Computational Methods Working Group

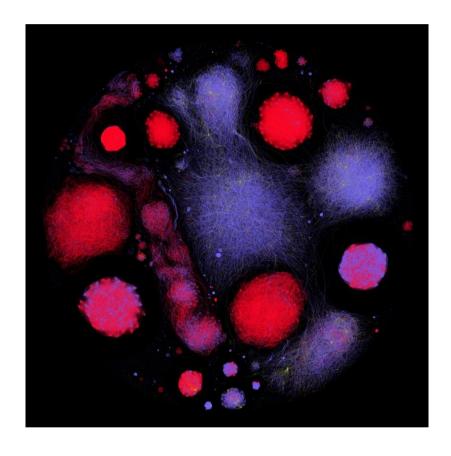




Call for Participants

Introductory Hands-On Workshop on a Toolkit to Analyze:

Coordination Networks on Twitter



Wednesday, **December 07**, 2022, 2:30–6:00 pm, Room AND 4.55 Afterward Apéro Get-Together, fög Bar AND 2.51 University of Zurich, Campus Oerlikon, Andreasstrasse 15

Instructor:

Prof. Dr. Axel Bruns

(Queensland University of Technology)

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Social media activity doesn't occur in a vacuum. Individuals on social media are often taking part in *coordinated activities* such as protest movements or interest-based communities. Social media platforms are also used strategically to boost particular messages in line with political campaign goals or for commercial profit and scamming. This involves multiple accounts posting or reposting the same content, repeatedly and within a short time window (e.g., within one minute).

This workshop introduces participants to the Coordination Network Toolkit (https://github.com/QUT-Digital-Observatory/coordination-network-toolkit) by Assoc. Prof. Timothy Graham in the Digital Media Research Centre at Queensland University of Technology – a toolkit designed to detect coordinated activity on social media and to generate networks that map the actors and their relationships. It can be used to detect multiple types of coordinated activity on any type of social media platform.

Fundamentally this toolkit produces networks where the nodes are accounts, and the weighted edges between these accounts are the number of messages from those accounts that meet some criterion for a type of *coordination*. Firstly, it includes functionality for *cotweeting* and *co-retweeting* (Keller et al., 2019; Schäfer et al., 2017), where accounts post exactly the same text (co-tweets) or repost the same post within a short time window (co-retweets). Secondly, it includes functionality for *co-link* analysis, where multiple accounts post the same URLs repeatedly and in a short time window of each other (Giglietto et al., 2020). Thirdly, it adds two new network types: *co-reply*, where accounts are replying to the same post repeatedly together; and *co-similarity*, where accounts post similar text (but not exact duplicates), which relaxes the strict assumption of co-tweeting.

The workshop will use **Python** (in the form of a Jupyter Notebook) and the network visualization software **Gephi**. Basic familiarity with these tools will be useful but not required.

Date: The workshop will take place on-site on Wednesday, December 07th, 2022. Number of participants is limited, but <u>participation is free</u> thanks to the generous funding by the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Zurich.

Who can apply and how?

We invite all early career researchers, i.e., PhD candidates and scholars who successfully defended their PhD within the last six years, to participate in the workshop. To apply, please fill in this form or scan the QR code by Nov. 25th, 2022.

Contact information of the organizing team

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