.

[4] AI&Society. ♘ Springer.

[3] International Journal of Information Security. Springer.

[2] Future Generation Computer Systems. Elsevier.

[1] IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security. IEEE.

Conference Reviewer

[15] Reviewer for The 43rd ACM CHI Conference On Human Factors In Computing Systems (CHI'25). ACM.

[14] Reviewer for The 7th Italian Conference on CyberSecurity (ITASEC'23).

[13] Reviewer for The 25th ACM Conference On Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW'22). ACM.

[12] Reviewer for The 43rd European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR'21).

[11] Reviewer for The 4th IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy (Euro S&P'19). IEEE.

[10] Workshop proposals reviewer for The 35th ACM SIGCHI International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (SIGCHI'17). ACM.

[9] Reviewer for The 35th ACM SIGCHI International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (SIGCHI'17). ACM.

[8] Reviewer for The 2017 IEEE / ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM'17). IEEE / ACM.

[7] Reviewer for The 22nd European Symposium on Research in Computer Security (ESORICS'17).

[6] Reviewer for The 15th International Conference on Software Engineering and Formal Methods (SEFM'17).

[5] Reviewer for The 32nd International Conference on ICT Systems Security and Privacy Protection (IFIP SEC'17). IFIP.

[4] Reviewer for The 2016 IEEE International Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM'16). IEEE.

[3] Reviewer for The 27th IEEE International Symposium on a World of Wireless, Mobile and Multimedia Networks (WoWMoM'16). IEEE.

[2] Reviewer for The 7th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks and Technologies (ANT'16).

[1] Reviewer for The 2016 IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS'16). IEEE.

Project Reviewer

[3] **Role:** Reviewer for European Project Proposals (ERC Starting Grants). European Commission. **Call:** ERC-2025-STG. 04/03/2025 - 15/04/2025

[2] **Role:** Reviewer for National Project Proposals. Italian Ministry of Economic Development (MISE). **Call:** Fondo Crescita Sostenibile 2018 (MISE-FCS). 30/09/2019 - 23/09/2024

[1] **Role:** Reviewer for National Project Proposals. Chilean National Science and Technology Commission (CONICYT). **Call:** FONDECYT Initiation into Research 2019. 30/05/2019 - 07/06/2019

Grants and Awards

[15]	Impact Recognition Paper Award.	20/10/2025
[14]	World's Top 2% Scientists.	16/09/2024
[13]	ERC Starting Grant Winner.	05/09/2023
[12]	Best Research Paper Award.	27/06/2022
[11]	AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar.	24/03/2022
[10]	Cor Baayen Young Researcher Award.	04/12/2020
[9]	IIT-CNR Starting Grant Winner.	04/12/2020
[8]	Invitation for international invite-only scientific event.	22/04/2020
[7]	IEEE Next-Generation Data Scientist (NGDS) Award.	07/10/2019
[6]	Best PhD Thesis Award.	16/06/2019
[5]	Runner-up for Best Paper Award (Machine Learning track).	05/06/2018
[4]	Outstanding reviewer Award.	01/06/2018
[3]	European Research Grant Winner.	27/03/2018
[2]	Achieved 2nd place in the Sentiment and Polarity Classification (SENTIPOLC) task.	11/12/2014
[1]	Runner-up for Best Paper Award (Applied Data Science track).	25/08/2014

Visitings, Memberships and Fellowships

[16]	Member of the Social Data Science Alliance. *Social Data Science Alliance*. Link 🔗	08/06/2025 - Present
[15]	Invited to take part in the Oxford University Expert Survey on the Global Information Environment. *Oxford University*. I have been invited to participate as an expert on information manipulation and information disorder to the Oxford University Expert Survey on the Global Information Environment. The goal of the survey was to conduct a global comparative study of the information environment across multiple countries.	04/05/2023 - Present

[14]	Associate Member of the Topical program on "Algorithmization and Social Interaction". *University of Münster*. Link	17/05/2021 - Present
[13]	Member of the CI (Cyber Intelligence) Lab of IIT-CNR. *Italian National Research Council (CNR)*.	25/11/2020 - Present
[12]	Invited Member to an International Scientific Experts Group. *Springer*. I have been invited to participate as a contributor to the 3rd edition of Springer's Encyclopedia of Cryptography, Security, and Privacy, a world reference in the cybersecurity field. As an expert in Cybersecurity, I was responsible for curating 2 entries of the encyclopedia within the section on Privacy and Anonymity in Communication Networks.	29/10/2020 - Present
[11]	Organizer and member of a Scientific Experts Panel. *Italian National Research Council (CNR)*. Organizer of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) experts panel on AI for Secure Societies. This panel includes researchers from 6 different laboratories belonging to 4 different departments of CNR.	26/03/2019 - Present
[10]	Organizer and member of a Scientific Experts Panel. *Italian National Research Council (CNR)*. Organizer of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) experts panel on AI for Social and Networked Media. This panel includes researchers from 11 different laboratories belonging to 5 different departments of CNR.	26/03/2019 - Present
[9]	Member of a Scientific Experts Panel. *Italian National Research Council (CNR)*. Member of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) experts panel on AI for Cybersecurity. This panel includes researchers from 4 different laboratories belonging to 4 different departments of CNR.	26/03/2019 - Present
[8]	Member of the MediaLab (Big Data in Social and Political research). *University of Pisa (Italy)*. Link	24/02/2017 - Present
[7]	Member of AAAI. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*. Membership number: 648235.	03/07/2025 - 02/07/2026
[6]	Member of the ACM. *ACM*. Membership number: 0617075.	07/08/2019 - 31/07/2022
[5]	Member of the IEEE, IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Young Professionals. *IEEE*. Membership number: 93899654.	01/01/2016 - 31/12/2021
[4]	Member of the WAFI (Web Applications for the Future Internet) Lab of IIT-CNR. *Italian National Research Council (CNR)*.	21/01/2013 - 25/11/2020

[3] Invited Visiting Researcher. *Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha (Qatar)*. Invited visiting researcher at the College of Science and Engineering of the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), in Doha (Qatar), where I joined the Cybersecurity Research and Innovation Laboratory (CRI-Lab). During this visiting period, I started research collaborations related to the analysis and detection of online cryptocurrency manipulations (e.g., pump-and-dump), and on disinformation and information warfare in online social networks. 02/11/2019 - 01/12/2019

[2] Member of an International Scientific Experts Panel. *New Jersey Institute of Technology*. In 2018 and 2019, I served as member of the experts panel on Requirements for Software Enhancements to Support the Use of Social Media in Emergency Management. This experts panel, counting in total 45 members, has been established by Roxanne Hiltz (NJIT, USA), Amanda Hughes (University of Essex, UK), Muhammad Imran (QCRI, Qatar), Linda Plotnick (NJIT, USA), Robert Power (CSIRO, Australia), and Murray Turoff (NJIT, USA). The activity of the panel and the results of the study were published in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* (10.1016/j.ijdrr.2019.101367). 26/11/2018 - 12/10/2019

[1] Invited Visiting Researcher. *Nokia Bell Labs, Paris (France)*. Invited visiting researcher at the Networking and Security Laboratory of the Nokia Bell Labs in Paris, France. During the 4-months long visiting period, he adopted machine learning and data science techniques to investigate the novel phenomenon of social spambots, and he developed a DNA-inspired online behavioral modeling and spambots detection technique. Research results achieved during this visiting period have been published in international journals such as *IEEE Intelligent Systems* and *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing*. 01/09/2015 - 15/12/2015

Datasets and Software

[19] **Dataset**. *A dataset of online discussions before and after a large set of moderation interventions*. The Big Ban Theory (TBBT) is a large-scale dataset designed to support systematic research on the effects of online content moderation interventions. The dataset includes 25 moderation interventions of varying type, severity, and scope (e.g., community bans, community quarantines, community bans with migration, and post removals). TBBT comprises more than 38 million comments, collected from Reddit communities affected by moderation interventions. For each intervention, the dataset provides standardized metadata together with pseudonymized user activity data covering the three months preceding and following the enforcement of the intervention. This pre- and post-intervention design enables consistent, comparable, and reproducible analyses of behavioral changes associated with moderation interventions. Link 15/01/2026

[18] **Dataset**. *A dataset of online discussions about large-scale information operations*. Dataset including around 4M tweets related to two large-scale information operations (IOs) carried out on Twitter. The dataset includes tweets from both the malicious perpetrators of the IOs, as well as from unaware users that discussed the same topics of the IOs at around the same time. As such, this dataset represents a labeled benchmark and ground-truth for detection tasks. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article in the *IEEE Access* journal. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link 12/02/2024

[17] **Dataset**. *A dataset of online discussions about the 2020 USA general election*. Dataset including around 140M tweets related to the 2020 USA Political Election, collected for 2 months in October and December 2020. The dataset includes the nodes and edges of a weighted undirected user-similarity interaction network. The dataset was used to study the online patterns of coordination that occurred during the electoral debate. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article in the *EPJ Data Science* journal. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link 01/06/2023

[16] **Dataset**. *A dataset with social and political information of 20,199 labeled Twitter accounts*. This dataset contains information related to 8 political parties (PRC, +E, PD, M5S, FI, Lega, FdI, CPI) that covered the whole Italian political spectrum as of November 2020. To build the dataset, we first crawled the Twitter timelines of each political party. Then, for each collected tweet, we obtained a list of users that liked that tweet. At the end of this process we obtained a bipartite graph linking 20,199 users to our 8 considered parties, based on explicit user likes to party tweets. We completed our data collection by crawling the most recent 200 tweets from the timelines of all 20,199 users, which resulted in more than 3.6M tweets, in total. This data collection process roughly covered the months of August to early October 2019. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article on the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link 20/12/2021

[15] **Dataset**. *A dataset of online discussions about the 2019 United Kingdom general election*. Dataset including around 11M tweets related to the 2019 United Kingdom General Election, collected between November and December 2019. The dataset includes the nodes and edges of a weighted undirected user-similarity interaction network. The dataset was used to study the online patterns of coordination that occurred during the electoral debate. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article at the *15th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'21)*. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link 30/03/2021

15/06/2020

Dataset. *A dataset related to online cryptocurrency manipulations*. Dataset including social conversations across 3 different platforms (namely, Twitter, Telegram and Discord) about cryptocurrencies. Part of the conversations collected are about notable cryptocurrency manipulations, such as pump-and-dump and Ponzi schemes. The dataset also contains invite links for Telegram and Discord channels/groups, shared on Twitter, Telegram and Discord. Thus, it also allows to build a network across the 3 platforms. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article on the *IEEE Access* journal. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link

[14]

12/11/2019

Software. *DDNA Python and R packages*. The DDNA package provides researchers and practitioners with state-of-the-art techniques for assessing the veracity, trustworthiness, and reliability of content (and content producers) in online social networks. The techniques made available via this software library combines sophisticated behavioral models with powerful off-the-shelf DNA analysis techniques to study and classify online user behaviors. The DDNA package is available as a Python and R library. At the core of the package lies a bio-inspired behavioral modeling technique where the behavioral lifetime of a digital account is encoded in a sequence of characters that represents its "digital DNA". This technique has already been successfully applied to the detection of fake and bot accounts in online social networks, for the detection of fake content, and for the analysis of discussion forums. Link

[13]

09/05/2019

Dataset. *A dataset with social and financial information of 30,032 stocks*. Dataset comprising social (i.e., Twitter) and financial (i.e., Google Finance) information of 30,032 stocks traded in the 5 main US financial markets: NASDAQ, NYSE, NYSEARCA, NYSEMKT, OTCMKTS. Social data from Twitter include almost 8M tweets mentioning any of the stocks, as well as user information for almost 500k Twitter users. Financial data from Google Finance include the market capitalization and the industrial classification of all the stocks. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in an article on the *ACM Transactions on the Web* journal. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link

[12]

28/04/2019

Dataset. *A dataset comprising the temporal traces of 47,947 labeled Twitter accounts*. Dataset comprising the temporal traces of the retweets of social bots and legitimate (human-operated) Twitter accounts. The dataset can be used to train machine-learning classifiers for social bot detection. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in a paper at the *11th International ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'19)*. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes. Link

[11]

[10] **Application**. *Twitter Monitor*. The Twitter Monitor features an interactive Web application designed to access the Twitter stream by exploiting the public Twitter Streaming APIs. The application is able to manage concurrent monitors: it is possible to launch parallel listening sessions (i.e., more than one Twitter crawler at the same time) using different parameters and collecting different sets of data. In addition to offering an interactive Web interface to ease all the operations related to Twitter crawling, the application also offers a set of functionalities aimed at minimizing the loss of data due to network or local machine problems. The Twitter Monitor implements both traditional crowdsensing paradigms such as the opportunistic and the participatory approaches, as well as state-of-the-art ones, such as hybrid crowdsensing. Link 🔗 — 15/01/2019

[9] **Application**. *CV Builder*. CV BUILDER is a Web application for managing academic items and CVs, in a convenient way. It has been developed since 2019 solely by Stefano Cresci, with Python's Flask micro framework. It is composed of a backend that allows the management of generic academic items (e.g., publications, invited talks, teachings, projects, reviews, etc.) by exposing a CRUD (create, read, update, delete) Web interface. Items are stored in a relational MySQL database. The frontend of CV BUILDER allows users to select among several different templates for academic and generic curriculum vitae (e.g., Europass CV). It also allows users to select which of the available items to display in the CV. When the user is done configuring its desired CV, CV BUILDER generates a LaTeX document and renders the CV by compiling the LaTeX code. CV BUILDER is based on the Jinja2 template engine for managing both the HTML pages of the Web application as well as the different CV templates. It is also powered by SQLAlchemy, WTForms and Werkzeug. CV BUILDER also automatically carries out a number of tedious tasks. For instance, it constantly updates bibliometric indices of both its users and their publications (h-index, number of citations, number of documents, etc.), by leveraging Scopus APIs and by Web scraping the Google Scholar and Web of Science platforms. — 01/01/2019

[8] **Software**. *Digital DNA fingerprinting*. The "Digital DNA fingerprinting" is a spambot detection technique based on the "Digital DNA" online behavioral modeling technique. Given a set of Twitter user timelines, it is capable of spotting coordinated groups of spambots. Link 🔗 — 30/08/2016

[7] **Dataset**. *A dataset of 5,301 labeled Twitter accounts*. Dataset of "fake" and legitimate (human-operated) Twitter accounts. This dataset comprises 5,301 human annotated accounts, more than 2.7 millions tweets, and more than 3.6 millions social links (friends/followers). The dataset can be used to train machine-learning classifiers for fake account detection. A description of the dataset, as well as a related analysis, was published in a paper on the *Decision Support Systems* journal by Elsevier Scientific Publishing. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes in CSV and SQL formats. Link 🔗 — 01/12/2015

[6] **Dataset**. *A dataset of 5,642 emergency-related tweets*. Dataset of 5642 tweets (short messages shared on the Twitter social networking platform) in the Italian language, manually annotated by human operators. The tweets are related to 4 different natural disasters occurred in Italy between 2009 and 2014. This dataset represents the one and only publicly available Italian dataset for Social Media Emergency Management (SMEM). The dataset, and the analyses carried out on it, was presented at the *24th International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW'15 companion)*. The dataset is publicly available for research purposes in CSV and SQL formats. Link 🔗 — 18/05/2015

[5] **Application**. *TourPedia*. TourPedia is the Wikipedia of Tourism. It contains information about accommodations, restaurants, points of interest and attractions of different places in Europe. Places and analyses on reviews can be accessed through a Web API, which allows a developer to get their JSON version and some useful statistics. TourPedia also provides two datasets: Places and Reviews. Places can be downloaded as a dump. Each place contains useful information such as the name, the address and its URI to Facebook, Foursquare, GooglePlaces and Booking. TourPedia is also exposed as a Linked Data node, which provides access to places. Link 🔗 — 19/10/2014

[4] **Application**. *The Fake Follower Classifier*. Web application that leverages machine-learning classifiers for automatically detecting fake Twitter accounts. The application automatically downloads data needed for the analysis from Twitter, via social media crawling techniques. Then, it applies pre-trained machine-learning classifiers to detect fake accounts. Results of the analyses are displayed in real-time in the Web interface of the application. A description of the techniques used for data acquisition and analysis was published in an article on the *Decision Support Systems* journal by Elsevier Scientific Publishing. Link 🔗 — 19/09/2014

[3] **Application**. *Solone: A database for European laws on cultural heritage*. The Solone database and Web application are the results of a project held by the Laboratorio di Analisi, Ricerca, Tutela, Tecnologie ed Economia per il Patrimonio Culturale (LARTTE) of the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy). Solone represents the largest existing collection of laws on cultural heritage. Laws indexed in Solone span from modern times (EU laws on cultural heritage) until Roman times (from the late Republic to Late Antiquity). The inspiration for the database was the need to compare and understand the different European juridical and administrative systems regarding cultural heritage. Link 🔗 — 01/08/2013

[2] **Application**. *SocialTrends 3*. SocialTrends 3 is the latest version of the Web application SocialTrends, developed at IIT-CNR. The application backend continuously performs a monitoring of the social media popularity and engagement of a large number of public characters (actors, politicians, sportsman, TV and radio channels, etc.). The characters under investigation are picked by a pool of journalists and the monitoring operations are performed via social media crawling and scraping (for data acquisition) and via machine-learning techniques (for data analysis). Results of the analyses are displayed in the Web frontend of the application. — 01/07/2013

[1] **Software**. *The OpeNER linguistic annotation pipeline*. The OpeNER linguistic annotation pipeline is composed of a suite of services and interoperable software components that are specialized in NLP (natural language processing) analyses of Web texts (e.g., social media posts). The OpeNER pipeline is particularly suitable for important NLP tasks such as named entity recognition, classification, and disambiguation; sentiment analysis; opinion mining; and polarity detection. The pipeline is composed of the following 10 software modules: (i) language detector; (ii) tokenizer; (iii) POS (Part-Of-Speech) tagger; (iv) constituency parser; (v) NERC (named entity recognition and classification); (vi) NED (named entity disambiguation); (vii) coreferencer; (viii) polarity tagger; (ix) property tagger; (x) opinion detector. The OpeNER pipeline is made publicly available via Web services and the code is released as open-source. Link 🔗 24/01/2013

Teaching Activity

[28]	Member of the PhD Program Committee in Technology Applied to Cultural Heritage (TEACH). **Institution:** *University of Calabria (Italy)*.	27/05/2025 - Present
[27]	Scientific Advisor for PhD students. **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Scientific Advisor for the students: Lorenzo Mannocci (XXXVII cycle), Benedetta Tessa (XL cycle).	01/11/2021 - Present
[26]	Scientific Advisor for PhD students. **Institution:** *Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha (Qatar)*. Scientific Advisor for the student: Ali Al-Qahtani (Student ID: 210007673).	14/10/2018 - Present
[25]	Scientific Advisor for PhD students. **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Scientific Advisor for the students: Leonardo Nizzoli (XXXIII cycle), Serena Tardelli (XXXIV cycle), Michele Mazza (XXXV cycle) and Lorenzo Cima (XXXVIII cycle).	01/11/2017 - Present
[24]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the students: Lorenzo Mannocci, Serena Tardelli, Florencio Paucar Sedano, Daniele Borghesi.	23/06/2016 - 15/10/2025
[23]	Professor of "Content Moderation in Social Media". **Institution:** *University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 2 hours.	05/06/2025 - 10/06/2025
[22]	Seminar on "Introduction to social media analysis and coordinated behaviour" during the course on "Mobile and Social Sensing Systems". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 3 hours.	02/05/2023 - 02/05/2023
[21]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the student: Marco Giuseppe Marino.	04/02/2022 - 07/10/2022
[20]	Professor of "Mobile Apps and Cloud". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 30 hours.	14/02/2022 - 30/09/2022
[19]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the students: Lorenzo Cima, Lorenzo Porfilio.	10/12/2019 - 20/06/2022

[18]	Seminar on "Social media analysis and content credibility" during the course on "Mobile and Social Sensing Systems". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 3 hours.	04/05/2022 - 04/05/2022
[17]	Professor of "Credibility assessment in Online social Networks with a focus on social bot detection". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 12 hours.	25/01/2022 - 28/01/2022
[16]	Professor of "Computer Architecture". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 30 hours.	28/10/2021 - 15/01/2022
[15]	Professor of "Mobile Apps and Cloud". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 30 hours.	08/03/2021 - 30/09/2021
[14]	Seminar on "Social media analysis and content credibility" during the course on "Mobile and Pervasive Systems". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 5 hours.	12/05/2021 - 18/05/2021
[13]	Academic tutor for internships. **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy).* Academic tutor for the following 6 students: Maurizio Gazzarri, Paola Serratì, Laura Kohnke, Ignazio Pisanu, Paola Dadone, Gianluca Sperduti.	01/09/2018 - 14/02/2021
[12]	Professor of "Big data sources, crowdsourcing, crowdsensing". **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 20 hours.	15/02/2018 - 14/02/2021
[11]	Professor of "Big data sources, crowdsourcing, crowdsensing". **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 20 hours.	15/02/2018 - 14/02/2021
[10]	Professor of "Credibility assessment in Online social Networks with a focus on social bot detection". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 8 hours.	28/04/2020 - 30/04/2020
[9]	Seminar on "Social media analysis and content credibility" during the course on "Mobile and Pervasive Systems". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 5 hours.	28/04/2020 - 29/04/2020
[8]	Seminar on "Automation and Deception in Online Social Networks". **Institution:** *Department of Law, University of Pisa (Italy).* **Duration:** 1 hour.	21/02/2020 - 21/02/2020

[7]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the students: Edoardo Casapieri, Giuseppe Caldarulo, Stefano Agresti, Francesco Paladino, Alessandro Sieni, Dario Amorosi, Ahmed Sipan, Chiara Bonsignori, Gabriele Ara, Gabriele Lagani, Gabriele Serra.	12/09/2016 - 27/11/2019
[6]	Professor of "Characterizing and detecting content-polluting social bots". **Institution:** *King's College London (UK)*. **Duration:** 2 hours.	25/06/2019 - 29/06/2019
[5]	Seminar on "Social Media Analysis: from Data Collection to Visualization" during the course on "Mobile and Pervasive Systems". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 4 hours.	11/04/2019 - 16/04/2019
[4]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the student: Michele Mazza.	01/03/2018 - 11/10/2018
[3]	Teaching Assistant of "Big data sources, crowdsourcing, crowdsensing". **Institution:** *Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 20 hours.	15/02/2016 - 14/02/2018
[2]	Teaching Assistant of "Cyber Intelligence". **Institution:** *Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa (Italy)*. **Duration:** 21 hours.	15/01/2017 - 14/01/2018
[1]	Graduate student supervisor. **Institution:** *Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics, University of Pisa (Italy)*. Supervisor for the students: Serena Tardelli, Jessica Braschi, Stefano Mastini.	20/11/2013 - 11/02/2015

Education

[8] **Degree:** PhD in Information Engineering. **Institution:** *University of Pisa (Italy)*. Grade: Excellent with honors (best grade) 🏆. Thesis: "Harnessing the Social Sensing revolution: Challenges and Opportunities". Awarded with the IEEE Computer Society Italy Section Chapter 2018 PhD Thesis Award. 🏆 — 09/05/2018

[7] **Degree:** International Summer School on Social Networks Security, Privacy, and Trust. **Institution:** *IIT-CNR, University of Padua, Nokia Bell Labs, DTU Compute*. Attended lessons by the following speakers: Guido Caldarelli (IMT Lucca, Italy); Elena Ferrari (Insubria, Italy); Alan Mislove (Northeastern University, USA); N. Asokan (Aalto University and University of Helsinki, Finland); Walter Quattrociocchi (IMT Lucca, Italy); Ahmad Sadeghi (TU Darmstadt, Germany); Giuseppe Sartori (University of Padua, Italy); Thorsten Strufe (TU Dresden, Germany); Gene Tsudik (University of California, USA). — 09/09/2016

[6] **Degree:** International Summer School on Computational Complex and Social Systems. **Institution:** *University of Catania (Italy)*. Attended lessons by the following speakers: Dirk Helbing (ETH Zurich, Switzerland); Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (George Mason University, USA); Falko Dressler (University of Paderborn, Germany); Vahab Mirrokni (Google Research, USA); Carlo Ratti (MIT Boston, USA); Stefan Thurner (Medical University of Vienna, Austria); Paolo Ferragina (University of Pisa, Italy); Vittorio Loreto (University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy); Dino Pedreschi (University of Pisa, Italy); Andrea Rapisarda (University of Catania, Italy). — 15/07/2016

[5] **Degree:** Post graduate Master's Degree in Big Data Analytics & Social Mining. **Institution:** *University of Pisa (Italy)*. Grade: Excellent (best grade) 🏆. Thesis: "DNA-inspired characterization and detection of social Twitter spambots". — 29/01/2016

[4] **Degree:** Certificate in English, CEF Level: C2 part 2 - Mastery. **Institution:** *International House, Pisa (Italy)*. Advanced English course (60 hours). — 16/05/2014

[3] **Degree:** Master's Degree in Computer Engineering. **Institution:** *University of Pisa (Italy)*. Grade: 108/110. Specialization in Industrial and Web Systems. Thesis: "Design, development, and evaluation of a framework for Early Warning applications in the Social Sensing scenario". — 24/10/2013

[2] **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering. **Institution:** *University of Pisa (Italy)*. Grade: 106/110. Thesis: "Design and development of a PHP/Javascript Library for table editing". — 18/09/2007

[1] **Degree:** High school diploma (scientific studies). **Institution:** *U. Dini High School, Pisa (Italy)*. Grade: 93/100. — 01/07/2002

Press and Dissemination

[44] **Interview in international science and technology magazine.** *ERC Magazine*. Article titled "Auditing moderation" in the ERC Magazine, featuring both a written and video interview with Stefano Cresci who discusses his ongoing research on making content moderation science-driven, user-centered, and transparent. Stefano discusses this hot issues in light of the European Digital Services Act legislation, and its provisions for platform transparency and data access. Link 15/12/2025

[43] **Interview in national radio show.** *RAI ISORADIO*. Interview aired during the radio journal of RAI ISORADIO. The interview took place in the aftermath of the Italian Antitrust Authority's fine (20 million euro) to the company that managed Colosseum ticket sales, for failure to protect against automated bot purchases. In the interview, Stefano Cresci commented about the existing techniques for bot detection. 09/04/2025

[42] **Interview for National News Agency.** *Ansa (Italian National Associated Press Agency)*. Stefano Cresci was interviewed by Ansa to comment on a scientific article published in the journal Science (DOI: 10.1126/science.adq1814). The article presents the results of a study on the use of generative AI techniques to converse with users who believe conspiracy theories in order to persuade them of the falsity of such theories. The interview covered several aspects, including the persuasiveness of AI, the effectiveness of debunking, and future research directions in the area of online content moderation. Link 13/09/2024

[41] **Interview in national news magazine (online ed.).** *Panorama*. Article in the online edition of the Panorama magazine. The article, titled "Chiara Ferragni torna su instagram ma blocca i commenti. Scelta giusta? La parola agli esperti" contains an interview with Stefano Cresci who discusses the online hate attacks received by a world-reknown Italian influencer and her strategy to avoid being harassed. Link 15/04/2024

[40] **School-wide seminar on the risks of prolonged social media use.** *Secondary School "L. Fibonacci"*. Seminar to middle school students about the timely topic of conscious use of social media apps and chats, highlighting both the benefits and dangers of these digital platforms. During the interactive presentation, which also included a long QA session, Stefano Cresci examined the benefits of social networks for studying and searching for information, along with the risks associated with losing control over content shared online. Through real-life examples and stories, he emphasized the value of one's personal data and explored the world of influencers and streamers, highlighting the hard work and sacrifices required to succeed in this industry, educating students about the realities behind the glamorous facade of social media. Finally, the talk addressed the problem of hate speech, explaining the importance of mutual respect and awareness of one's actions online, encouraging students to become knowledgeable and responsible digital citizens. The seminar provided students with a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities of social media, giving them valuable tools to safely and consciously navigate the digital world. 28/02/2024

[39] **Interview in national radio show.** *Radio24*. Interview during Radio24's "Smart City" program. Stefano Cresci takled about the funding he received from the European Community for his DEDUCE project, aimed at improving online content moderation and implementing personalized moderation interventions. Link 27/11/2023

[38] **Interview in international technology magazine (online ed.).** *WIRED*. Article in the online edition of WIRED. The article, titled "The GitHub Black Market That Helps Coders Cheat the Popularity Contest," contains an interview with Stefano Cresci who discusses the new trends in the presence of bots and trolls on platforms such as GitHub, which until recently had been spared from these issues. Link 23/10/2023

[37] **Interview for international research body.** *European Integrated Infrastructure for Social Mining and Big Data Analytics*. Video interview with Stefano Cresci who talked about the funding he received from the European Community for his DEDUCE project, aimed at improving online moderation and implementing customized moderation interventions. Link 18/10/2023

[36] **Interview for national research body.** *Institute of Informatics and Telematics (IIT) of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)*. Video interview with Stefano Cresci who talked about the funding he received from the European Community for his DEDUCE project, aimed at improving online moderation and implementing customized moderation interventions. Link 08/09/2023

[35] **Live interview.** *Italian National Research Council*. Stefano Cresci was interviewed live by Silvia Bencivelli during the "Spring of Research" event organized as part of the centennial celebrations of the Italian National Research Council. Stefano talked about his scientific career, with a focus on his latest research on content moderation. Link 12/05/2023

[34] **Interview for scientific podcast.** *Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the Italian National Research Council*. Stefano Cresci was interviewed by Chiara Spinelli and Viola Bachini for the inaugural issue of the IIT-CNR podcast titled "True or False?". During the interview Stefano talked about the problem of online information veracity and credibility, with a specific focus on his research on social bots, coordinated inauthentic behavior, and content moderation. Link 14/12/2022

[33] **Article and interview in national science magazine.** *s-citizenship*. Article titled "Fake News e Social Sensing, le due facce dei Social Network" in the s-citizenship online magazine. The piece is wholly based on an interview with Stefano Cresci who discusses his recent scientific results in the broad areas of contrast to mis- and disinformation, and of social sensing. Link 20/06/2022

[32] **Article and interview in French newspaper.** *Les Echos*. Article in the main French business newspaper "Les Echos" titled "Six questions sur la polémique des faux comptes sur Twitter". The piece follows Elon Musk's bid for Twitter and features an interview with Stefano Cresci about the number of fake accounts of the social platform. Link 17/05/2022

[31] **Thought leadership piece in collaboration with international non-profit organization.** *First Draft News*. Thought leadership piece written in collaboration with researchers from First Draft News, a world-leading NGO devoted to the fight against disinformation. The piece investigates the concept and definition of "coordinated inauthentic behavior" (CIB) and the existing methods to detect and investigate it. The piece also includes analyses of the coordinated communities involved in the US 2020 electoral debate on Twitter. Results for these analyses are obtained via application of a CIB-detection framework developed by Stefano and colleagues. Link 13/09/2021

[30] **Article and interview in Canadian newspaper.** *The Globe and Mail*. Article in the Canadian newspaper "The Globe and Mail" titled "Growing use of automated bots to promote stocks on social media contributing to market volatility, experts say". The article features a long interview with Stefano Cresci, who describes the current landscape of online stock market manipulations, which also make large use of social bots. Stefano also discusses the main findings of his research on financial information manipulation. Link 10/05/2021

[29] **Article and interview in national science and technology magazine.** *Tech4Future*. Article titled "Big data analytics, deep learning, AI e social network: il ruolo della ricerca" in the Tech4Future online magazine. The piece discusses the recent advances in AI and data science, and their application for improving our online and offline societies. The article also features an interview with Stefano Cresci, based on his recent recognition as the 2020 ERCIM Cor Baayen Young Researcher Awardee, about the application of the aforementioned techniques to Online Social Networks data, both for beneficial (e.g., for speeding up emergency response) as well as for nefarious (e.g., for creating and spreading fake news) goals. Link 12/01/2021

[28] **Live interview and webinar for national scientific organization.** *Italian National Research Council*. Stefano Cresci was invited to participate to the webinar series #LaMiaVitaDopoIlCOVID (My life after COVID-19) organized by Max Mizzau Perczel and Silvia Mattoni from the Italian National Research Council (CNR). The webinar, titled "Perché passiamo parte del nostro tempo sui social piuttosto che leggere un bel libro?", focused on themes such as the critical thinking capacity of social media users, our ability to recognize online manipulation attempts and fake news, and the role of social media in contemporary electoral processes. Link 28/10/2020

[27] **Live interview for international fact-checking organization.** *Full Fact*. Live interview for the Full Fact podcast. Full Fact is the UK leading fact-checking charity. In the interview, Stefano Cresci discusses issues such as the growing complexity of social bots, which makes their detection increasingly challenging. Stefano also discusses the most promising techniques and approaches for spotting social bots. Finally, in light of the upcoming US 2020 election, Stefano also highlights the potential uses of social bots for tampering with the online political debates. Link 🔗 — 26/10/2020

[26] **Article and interview in a sports digital publication.** *The Athletic*. Article titled "The Premier League's pornbot problem" in The Athletic online magazine. The piece discusses a frequent issue related to the Instagram pages of English Premier League clubs, that are flooded by so-called pornbots. The article also features an interview with Stefano Cresci about the role of the aforementioned pornbots and, more broadly, about the use of automation on social media. Link 🔗 — 26/10/2020

[25] **Article and interview in national science magazine.** *OggiScienza*. Article titled "Robot alla conquista dei social network" in the Italian science magazine OggiScienza. The articles features an interview with Stefano Cresci, who presents a state of knowledge about the presence of fake profiles and social bots in Online Social Networks, also highlighting the steps needed to alleviate the issues. Link 🔗 — 12/10/2020

[24] **Interview in book.** *Fake People*. Interview in the "Fake People" book by V. Bachini and M. Tesconi. Stefano's main scientific results for the task of social bot detection are discussed in the book. Stefano also provides insights into the likely future developments of the field. Link 🔗 — 17/06/2020

[23] **Article and interview in a research and technology digital publication.** *Perspectives by Dell Technologies*. Article titled "Data Science and Biology Are Being Used to Map Human Behavior Online" in the Perspectives digital publication of Dell Technologies. The piece features an interview with Stefano Cresci about the Digital DNA Toolbox, a set of bioinformatics-inspired algorithms useful for mapping online behaviors and for assessing users and content credibility. Link 🔗 — 08/04/2020

[22] **Article and interview in national journalism blog.** *Valigia Blu*. Article in the national journalism Web blog Valigia Blu. The article titled "Bot, cyborg o troll: gli eserciti della propaganda politica online" features an interview with Stefano Cresci where he discusses the different types of malicious social media accounts – comprising social bots, cyborgs and trolls – that are responsible for the spread of mis- and disinformation online. Link 🔗 — 22/01/2020

[21] **Article and interview for international non-profit organization.** *First Draft News*. Article in the international Web blog of First Draft News, a non-profit devoted to support researchers and journalists in the fight against disinformation. The article titled "The not-so-simple science of social media bots" features an interview with Stefano Cresci where he outlines the differences between social bots, cyborgs and trolls. Stefano also discusses why bots are becoming more advanced and dangerous with each passing day, and gives advice for detecting them. Link 28/11/2019

[20] **Supplement in Italian newspaper.** *Il Corriere della Sera*. In the supplement "La lettura" of the Italian newspaper "Il Corriere della Sera", Stefano Cresci provides 3 librarian suggestions for readers interested in his research topics and, in particular, in the spreading of fake news, in phenomena such as online polarization and in the role of algorithms in our everyday lives. His suggestions include the following books: "Sospettosi" by Silvia Bencivelli, "L'algoritmo e l'oracolo" by Alessandro Vespignani, and "Liberi di crederci" by Walter Quattrociocchi and Antonella Vicini. 12/10/2019

[19] **Article and interview in Italian newspaper.** *Libero*. Article in the Italian newspaper "Libero" titled "Sono i robot che decidono chi diventa VIP e famoso" featuring an interview with Stefano Cresci and describing the research carried out by Stefano and colleagues on the online manipulation of political opinions. 22/09/2019

[18] **Article and interview in Italian newspaper.** *Il Tirreno*. Article in the Italian newspaper "il Tirreno" titled "Insulti e like ai leader politici, il ricercatore del Cnr: «Più di metà sono fatti da robot»". The article features a long interview with Stefano Cresci, who describes the current landscape of political opinion manipulation in Online Social Networks. Link 27/08/2019

[17] **Article and interview in international scientific blog.** *SAGE Ocean blog*. Article in the scientific blog of SAGE Publishing, titled "2018 SAGE Concept Grant winners: An interview with the Digital DNA Toolbox team". The article features an interview with Stefano Cresci and Maurizio Tesconi regarding the development process of the Python and R library that implement the digital DNA bot-detection technique. Link 01/05/2019

[16] **Poster at local scientific event.** *2018 DIITET-CNR Conference*. Poster titled "How can you Spot a Social Bot?", describing the characteristics of social bots and the latest scientific advances for detecting them. 30/11/2018

[15] **Poster and live stand at local scientific event.** *BRIGHT 2018, Lucca (Italy)*. Poster titled "Metti un Bot per amico", describing the phenomenon of Social Bots. Interactive presentation titled "Spot the Bot", where participants were asked to distinguish between legitimate (human-operated) Twitter accounts and social bots. The aim of the poster and of the interactive presentation was to raise awareness, especially for teenagers, on the issue of social bots, and on the broader issue of information credibility, in Online Social Networks. 28/09/2018

[14] **Article in international scientific blog.** *SAGE Ocean blog*. Article in the scientific blog of SAGE Publishing, titled "Digital DNA: How to map our online behavior". The article describes the digital DNA behavioral modeling technique developed by Stefano Cresci, its application to the detection of spam and bot accounts in Twitter, and the development process of a Python and R library for allowing easy access to the digital DNA technique. Link 25/06/2018

[13] **Interview in national radio show.** *RAI RADIOTRE and RAI RADIOUNO*. Interview aired during the radio journal of RAI RADIOTRE and RAI RADIOUNO. The interview took place in the aftermath of the Cambridge Analytica scandal that hit Facebook and Stefano Cresci commented about the possibilities of social platforms' access to user data and the regulation of such data. 12/04/2018

[12] **Article in Italian newspaper (online ed.).** *Il Sole 24 Ore*. Article in the online edition of the Italian economics newspaper "Il Sole 24 Ore" titled "Così i tweet dei robot insidiano le news dei listini di Borsa" describing the research carried out by Stefano Cresci and colleagues on the influence of spam and bot activities in stock microblogs on Twitter. Link 23/03/2018

[11] **Article in Italian newspaper.** *La Repubblica*. Article in the Italian newspaper "La Repubblica" titled "Altro che milioni di follower: ecco quanti utenti seguono davvero i leader politici su Twitter" describing the research carried out by Stefano Cresci and colleagues on the number of fake Twitter followers. The study investigated the political competitors for the 2018 Italian Presidential elections. Link 19/02/2018

[10] **Invited public presentation.** *Pint of Science, Pisa (Italy)*. Stefano was invited to deliver a presentation for the Pisa edition of the international science dissemination serie "Pint of Science". Stefano delivered a presentation titled "La contraffazione ai tempi dei social network" on the latest advances of fake and spambot account detection in online social networks. Link 15/05/2017

[9] **Article in Italian newspaper.** *La Nazione*. Article in the Italian newspaper "La Nazione" titled "La Rete e le Notizie" describing the research activity carried out by Stefano Cresci on breaking news detection and fake news detection. 16/04/2017

[8] **Live interview in national radio show.** *RAI RADIOUNO*. Interview on the national radio "RAI RADIOUNO" with Stefano Cresci, on the impact of his research on social media emergency management, in the case of the deadly Central Italy earthquake of 2016. 19/01/2017

[7] **Regional TV news interview and report.** *TG3 RAI, Tuscany*. Regional TV news report titled "Dal tam-tam (digitale) al CNR. Intervista a Stefano Cresci del CNR di Pisa." describing the impact of the research activity carried out by Stefano Cresci in IIT-CNR on social media emergency management. The report features an interview with Stefano Cresci. 21/05/2016

[6] **Regional TV news interview and report.** *TG3 RAI, Tuscany*. Regional TV news report titled "I tweet sensori sul territorio." describing the results achieved by Stefano Cresci on social media emergency management, with a particular reference to the results obtained during the Central Italy earthquake of 2016, and the results on fake/spambot account detection. The report features an interview with Stefano Cresci. Link 🔗 — 20/05/2016

[5] **Article in Italian newspaper (online ed.).** *Il Fatto Quotidiano*. Article in the online edition of the Italian newspaper "Il Fatto Quotidiano" titled "Twitter, nasce il programma che combatte i 'bot' (cioè i fake robotizzati). E lo fa analizzando il DNA digitale". The article describes the digital DNA behavioral modeling technique developed by Stefano Cresci and Maurizio Tesconi, and its application to the detection of spambot accounts in Twitter. Link 🔗 — 30/04/2016

[4] **Article in international scientific blog.** *SpringerOpen blog*. Article in the SpringerOpen blog titled "Harnessing the hashtag: using social media to detect crises". The article describes the results obtained with the EARS system in the detection of earthquakes in Italy. Link 🔗 — 03/04/2016

[3] **Article in national data journalism blog.** *Datajournalism.it*. Article in the Italian data journalism blog titled "Terremoto Emilia 2012: i tweet che contano". The article shows a case study of the application of the EARS system in the aftermath of the devastating Emilia earthquake of 2012 in Italy. Link 🔗 — 20/05/2015

[2] **Article and interview in international humanitarian blog.** *United Nations Global Pulse*. Article in the Global Pulse blog of the United Nations, titled "Research Bites: EARS (Earthquake Alert and Report System): A Real Time Decision Support System for Earthquake Crisis Management". The article includes a brief interview with Stefano Cresci. Link 🔗 — 25/08/2014

[1] **Article in national technology blog.** *6gradi, Blog de Il Corriere della Sera*. Article in the technology blog "6gradi" of the national newspaper "Il Corriere della Sera", titled "Twitter e gli scontri allo stadio, un modello del CNR per prevederli". The article discusses the application of Stefano's research in social media emergency management to the management of public safety issues, such as riots and protests. Link 🔗 — 18/05/2014