RIT
Center for Human-aware Artificial Intelligence

CHAI

CHAI Seminar Series

RIT only event. Refreshments will be served.

DATE: **Monday, September 12, 2022, 12:00-1:00 PM**

SPEAKER: **Ashique KhudaBukhsh, PhD**
Assistant Professor, Department of Software Engineering,
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, RIT

TITLE: **Natural Language Processing Methods to Interpret Political Polarization in News Media & User Responses**

IN PERSON: **Golisano Hall, Room 2400**

ABSTRACT: This talk is arranged in two parts. In the first part, a new methodology is described that offers a fresh perspective on interpreting and understanding political and ideological biases through machine translation. Focusing on a year that saw a raging pandemic, sustained worldwide protests demanding racial justice, an election of global consequence, and a far-from-peaceful transfer of power, our methods can shed light on the deepening political divide in the US. The second part is focused on the police portrayal in mainstream US media. The thirteen-month period spanning the murder of George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020, the Capitol Riot on January 6, 2021, Chauvin's conviction for the Floyd murder on April 21, 2021, and his sentencing on June 25, 2021, were momentous events for policing in the United States, in part due to the sustained media attention given to police practice, conduct, and function. Using advanced natural language processing methods, the key findings are presented, analyzing the different responses of three major media outlets -- Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC -- to these seminal events.

BIO: **Ashique KhudaBukhsh** is an assistant professor at the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). His current research lies at the intersection of NLP and AI for Social Impact as applied to: (i) globally important events arising in linguistically diverse regions requiring methods to tackle practical challenges involving multilingual, noisy, social media texts; (ii) polarization in the context of the current US political crisis; and iii) auditing AI systems and platforms for unintended harms. In addition to having his research been accepted at top artificial intelligence conferences and journals, his work has also received widespread international media attention that includes multiple coverage from BBC, Wired, Salon, The Independent, VentureBeat, and Digital Trends.

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