CSSci

Qualitative Prediction Framework

Individual Assignment RE

Students will create a framework for modelling and predicting a complex societal phenomenon that is associated with a high degree of uncertainty and interdependency and which relies on qualitative reasoning. They will create a long-range forecast of social inequality as it relates to their topic. The predictive framework will be based on probabilistic reasoning and will consist of identifying the factors affecting the phenomenon of their choice; making an informed guess of their estimates and variability; and outlining the relationship between the elements of the framework. Student will use desk research to justify their decisions and ensure the reliability of their modelling.

The prediction framework will be accompanied by the cover note explaining the rationale for the prediction, justifying the components of the prediction framework, interpreting the results of the modelling. The cover note should also reflect upon the limitations of the modelling, including critically evaluating potential biases in the sources used.

Students may choose to focus on any topic that is of significant societal concern. Students are encouraged to choose the same topic for the RE Qualitative Prediction Framework and the SSH Essay on Social Inequality assignments. However, they are **not** required to choose a topic that is closely related to their group project. Every student must choose a distinct societal issue as the topic for their prediction framework.

Deadlines

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (5 p.m.)	**Peer feedback session (**during Check-In) Focus on conceptual model and sources.
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (5 p.m.)	**Peer feedback session** (during Check-In) Focus on probabilistic model
Wednesday, May 22, 2024 (5 p.m.)	**Progress check** *Feedback in Check-In Tuesday, May 28*
Monday, June 03, 2024 (5 p.m.)	**Final submission** Final submission of PDF file via Canvas

Assessment Criteria

1. Presents a long-range forecast of social inequality as it relates to the case study.
2. Scope and clarity of the modelling topic.
3. The components of the prediction framework and the estimated values are theoretically justified.
4. The results of the modelling are correctly interpreted.
5. The predictive framework is visually appealing and understandable.
6. The limitations of the predictive framework are outlined and discussed, with particular attention to potential biases.
7. Relevant academic sources are adequately utilised, critically evaluated, and correctly referenced.
8. The word limit for the covering note is 1000 words (strict maximum), excluding references.

Learning Objectives

1. Make predictions incorporating qualitative data using probabilistic reasoning.
2. Assess and interpret the reliability of predictions using the adequate techniques for the relevant method.
3. Critically reflect on the ethical, legal and social aspects of research designs involving the collection of digital behaviour and/or communication data as well as of their underlying assumptions and biases.

Version History:
Jan. 18, 2024: V1.1