**How an automated pipeline detects far-right ideology and builds psychosocial profiles online**

Ideology has always been a critical element in understanding how we view the world, form opinions, and make political decisions. However, the internet has revolutionised the way we spread opinions and ideologies, leading to a new paradigm of radicalisation in the online world. Far-right ideologies, which advocate for ultranationalism, racism, and opposition to immigration and multiculturalism, have proliferated on social platforms. These ideologies have strong links with violence and terrorism, posing significant threats to individual and collective security.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has raised concerns about the rise of extremist movements in Australia, with a significant number of Australians being radicalized at a young age through online technologies. ASIO's caseload dedicated to far-right extremism has risen from 10-15% in 2016 to 30-40% during the COVID period [1].

To detect and prevent far-right ideology-motivated (and potentially violent) activity, researchers have proposed a completely automatic end-to-end ideology detection pipeline [2]. The pipeline aims to fill a crucial gap by providing flexible methodology and tooling for understanding ideologies and building early warning systems for extreme ideology-motivated activity.

In this article, we summarise the proposed pipeline and its key features. The proposed framework is based on detecting the signals of ideology from user behaviour online, using what the researchers dub as "ideological proxies." These proxies include whether users use political hashtags, retweet politicians, or follow political parties.

However, using ideological proxies requires laborious labelling by context-specific experts, which can be difficult to access, expensive, and time-consuming. Additionally, the context can change with time, country, or social platform, and the proxies may not be transferable across contexts.

To address these challenges, the researchers propose a framework that can be used to profile entire populations of users automatically. The pipeline has two main components: the media proxy and the inference architecture. The media proxy allows for labelling a subset of users, and the inference architecture allows for propagating these labels to the remaining users via socially-informed homophilic lenses.

The researchers find that right-leaning individuals tend to use moral-vice language more than left-leaning individuals, and far-right individuals use grievance language (violence, hate, paranoia, etc.) significantly more than moderates. By detecting these signals of ideology, the pipeline can identify and understand the psychosocial characteristics of extreme individuals and communities.

The proposed pipeline can serve as an early warning system for identifying far-right ideology-motivated activity and preventing violence and terrorism. By detecting signals of ideology from user behaviour online, the pipeline provides a flexible methodology and tooling for understanding ideologies and building early warning systems for extreme ideology-motivated activity.

In conclusion, the proposed end-to-end ideology detection pipeline is positioned as a crucial tool for understanding the spread of far-right ideologies and preventing violence and terrorism. By detecting signals of ideology from user behaviour online, the pipeline provides a flexible methodology and tooling for understanding ideologies and building early warning systems for extreme ideology-motivated activity.

References:

[1] Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) (2022). ASIO Annual Report 2020-21. <https://www.asio.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-02/ASIO_Annual_Report_2020-21.pdf>.

[2] Ram, R. and Rizoiu, M.A., 2022. You are what you browse: A robust framework for uncovering political ideology. arXiv preprint arXiv:2208.04097.