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Salvatore Romano

Salvatore Romano is a transdisciplinary researcher, working on algorithmic audit, platform accountability and digital forensic.

EXPERIENCE

Tracking Exposed — *Head of Research.*
2020 – PRESENT

Reports for media outlets:

1. "Investigating TikTok's policy response to the Ukraine war in Russia" three reports published between March and June 2022 : Pdf 1, Pdf 2, Pdf 3.
The reports lead 6 US Senators to summon TikTok's CEO for explanations and contributed to create a paragraph in this Wikipedia's page about censorship on TikTok.
The reports have been featured in: (Report1): WallStreetJournal, FinancialTimes, Wired, Vice, LeMonde, Repubblica. (Report2): WashingtonPost, RTVE.es, TechCrunch, Wired (Report3): EURONEWS, TechTimes, LeMonde.
2. "French Elections 2022: The visibility of French candidates on TikTok and YouTube Search Engines". Pdf. Collaboration with French Digital Council (CNNum) and media regulator (ARCOM)
3. "Non-logged-in children using YouTube"Pdf.

Strategic Litigations:

1. "Technical Report of the ascertainment conducted on the pornhub.com platform during June 2022." Filed to Cyprus DPA in 2022. GDPR Articles discussed: 5,6,9,12,13,22. The same report has been filed to the Italian DPA as a report (2021) and as a complaint (2023). Project sponsored by DigitalFreedomFund and Reset.Tech.
2. "Personalization of non-logged users watching "for kids" videos on YouTube." To be filed to the UK DPA, complaint still ongoing. Founded by GlobalActionPlan, FoxGlove, 5RightsFoundation.

Academic Publication:

1. "The platformization of gender and sexual identities: algorithmic analysis of PornHub"
Porn Studies, 2022. DOI
2. "YTREX: crowdsourced analysis of YouTube's recommender system during COVID-19 pandemic" Information Management and Big Data, Springer, 2021. DOI

International conferences, lectures, and tutorials on algorithms auditing.
<u>With Civil society</u>: World Economic Forum (Davos, 2022), RightsCon (Online, 2022), Mozilla Festival (Online, 2022), Trust and Truth (Boston, 2022), Digital Week (Milano, 2022), Italian HackMeeting (Torino 2022, Bologna 2021) Chaos Computer Club (Online, 2020), Disruption Lab (Berlin, 2020).
<u>With Universities</u>: DMI Winter School (UVA, 2023, 2022, 2021), DigiMeth Festival (Warwick Uni, 2022) AlgoCount: everyday algorithms (Milano Uni, 2022), Digital Intimacy (Padova Uni, 2022), Pre-COP: Climate Change and New Technologies (Milano ft. Stanford Uni, 2021).

EDUCATION

Bachelor and Master degree in Social and Communication Psychology.
2014 – 2020, University of Padova

Research Internship tutors: M. Heerdink, UVA (6 months) and with S. Milan, UVA (4 months)
Extracurricular courses in Data Science and Network Analysis: NLP and Text Networks.
Master Thesis : "Haters gonna (make you) hate: Negative Campaign as predictor of online Hate Speech during 2019 European elections in Italy" In collaboration with Amnesty International.

REFERENCES: Stefania Milan and Davide Beraldo, Amsterdam University, Media Studies.
Other SKILLS: **English level** C1 (IELTS Academic, 2021), **Spanish level** B2 (DELE, 2019) **Italian** (Native language). Excellent skills in **network analysis**, **data analysis** with python, tableau, rawgraphs. Good skills in **machine learning** for text and image analysis. Expert in GDPR, DSA, DMA.