

# Iniciativas para identificar (algunos) contenidos maliciosos

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AI Tech Talk Valencia AI  
13th October, 2022



# Disclaimers

1. This is **not** a technical talk
2. I am **biased**, like everybody!
3. The **higher** my level of Italian, the **lower** my level of English,  
the **less** I remember the Iberian dialect, and the **more** I mix  
languages

# About myself

Computing scientist  
working on

Natural  
Language  
Processing

Information  
Retrieval

Machine  
Learning

2022--20?? **Associate Professor**  
2019-2022 **Senior Assistant Professor**  
Università di Bologna



2014-2019 **Scientist**  
Qatar Computing Research Institute



2012-2014 **Alain Bensoussan Fellow**  
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya



2012 **PhD in Computing Science**  
Universitat Politècnica de València



# Where am I?

# Università di Bologna

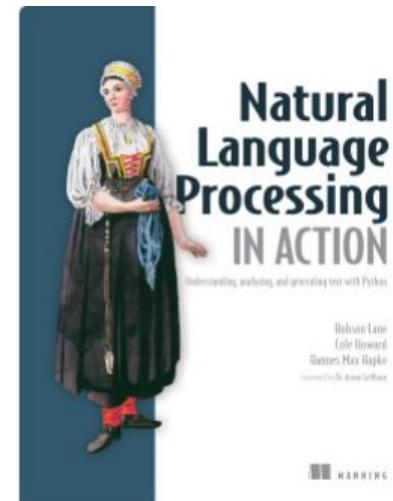


Campus di Forlì  
Emilia-Romagna

# My mission at UniBO

Bringing (real) **computing** to a D. of Interpreting and Translation

- Teaching in the MA **Translation** program:
  - Computational Linguistics
  - Computing Thinking and Coding
  - Software Localisation
- Supervising NLP **PhD** and **MSc** projects by students with a Linguistics/Translation background



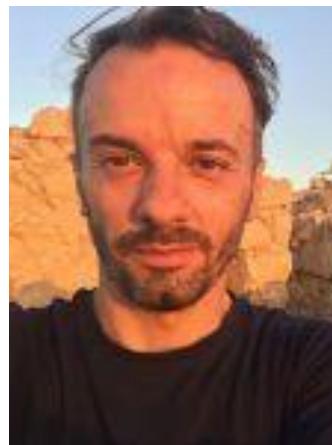
# Main collaborators involved



Arianna Muti



Katerina Korre



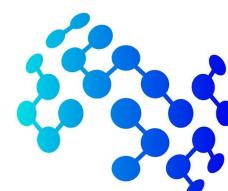
Giovanni  
da San Martino



Preslav Nakov



Yifan Zhang



# **Contents**

**1. Motivation**

**2. Propaganda**

**3. Disinformation**

**4. Hate speech**



Yann LeCun

@ylecun

...

The supply of disinformation will soon be infinite, which will cause people to treat *\*all\** information as disinformation, *\*unless\** it comes with a traceable origin to a reliable and/or trusted source.  
There are techs and standards to be deployed for this.



theatlantic.com

The Supply of Disinformation Will Soon Be Infinite

Disinformation campaigns used to require a lot of human effort, but artificial intelligence will take them to a whole new level.

5:55 PM · Oct 9, 2022 · Twitter for Android

153 Retweets 22 Quote Tweets 729 Likes



<https://twitter.com/ylecun/status/1579138435398279170>

**Ramon Crespo (Decca)** @rcr... · 8/9/22

...



Señora Pastor la unica manera de recuperar su credibilidad seria su dimision de la sexta y el divorcio del Sr Farreras. No se puede caer mas bajo en dignidad como ser humano, el suicidio tambien limpiaria su merecimiento como ciudadana. Un saludo.



[https://twitter.com/\\_anapastor\\_/status/1580114140688834561](https://twitter.com/_anapastor_/status/1580114140688834561)

# Errors from poor research (and writing)



Piadinas aprobadas por la IGP. MIRIAM GARCÍA

COCINA ITALIANA

PIADINAS DE EMILIA-ROMAÑA

El País (Spain), 27 May, 2021

[https://elcomidista.elpais.com/elcomidista/2021/05/10/receta/1620635145\\_993526.html](https://elcomidista.elpais.com/elcomidista/2021/05/10/receta/1620635145_993526.html)

# Mainstream outlets are not always accurate



PIADINAS DE EMILIA-ROMAÑA

“Las piadinas o *piadine* son un pan plano típico de la región de Emilia-Romaña [...] emparentadas con las tortas planas de todo el planeta, que van desde las tortillas mejicanas [sic] a los chapati indios



piadina



tortilla



chapati

# Mainstream outlets are not always accurate



PIADINAS DE EMILIA-ROMAÑA

“Las piadinas o *piadine* son un pan plano típico de la región de Emilia-Romaña [...] emparentadas con las tortas planas de todo el planeta, que van desde las tortillas mexicanas [sic] a los chapati indios

Nada más primigenio que hacer una pasta con harina y agua, aplastarla en forma de torta y cocerla en cualquier superficie caliente, un tipo de elaboración **nacida en muchas zonas del mundo de forma independiente** (por pura necesidad).

# Sensationalising (and exaggeration)

**EXCELSIOR**  
www.excelsior.com.mx

Mexico; 10 May, 2011

**la Repubblica**  
Italy; 31 March, 2021

## A Mexican makes history in Spain with a plagiarism detector

The researcher developed a new method that detects if a text has been copied from another language and posted on the internet

04/05/2011 09:44 EFE

Arianna's algorithm:  
“This is how I hunt posts against women in Twitter”

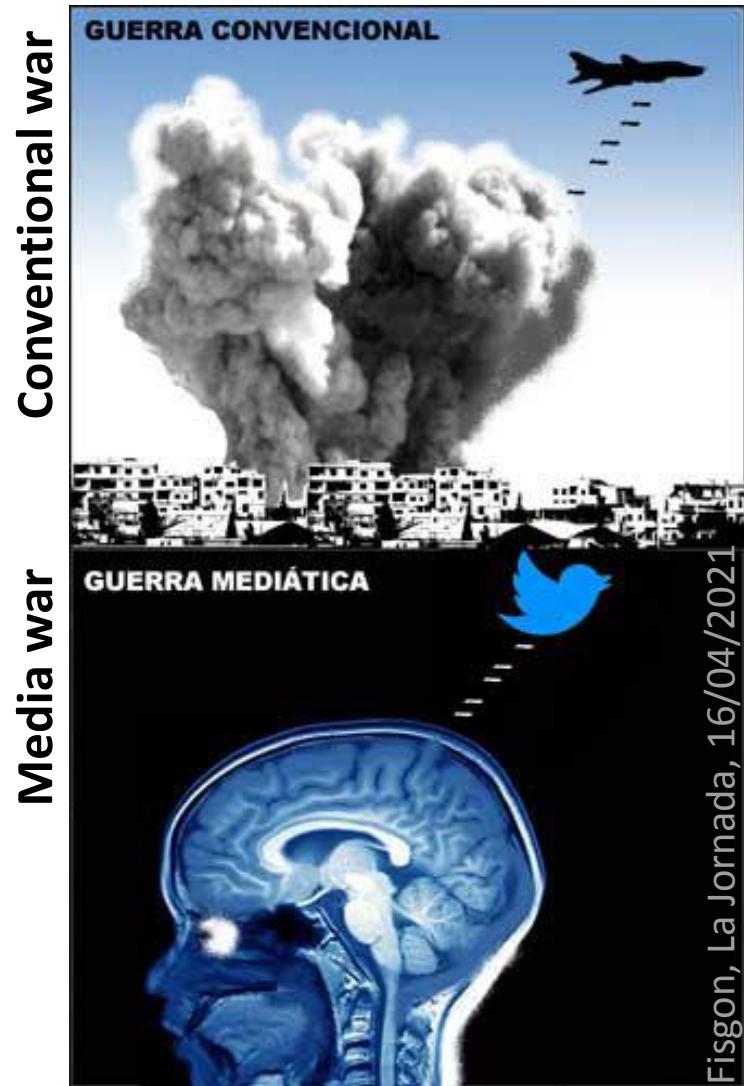
di Emanuela Giampaoli

A comic book illustration of Captain America. He is shown from the waist up, wearing his iconic blue and red suit with the white star on the chest. He is looking upwards and slightly to the right with a determined expression. The background features the stars and stripes of the American flag. In the upper left corner, the word "Propaganda" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

Propaganda

# *Problematic journalism*

- Ongoing (and uncorrected) errors that arise from poor research
- Sloppy verification
- Sensationalising that exaggerates for effect
- Hyper-partisan selection of facts at the expense of fairness



UNESCO (2018). Journalism, ‘Fake news’ & Disinformation.  
Handbook for Journalism Education and Training

# Propaganda in the current affairs

- Politicians and artists do not need the media to reach their audience  
**They have social media**
- Journalists are struggling to produce news and attract both readers and sponsors
  - They have to act quick for it to be **breaking news**
  - They need to **grab our attention**
- Some newspapers are struggling to survive. They publish **hidden marketing under request**
- People **do not read news** (articles); they scroll social media

# Propaganda techniques

[...] based on social psychological research are used to generate propaganda. Many of these same techniques can be classified as logical fallacies, since propagandists use arguments that, while sometimes convincing, are not necessarily valid."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda\\_techniques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda_techniques)

Loaded language	Causal oversimplification
Name calling or labeling	Slogans
Repetition	Appeal to authority
Exaggeration or minimization	Black-and-white fallacy, dictatorship
Doubt	Thought-terminating cliché
Appeal to fear/prejudice	Whataboutism, straw man, red herring
Flag-waving	Bandwagon, reductio ad hitlerum

# Propaganda techniques (examples)



We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth.

Greta Thunberg, UNGA 2019

**Appeal to fear.** Seeking to build support for an idea by instilling anxiety and/or panic in the population towards an alternative.

# Propaganda techniques (examples)



**Loaded language.**

Words/phrases with strong emotional implications

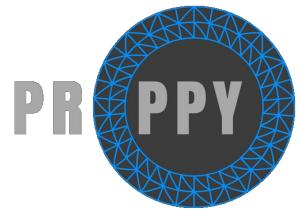
**Name calling.**

Labeling with something the audience fears, hates, finds undesirable or loves, praises

**Doubt.**

Questioning the credibility of someone/something

\* Social media post, following the unfolding of a feminist pro-abortion demonstration on 28 September 2020, Mexico City



# Objectives + Translation into NLP

- Developing tools to help readers **notice propaganda**
- Analysing the use of propaganda in media

Why? **IMHO**, it is one of the best ways to dim the effect of disinformation



**Propaganda**  
**No propaganda**



# A “simple” approach



Information Processing & Management

Volume 56, Issue 5, September 2019, Pages 1849-1864



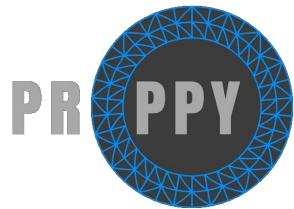
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Proppy: Organizing the news based on their propagandistic content

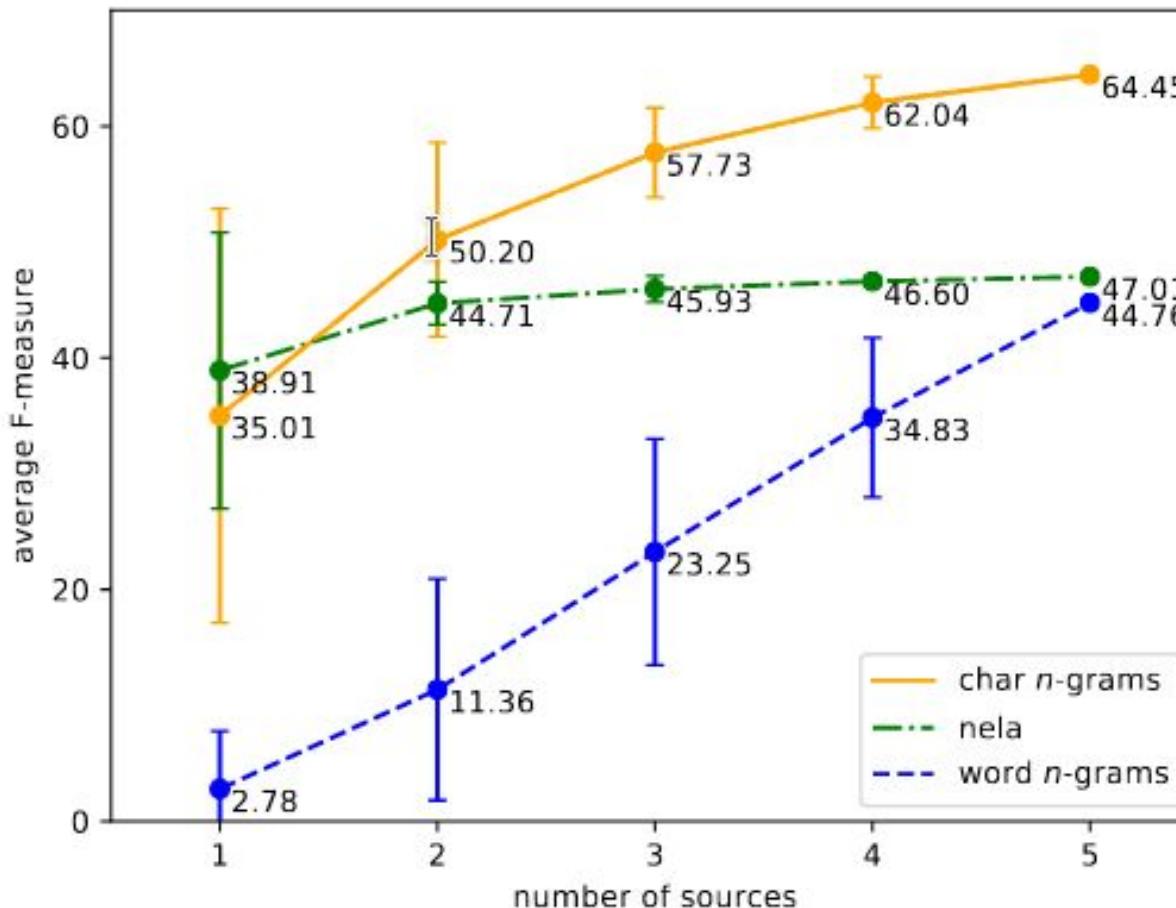
Alberto Barrón-Cedeño <sup>o</sup><sup>1, a</sup>, Israa Jaradat <sup>1, b</sup>, Giovanni Da San Martino <sup>c</sup>, Preslav Nakov <sup>c</sup>

eds. Jorge, Campos, Jatowt, Nunes

- Supervised model to compute a **propagandist index** ( $F_1=80+$ )
- Qprop-18: corpus with 50k+ articles from 104 sources
- A bunch of experiments that show, among others, that both style and vocabulary (topic/domain independent) are crucial to spot propaganda



# A “simple” solution



- It includes an analysis on the stability of different representations with respect to the number of propagandist and non-propagandist sources



# Results summary

features	$F_1$
word n-grams	75.55
lexicon	44.87
voc. richness	29.72
readability	21.50
char n-grams	<b>82.13</b>
nela	50.98
char n-grams+lexicon	81.94
char n-grams+nela	<b>82.75</b>
readability+nela	76.83

A close-up photograph of a laughing terracotta figure from the Terracotta Army. The figure is wearing a simple, light-colored tunic and has a wide, joyful expression with eyes closed and mouth open. It is positioned in front of a red wall with several framed paintings or photographs hanging on it.

# Identifying propaganda techniques

# PRTA: We need to go beyond

From binary document classification to multiclass sequence labelling

- To highlight the **trick** to the reader
- To **explain** why an article is propaganda
- To **justify** the flagging of an article as propagandist

# PRTA: Propaganda techniques

We identified 18 propaganda techniques which...

- Are likely to be used in news articles
- Can be spotted by an educated eye, without having to consult external information sources



Da San Martino, Yu, Barrón-Cedeño, Petrov, and Nakov.  
**Fine-Grained Analysis of Propaganda in News Articles.**  
EMNLP-IJCNLP 2019

# PRTA: PTC-SemEval20 Corpus

**Anafora**

Stereotyping\_name\_calling\_or\_labeling

1 Manchin says Democrats acted like babies at the SOTU

2 Democrat West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin says his colleagues' refusal to stand or applaud during President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech was disrespectful and a signal that

Black-and-white\_Fallacy

the party is more concerned with obstruction than it is with progress.

Loaded\_language

4 In a glaring sign of just how stupid and petty things have become in Washington these days, Manchin was invited on Fox News Tuesday morning to discuss how he was one of the only Democrats in the chamber for the State of the Union speech

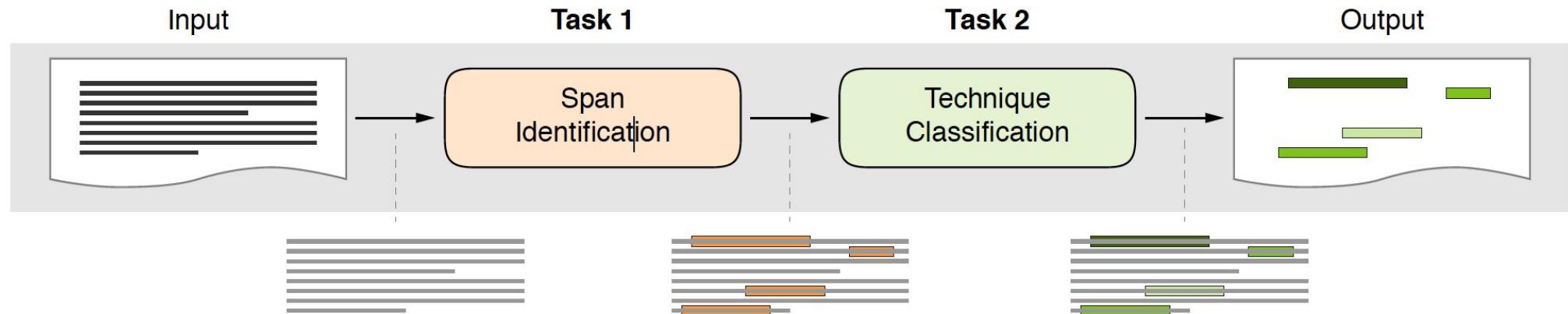
Exaggeration

Loaded\_language

not looking as though Trump killed his grandma.

- 6+ professional annotators (hard to crowdsource)
- 2 annotators/article; 3 during consolidation
- ~50 articles/week

# PRTA: Translation into specific NLP tasks



T1. Span identification

← Plain-text document

→ Specific propagandist  
text snippets

T2. Technique classification

← Propagandist snippet  
Document context

→ Propaganda technique

# PRTA instantiation into SemEval 2020

## **SEMEVAL 2020 TASK 11 "DETECTION OF PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES IN NEWS ARTICLES"**

<https://propaganda.qcri.org/semeval2020-task11>

Da San Martino, Barrón-Cedeño, Wachsmuth, Petrov, Nakov

**SemEval-2020 Task 11: Detection of Propaganda Techniques in News Articles**

SemEval 2020

# PRTA: SemEval T11.1 Span identification

Rank. Team	Transformers							Learning Models					Representations				Misc														
	BERT	RoBERTa	XLNet	XLM	XLM RoBERTa	ALBERT	GPT-2	SpanBERT	LaserTagger	LSTM	CNN	SVM	Naïve Bayes	Boosting	Log regressor	Random forest	CRF	Embeddings	ELMo	NEs	Words/n-grams	Chars/n-grams	PoS	Trees	Sentiment	Subjectivity	Rhetorics	LIWC	Ensemble	Data augmentation	Post-processing
1. Hitachi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
2. ApplicaAI		✓																													
3. aschern		✓																													
4. LTIatCMU	✓	✓																													
5. UPB	✓	✓																													
7. NoPropaganda	✓																														
8. CyberWallE	✓																														
9. Transformers	✓	✓																													
11. YNUTaoxin	✓	✓	✓																												

Team	Test			
	Rnk	F <sub>1</sub>	P	R
Hitachi	1	<b>51.55</b>	56.54	47.37
ApplicaAI	2	49.15	59.95	41.65
aschern	3	49.10	53.23	45.56
LTIatCMU	4	47.66	50.97	44.76
UPB	5	46.06	58.61	37.94

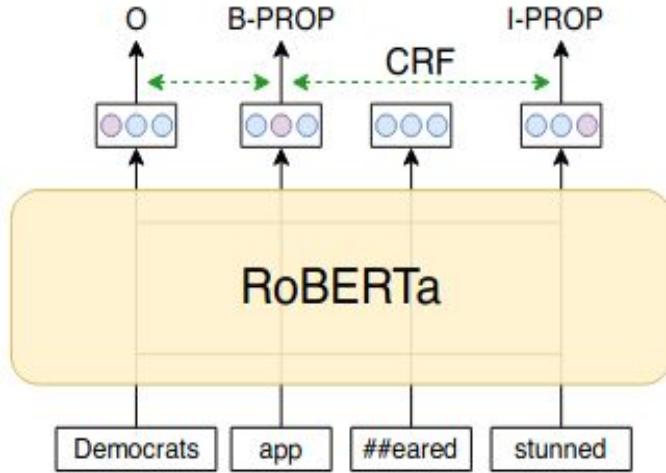
# PRTA: SemEval T11.2 Technique classification

Rank. Team	Transformers						Learning Models					Representations				Misc																			
	BERT	R-BERT	RoBERTa	XLNet	XLM	XLM-RoBERTa	ALBERT	GPT-2	SpanBERT	DistilBERT	LSTM	RNN	CNN	SVM	Naive Bayes	Boosting	Log regressor	Random forest	Regression tree	CRF	XGBoost	Embeddings	ELMo	NES	Words/n-grams	Chars/n-grams	Pos	Sentiment	Rhetorics	Lexicons	String matching	Topics	Ensemble	Data augmentation	Post-processing
1. ApplicaAI	✓	✓	✓														✓																		
2. aschern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											✓	✓													
3. Hitachi	✓																																		
4. Solomon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											✓	✓													
5. newsSweeper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																													
6. NoPropaganda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																													
7. Inno	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																													
8. CyberWallE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																													
10. Duth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																													
11. DiSaster	✓																																		

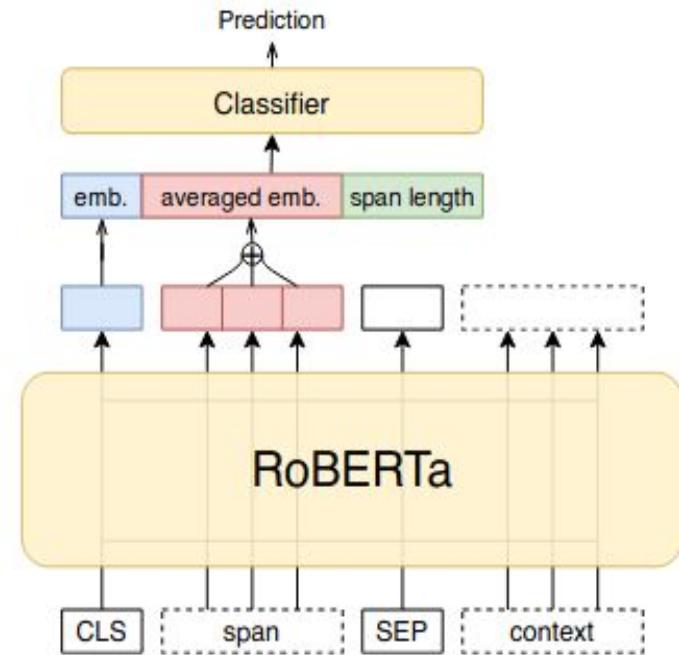
Rnk	Team	Overall
1	ApplicaAI	<b>62.07</b>
2	aschern	62.01
3	Hitachi	61.73
4	Solomon	58.94
5	newsSweeper	58.44

# PRTA: Propaganda techniques

One of the top models available



Span identification



Technique classification

Chernyavskiy, Ilvovsky, Nakov.  
Aschern at SemEval-2020 Task 11: It Takes Three to  
Tango: RoBERTa, CRF, and Transfer Learning  
SemEval 2020



# includes PRPPY and PRTA



Africans coming across southern border have 'rolls of \$100 bills'

< >

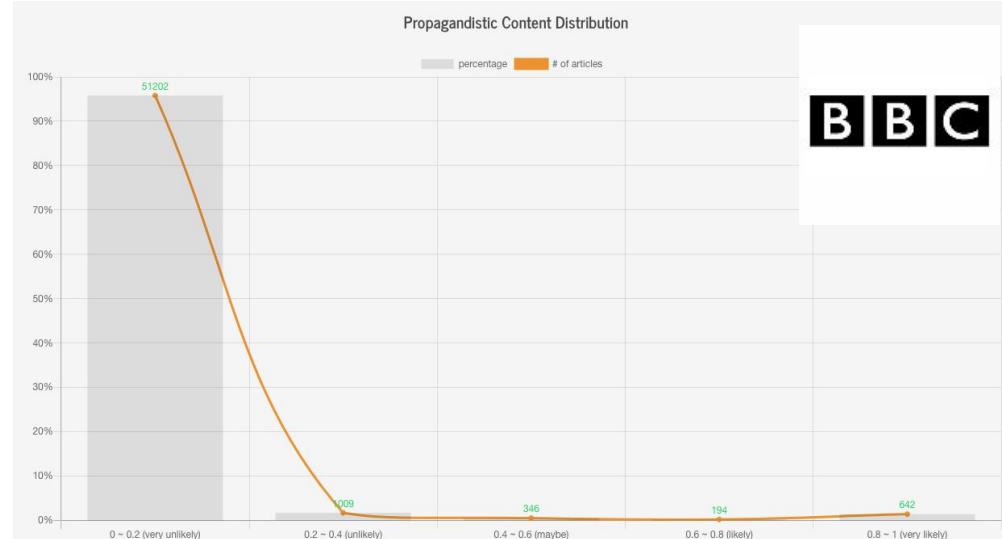
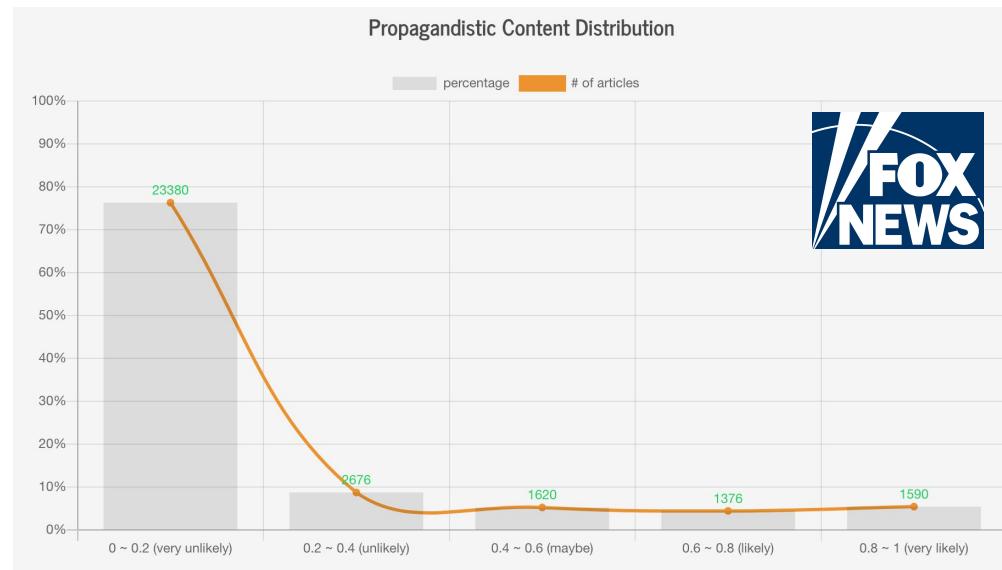
POLITICS

1 of 2

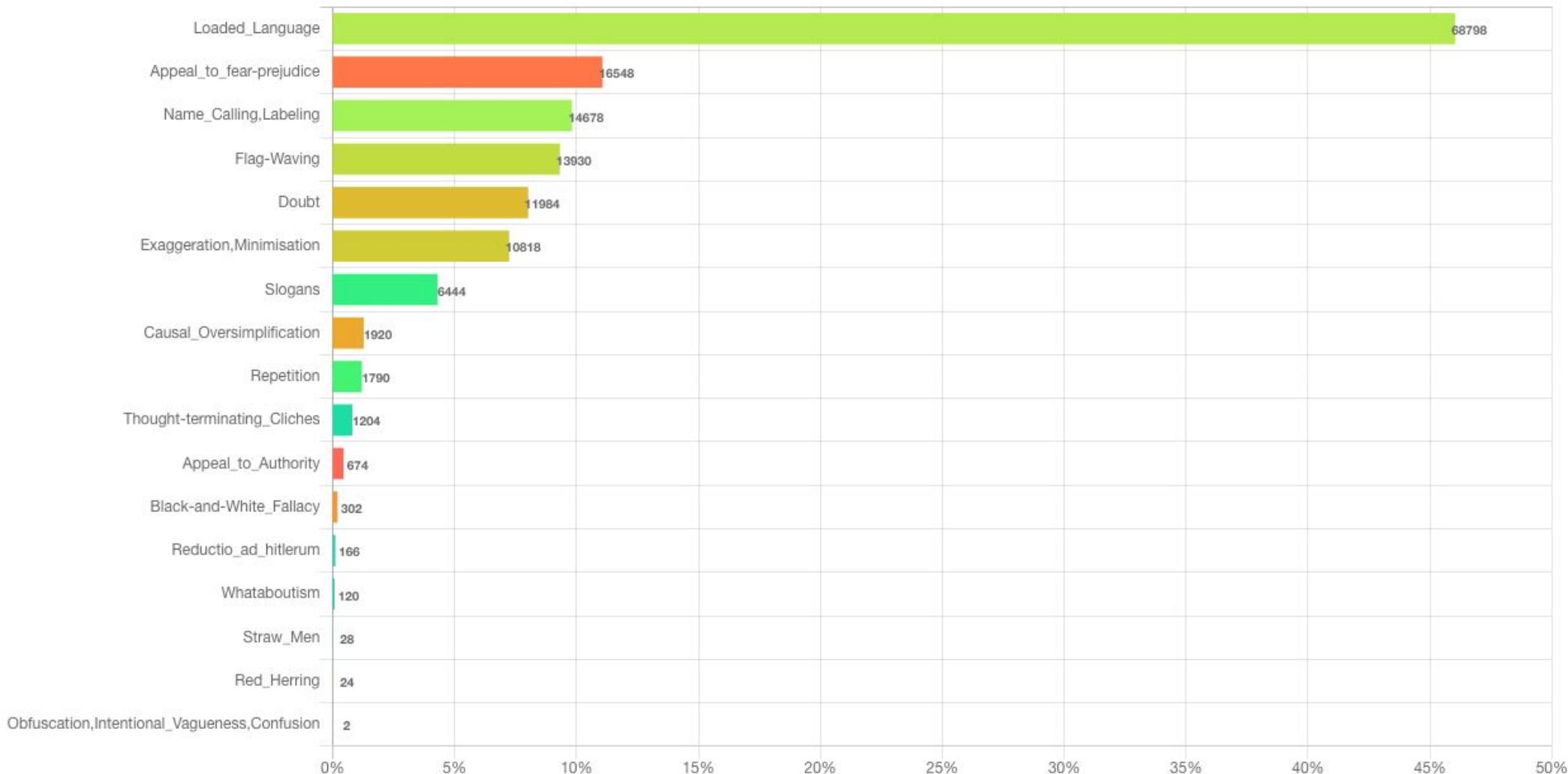
Snapshot from  
17 June, 2019



# and PRTA



Stats as on 7 June, 2021



Distribution of propaganda techniques in the news  
 (snapshot from 7 June, 2021)



# Can AI flag disease outbreaks faster than humans? Not quite

*Global health authorities are increasingly using artificial intelligence to track emerging epidemics*

- 6 - Doubt (?)
- 9 - Loaded Language (?)

- Can AI flag disease outbreaks faster than humans?<sup>6</sup> Not quite

- John Brownstein is co-founder of HealthMap, a system using artificial intelligence to monitor global disease outbreaks. John Brownstein is co-founder of HealthMap, a system using artificial intelligence to monitor global disease outbreaks. Photo: Steven Senne / Associated Press Photo: Steven Senne / Associated Press Image 1 of / 3 Caption Close Can AI<sup>6</sup> flag disease outbreaks faster than humans?<sup>6</sup> Not quite 1 / 3 Back to Gallery

- BOSTON — Did an artificial intelligence system beat human doctors in warning<sup>6</sup> the world of a severe<sup>9</sup> coronavirus outbreak in China?

- In a narrow sense, yes. But what the humans lacked in sheer<sup>9</sup> speed, they more than made up in finesse.



- For the Democrats, the<sup>5</sup> question to Bork or not to Bork now stares them<sup>5</sup> in the face as plainly as Adam Schiff's beady eyes.<sup>9</sup>

- To Bork<sup>15</sup> or Not to Bork,<sup>15</sup> a reference to Ted Kennedy's vilification of<sup>9</sup> Ronald Reagan's Supreme Court Nominee Robert Bork. Even as far back as 1987, the Democrats used fear tactics and public humiliation to<sup>9</sup> defeat an opponent. And now in the Age of Impeachment, that strategy is the Democratic Party's modus operandi.

- The Impeachment managers held the Senate hostage for a week. Hakeem Jeffries accused them of pushing conspiracies while detailing his own concocted Trump Derangement Syndrome<sup>15</sup> Madness.<sup>9</sup> While Zoe Lofgren declared that a global pandemic resulting in full blown chaos and<sup>9</sup> Economic Collapse are a back burner issue to the Democrats' rabid Borking<sup>9</sup> of our duly elected President —<sup>10</sup> especially now that there is a new case in the Bay area crap hole and<sup>9</sup> we are finding out that Coronavirus may be spread by feces.

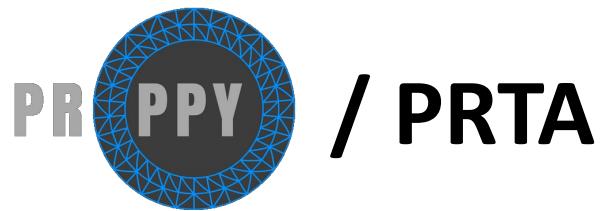
- Schiff's bold-faced lies<sup>9</sup> aggravated the Senators to the point that Lindsey Graham had given up on any sense of decorum. But when the vote to end the Democrats insistence for more witness came to its inevitable conclusion of failure, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer demanded that Justice Roberts vote on the resolution, and was handed his lunch.

- Now, as the Brits<sup>10</sup> celebrate their long-fought battle for Brexit, America prepares to watch the revenge of<sup>9</sup> the Senate as the impeachment managers will endure their well-deserved scolding by<sup>9</sup> a captive and insulted Senate on<sup>10</sup> Monday and Tuesday. And President Trump will most certainly address the elephant in the room on<sup>7</sup> the eve of his acquittal.

By the way, people who know what's coming are taking advantage of our healthy & delicious storables food!

<https://www.newswars.com/the-democrat-smackdown-in-the-senate/>

- 5 - Causal/Oversimplification (?)
- 7 - Exaggeration, Minimisation (?)
- 9 - Loaded Language (?)
- 10 - Name Calling, Labeling (?)
- 15 - Slogans (?)



See proppy, prta and others at



<https://www.tanbih.org>

<https://www.tanbih.org/propaganda>

# Into memes



Appeal to fear



Name calling

SEMEVAL 2021 TASK 6 ON "DETECTION OF PERSUASION TECHNIQUES IN TEXTS AND IMAGES"

Dimitrov et al.

**SemEval-2021 Task 6: Detection of Persuasion Techniques in Texts and Images**  
SemEval 2021

# Hate speech understanding and identification



# Hate speech filters don't work (yet?)

The image shows a dark-themed mobile application interface. At the top, a user named "Damian Vega" asks a question: "De que color y que marca es tu computadora?". Below it, another user, "Osbaldo Encinas", responds with "Negra hp". Both posts have standard interaction buttons: "1 min", "Me gusta", and "Responder". A blue circle highlights the first two posts. At the bottom of the screen, there's a text input field with the placeholder "Escribe una respuesta..." flanked by a camera icon and a smiley face icon. Below this, a large orange warning icon (an exclamation mark inside a triangle) is followed by a message: "No puedes publicar ni comentar durante 3 días". The message continues: "Esto se debe a que ya publicaste contenido que no cumplía nuestras Normas comunitarias." and "Esta publicación infringe nuestras normas sobre lenguaje que incita al odio, por lo que solo tú puedes verla.".

(from twitter)

# What is hate speech is not clear



- it refers to how feminists, who for some reason look like hippies (generalisation), are manipulative and consider only what is to their advantage
- it refers to feminists being hysterical and not being able to hold a conversation

**misogyny**

# What is hate speech is not clear



Alina Nowobilaska  
@WW2girl1944

...

"In a world full of Kardashians, be a Curie"  
I have posted this meme before and I will keep posting it! We need to inspire more young women, they can be whoever they want to be, a scientist, an astronaut, a historian, a doctor etc. There is no wrong answer, be a Curie!

#IWD2020



9:53 PM · Mar 8, 2020 · Twitter for Android

59 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 218 Likes



<https://twitter.com/ww2girl1944/status/1236756839234183170>

- it imposes a certain appropriate image on women
- it tells you that one is good and one is bad
- In the end women should be able to choose whatever they want to be!

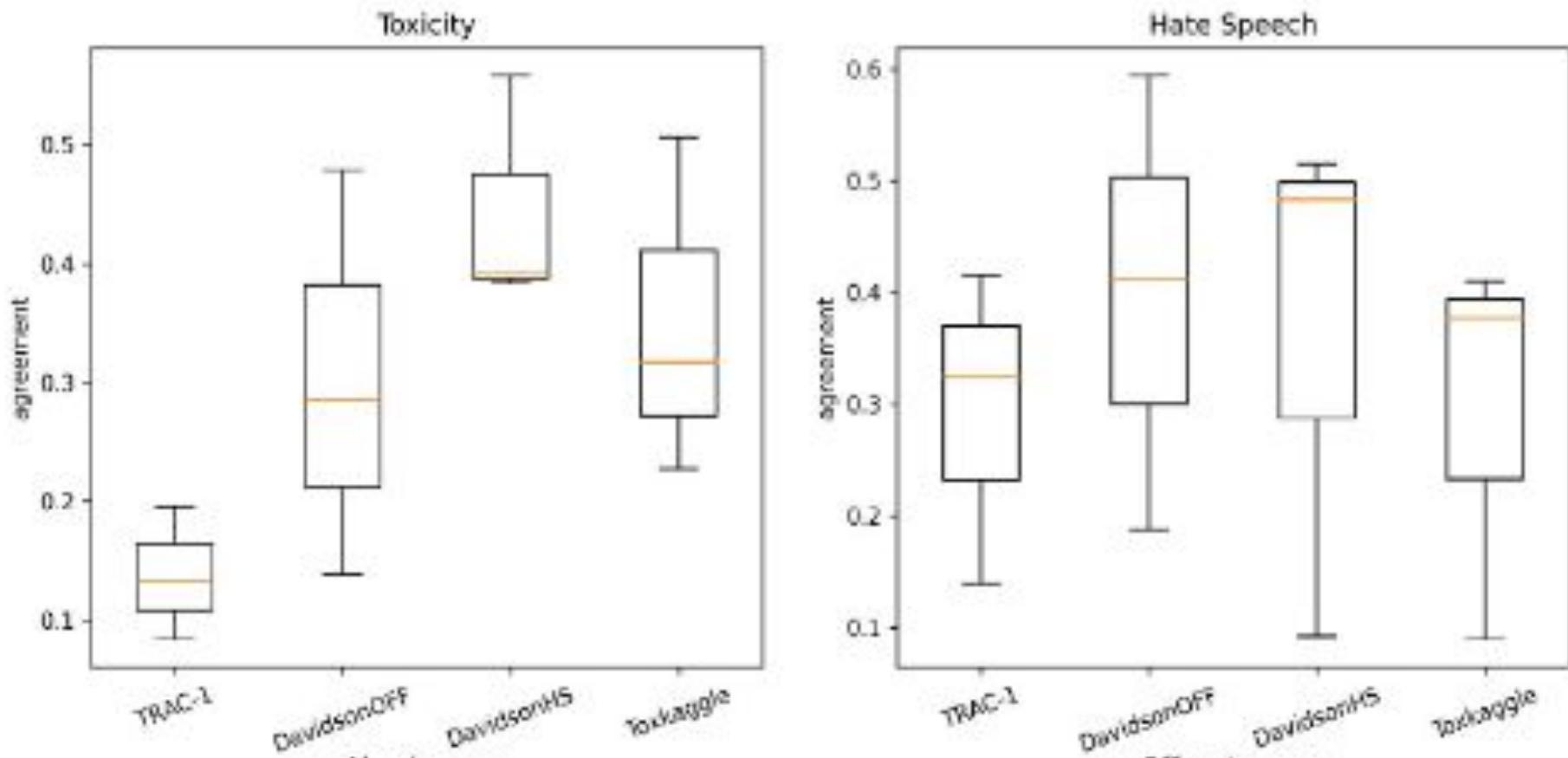
## (internalised) misogyny

# Is hate speech annotation reliable?

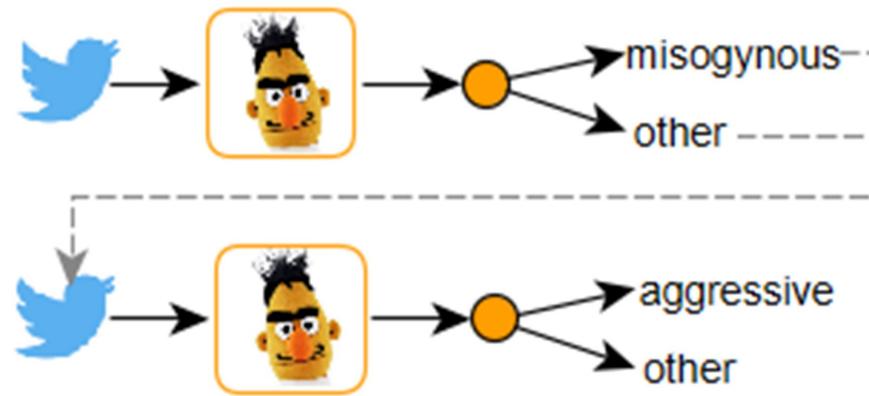
1. Take datasets previously annotated for **toxicity**, **hate speech**, **abusiveness**, **offensiveness** by explicit crowdsourcing
2. Re-annotate them by explicit crowdsourcing
3. Evaluate the correlation between original and new annotation

# Is hate speech annotation reliable?

Current outcomes



# Identifying misogyny in tweets

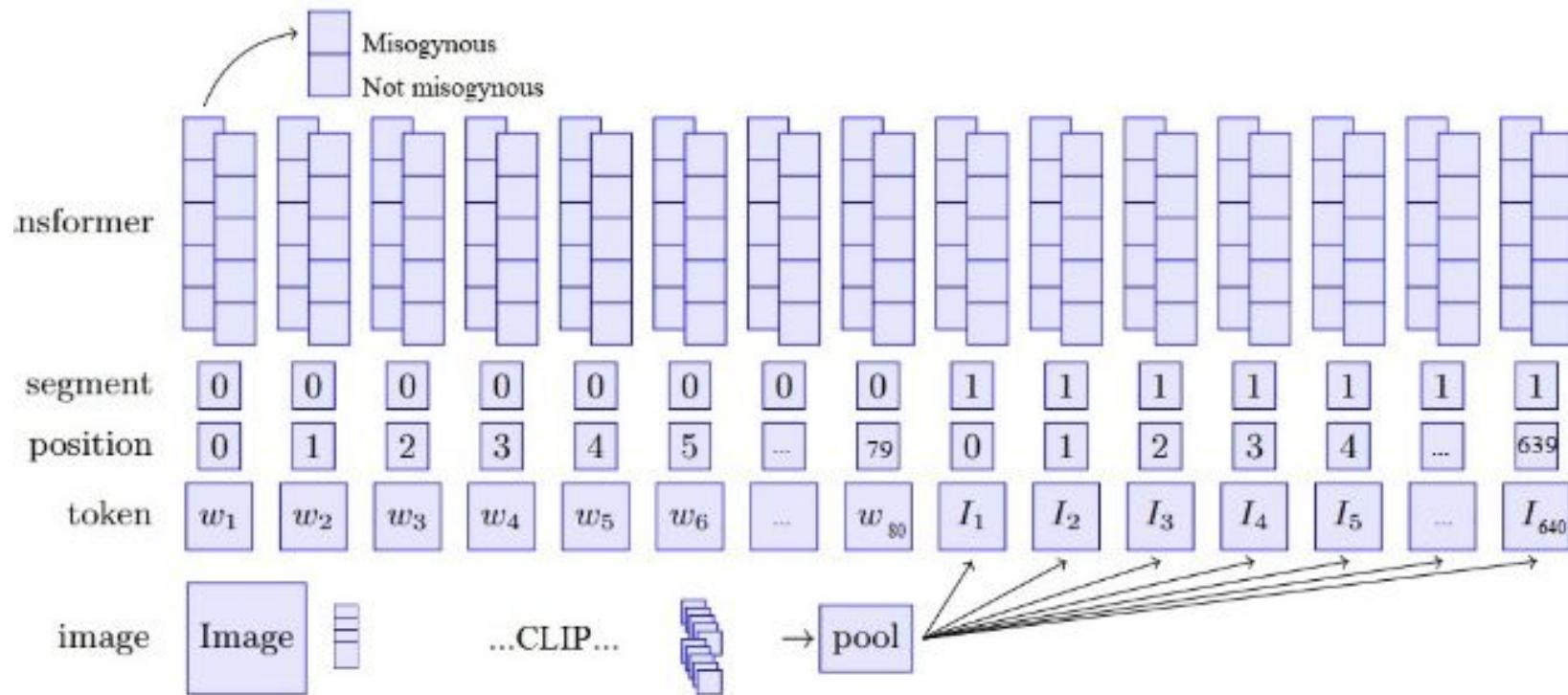


Top-performing approach in Evalita 2020 (Italian)

Muti and Barrón-Cedeño

**UniBO @ AMI: A Multi-Class Approach to Misogyny and Aggressiveness Identification on Twitter Posts Using ALBERTo**  
Evalita 2020

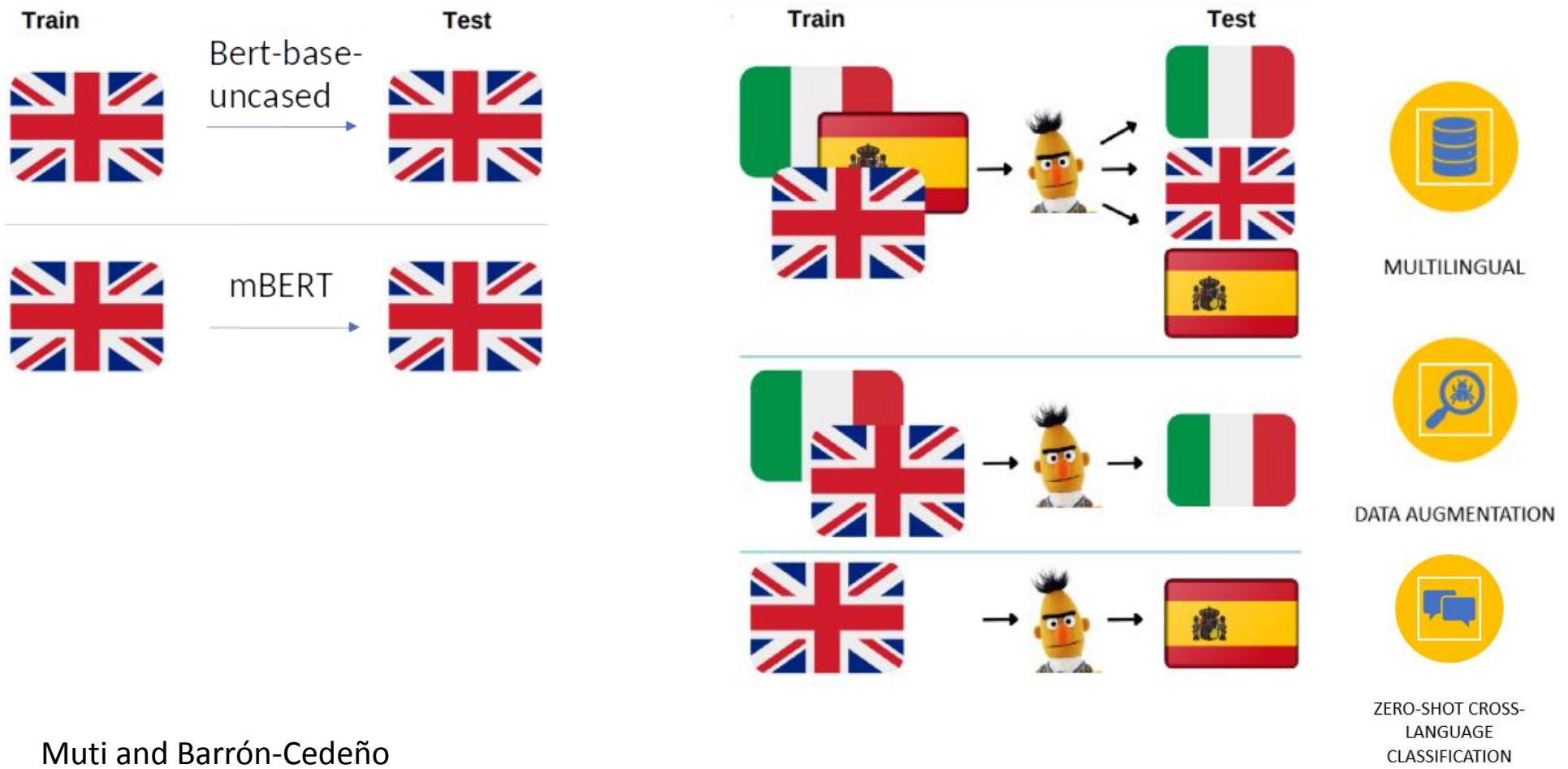
# Identifying misogyny in memes



Top-5 out of 80+

Muti, Korre and Barrón-Cedeño  
UniBO at SemEval-2022 Task 5: A Multimodal bi-Transformer Approach  
to the Binary and Fine-grained Identification of Misogyny in Memes  
SemEval 2022

# Identifying misogyny in multiple languages



Muti and Barrón-Cedeño

# A Checkpoint on Multilingual Misogyny Identification

ACL 2022: Student Research Workshop

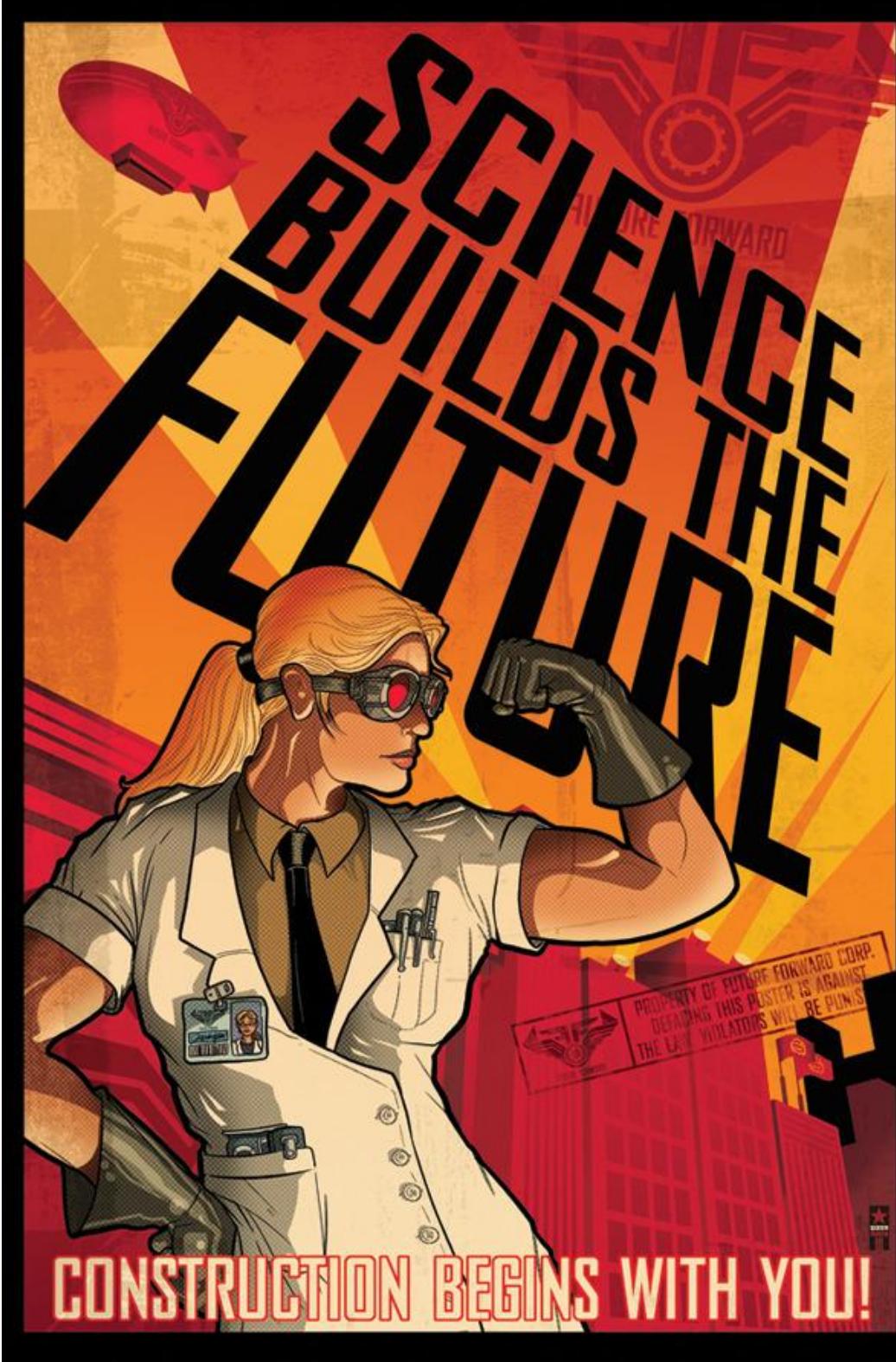
# Identifying misogyny in multiple languages

train	en	es	it	all
BERT en	<b>0.71</b>	–	–	–
BERT es	–	<b>0.85</b>	–	–
BERT it	–	–	<b>0.87</b>	–
mBERT en	0.65	0.14	0.17	–
mBERT es	0.62	0.81	0.50	–
mBERT it	0.47	0.63	0.87	–
mBERT en-es	0.67	0.83	–	0.75
mBERT en-it	0.66	–	0.86	0.77
mBERT es-it	–	0.80	0.86	0.84
mBERT en-es-it	0.68	0.82	0.86	0.78
best-AMI	0.70	0.81	0.84	–

Monolingual models trained with monolingual data perform better;

Multilingual models trained with monolingual data perform slightly worse

Adding data in one or two other languages impacts negatively wrt BERT, but positively wrt mBERT



[https://24.media.tumblr.com/932d312edd0fed799381c78fc38bfdfb/tumblr\\_miyydsqINQv1qae9se01\\_1280.jpg](https://24.media.tumblr.com/932d312edd0fed799381c78fc38bfdfb/tumblr_miyydsqINQv1qae9se01_1280.jpg)

**Stuff we are  
doing/wondering  
now**

# Is fake news hate speech propaganda?

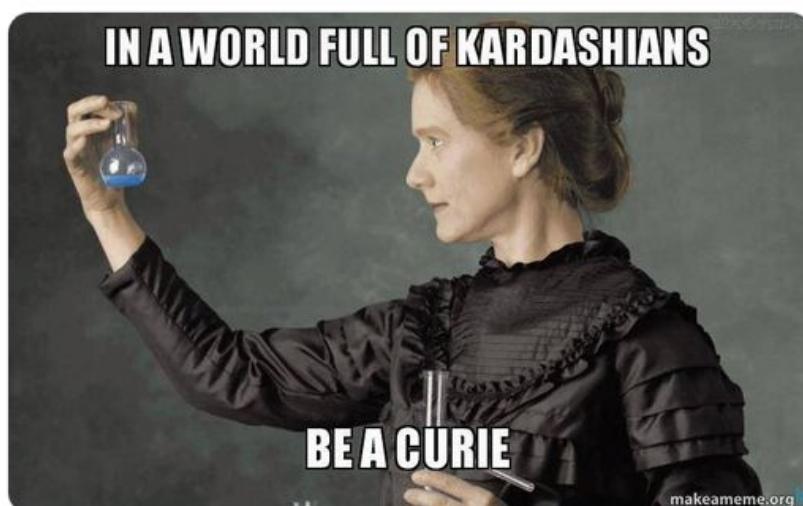


Alina Nowobilska  
@WW2girl1944

...

"In a world full of Kardashians, be a Curie"  
I have posted this meme before and I will keep posting it! We need to inspire more young women, they can be whoever they want to be, a scientist, an astronaut, a historian, a doctor etc. There is no wrong answer, be a Curie!

#IWD2020



9:53 PM · Mar 8, 2020 · Twitter for Android

59 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 218 Likes



<https://twitter.com/ww2girl1944/status/1236756839234183170>

## Black-and-white fallacy

Presenting two alternative options as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist. As an extreme case, tell the audience exactly what actions to take, eliminating any other possible choices (Dictatorship).

# Fake news is today what spam was 20 years ago?

## Spam

Hits when one person out of thousands clicks

90% accuracy (terrible false positives)

Succeeds when people does not catch it

## Fake news/propaganda

Hits when turned viral (and reaches thousands)

80% accuracy (much lower for techniques)

Succeeds when people does not catch it

None has been solved

# Propaganda in spam email

propaganda > 0.90

Dear Valued Candidate,

You were recently nominated as a iographical candidate for the next edition of Who's Who In America. We are pleased to inform you that the first phase of your candidacy was approved! Your prompt response is needed to ensure your complete professional information is considered. The office of the Managing Director appoints individuals ased upon a candidate's current position, and usually with information otained from researched executive and professional listings. The Director thinks that you may make an interesting iographical sujct, a sindividual achievement is what Professional Who Who is all aout.

# Propaganda in spam email

propaganda > 0.90

Not sure if you knew this but your website untrouled.org has some problems that you might want to consider looking into. I spent 2-3 minutes looking around and found: I visited your website and figured out I'd reach out to you and let you know there's serious room for dead easy (and affordale) improvement. If you would like, we can send you We can develop the wesite on a more advanced platform at an affordale price. That price also includes making itcomplete moile responsive which will support all modern devices including all ranges of screen sizes.AAP-S: This is one time email and you may ask us to ""REMOVE"" you from our mailing list.

# **Propaganda in spam email**

Analyse the use of propaganda in spam

# Propaganda in images (perhaps not too much NLP)



© Ansa

Depp-Heard, cosa fanno dopo il processo? Johnny spende 60mila euro al ristorante indiano, Amber farà la mamma tutta l'estate

[https://www.corrieredellosport.it/news/attualit/2022/06/07-93593298/depp-heard\\_dopo\\_il\\_processo\\_lui\\_spende\\_60mila\\_euro\\_al\\_ristorante](https://www.corrieredellosport.it/news/attualit/2022/06/07-93593298/depp-heard_dopo_il_processo_lui_spende_60mila_euro_al_ristorante)

# In-document factuality-based re-ranking

Adding complementary information  
to the title of an article



# Zooming into “Arianna’s algorithm”

L'algoritmo di Arianna: "Così su Twitter da la caccia ai post contro le donne"

Catchy title (+ journalist signature)

BOLOGNA. L'ultima vittima è stata Barbara Bonansea, la giocatrice della Juventus e della nazionale. Il suo Xpost ha riscosso i migliori commenti. Che cosa? Quella di saper tirare in porta una scatola di commenti sessisti. La cosa? Quella di saper tirare in porta i maschi. Anzi, meglio di gran parte di loro. Eressima conferma che l'odio corre in grado sul web e che spesso abbia le sue predestinate le donne. Che fare? Nell'attesa che gli oditori si estinguano (potrebbe volerci parecchio tempo), la soluzione l'ha scovata Arianna Mutti, fresca di laurea magistrale in Language, Society and Communication all'Alma Mater.

Barbara Bonansea (Juventus player), victim of online misogyny; *Arianna found the solution!*



La 26enne di Osimo, residente sotto le Torri, ha infatti ottenuto la miglior performance nella sezione "Automatic Misogyny Identification" del concorso di Evalita 2020, organizzato da un gruppo di esperti di sistemi NLP (Natural Language Processing, ovvero di elaborazione del linguaggio) per la lingua italiana. E lo ha fatto, destando un'agorà in grado di identificare e rimuovere gli atti di violenza verbale rivolti alle donne. Come spiega Arianna: «Nei miei studi di lingistica con il professor Fabio Tamburini ho approfondito le applicazioni dell'Intelligenza Artificiale al riconoscimento del linguaggio, sono poi diventato impegnato a cercare soluzioni concrete. E evalita mi ha perfino percorso. Ma ciò che mi ha convinto è stata la pubblicazione della Mappa dell'intolleranza da parte dell'osservatorio Vox Diritto. Secondo i dati, nel 2020, l'anno della pandemia, mentre in generale il cosiddetto hate speech su Twitter è diminuito rispetto al 2019, i tweet misogni sono aumentati del 90%, finendo per

Best model at the Evalita 2020 shared task on misogyny identification: “able to identify and delete tweets with violent or offensive contents against women”

essere il 49,91% del totale». In pratica, un tweet negativo su due è contro una donna. «A questo si aggiunge che Twitter - spiega la neodocente - fa affidamento sulle segnalazioni degli utenti per rimuovere i messaggi d'odio, che in molti casi non vengono intercettati e forse non è neppure tanto nell'interesse dei social. Per questo è importante trovare soluzioni che possano riconoscere in automatico».

*Arianna's background and motivations*

Lei per arginare il fenomeno ha team in team con il ricercatore dell'Unito Alberto Barrón-Cedeño ha preso come modello di riferimento Bert, l'algoritmo di Google in grado di capire cosa cerca la gente (e dunque di profilare i nostri gusti), che ha ragionato per anni sui dati di Google e poi ha aperto la sua strada sul web. «A partire da un database di 5.000 tweet, il mio sistema è stato in grado di individuare in automatico quelli che contenevano messaggi aggressivi nei confronti delle donne. Verificavo i testi e analizzavo dati affezionali e in seguito creavo un database di 1000 tweet, non aggressivi, ma comunque misogini e aggressivi. Certo esiste un margine di errore, ma nel 77% dei casi l'algoritmo di Arianna ci ha visto giusto, consentendole di stilare anche l'elenco dei lemmi più accesi. Nel lessico intorno, come prima volta tra quelli dubbii - schiaffi, gola, acciuffa - nel lessico intorno, mette le frasi legate al sesso, ma c'è pure il body shaming e l'auto contro le donne che lavorano».

Model description; incl, BERT, data, accuracy, and an error analysis (from the paper)

Per ora l'algoritmo è studiato per Twitter e parla solo italiano, dal momento che la brevità dei post rende più semplice l'applicazione, ma le possibilità sono innumerevoli. «Si può fare con altri social e lingue. Io sarei pronta anche a regalarlo a Twitter, che naturalmente ha ingegneri e programmati migliori di me. Diciamo che volevo mostrare che l'odo in rete si può fermare. Anzi, si deve».

Future potential; incl. languages or giving the model to twitter: “now the algorithm is under study by Twitter” (!)



**РАБОТАТЬ ТАК, ЧТОБЫ ТОВАРИЩ СТАЛИН СПАСИБО СКАЗАЛ!**

Work well, so that comrade Stalin will say **thank you!** (1949)