



# Salvatore Romano

@salvatore@tracking.exposed

salvatoreromano1.github.io

## Memberships



Tracking Exposed



Network Against Hate Discourses.

**DATACTIVE**

DatActive, UVA

## Languages

**Italian** ● ● ● ● ●

Native language

**English** ● ● ● ● ●

IELTS Academic 2021 - C1

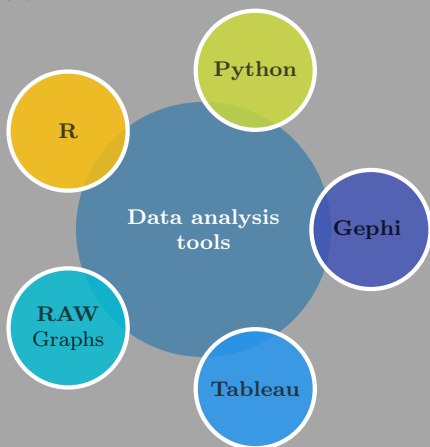
**Spanish** ● ● ● ● ●

DELE 2019 - B2

## Computer Skills



SalvatoreRomano1



JavaScript HTML Markdown

GitHub LaTeX Linux Office

</> Text Analysis (NLP, LIWC, autoIC)

**Surveys**(SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics, JS)

## Working Experience

- 2022 **Head of Research** Tracking Exposed  
Independent algorithmic auditing for public good on TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, Pornhub and Amazon.
- 2021 **User Experience Supervisor** Ledger, Horizon2020  
Youchoose.ai: building the first third party recommender system interoperable with Youtube.
- Digital Forensic Researcher** Reset Foundation  
YouTube and Pornhub's algorithm analysis to provide evidence for strategic litigations.
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant** University of Padova  
Master courses of "Persuasion and Social Influence" and "Social Network Analysis".
- Teacher at high school** Associazione Psychè  
Raising awareness on the digital sphere among young adults. Documentary
- 2019 **Researcher: Analysis of Amazon's algorithm.** Rai2  
TV Program: "Petrolio", Episod: "Il mondo (segreto) di Amazon".

## Publication and Reports

- 2022 **"Shadow-promotion: TikToks algorithmic recommendation of banned content in Russia"**  
, EURONEWS, TechTimes, LeMonde
- 2022 **"Pro-war content dominates on TikTok in Russia after failure to implement its own policy"**  
Washington Post, RTVE.es, TechCrunch, Wired
- "TikTok blocks 95% of content for users in Russia".**  
Wall Street Journal, Financial Time, Wired, Vice, Le Monde, Repubblica
- "The platformization of gender and sexual identities: algorithmic analysis of Pornhub"**  
Porn Studies. DOI.
- "Mapping Ban and Shadow-Ban on TikTok: Expose hidden censorship with a cross-national research".**  
DMI Winter School, Amsterdam University
- 2021 **"YTREX: crowdsourced analysis of YouTube's recommender system during COVID-19 pandemic"**  
Information Management and Big Data, Springer. DOI.
- "Echo Chambers, Filter Bubble and Polarization on Youtube: the USA post-electoral debate".**  
DMI Winter School, Amsterdam University
- 2020 **"Investigating polarization via YouTube's Recommender Systems: how is Brexit polarized on youtube?".**  
DMI Winter School, Amsterdam University

## Education

- 2020 **Research Internship with M. Heerdink** University of Amsterdam  
Investigating Polarization on social media using Integrative Complexity.
- 2020 **Master degree - Social and Communication Psychology** University of Padova  
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 Hate Barometer."
- 2017 **Bachelor degree - Psychology** University of Padova

- 2022 **Algocount final event: everyday algorithms** AlgoCount, UniMi  
"An algorithmic audit of Pornhub".
- 2022 **World Economic Forum, Davos** Web3 Foundation  
Panel: "TikTok at War: Trust and Truth at a time of Conflict ". Video.
- World Leading Summit for Human Rights in Digital Age** RightsCon  
Tutorial: "Tracking Exposed: a tool for TikTok algorithmic audits and shadow-ban detection".
- Mozilla Festival: Together towards our common goal: a healthy internet and Trustworthy AI.** Mozilla Foundation  
Lightning Talk: "The platformization of gender and sexual identities: an Algorithmic Analysis of PornHub" Video  
Panel: "Analyzing shadow-ban on TikTok: the "TikTok Observatory"
- 2021 **Pre-COP: Climate Change and New Technologies** Unimi, Stanford  
"The impact of Recommendation Algorithms in the Climate Crisis". Slides
- Annual Journalists Seminary** National Order Of Journalists  
"Tools for Data Journalists: what is an algorithm and how can we study it?" Slides
- E-privacy 2021 Conference** Winston Smith, HERMES  
"Two examples of algorithmic bias: polarization on Youtube and heteronormativity on Pornhub." Slides Video
- Political Psychology Master Course** University of Padova  
Lecture on "Negative Campaign as predictor of online Hate Speech during 2019 European elections in Italy: Amnesty's Barometer" Slides, Video.
- 2020 **Remote Chaos Experience Conference** Chaos Computer Club  
Tutorial on "Youtube Tracking Exposed: tool for algorithm audit".
- Data Cities: Smart Technologies, Tracking and Human Rights** Disruption Lab  
Workshop conduction: "Smash your filter bubble". Radio Colonia Interview.

## References

Stefania Milan (s.milan@uva.nl)

Univ. of Amsterdam - Sociology

Caterina Suitner (caterina.suitner@unipd.it)

Univ. of Padova - Psychology