Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Online disinformation as a problem of growing societal concern

1.2 What is disinformation?

1.3 Scope and goals of this proposal

socio-technical does it matter, for research, if it is disinfo or just (hidden) propaganda

2 Literature Review

2.1 Disinformation Research

2.1.1 Computational perspective - What are its properties and how does it spread?

[check additional refs from Toms work]

2.1.2 Psychological perspective - Why does it work?

2.1.3 Societal perspective - What are its effects? What enables it?

2.2 Network Science

2.2.1 Why is network science relevant to disinfo?

2.2.2 Information Diffusion, (Complex) Contagion and Network Strucutres

2.2.3 Multidimensional networks

2.3 Psychology of advertising

2.4 Propaganda

2.5 Simulation modelling

3 Research Gap

3.1 Influence of included & contextual factors

3.2 Variety of plausible theoretical explanations

3.3 Lack of overview on sociotechnical system level

4 Research Approach

4.1 Disinformation is a post-normal problem

4.2 A Metamodel to enable theoretical exploration

Three types (?). Type 2: A type model (generalization) of a token (specific instance) model:

If a model is an abstraction of reality for some given purpose, a meta-model describes the next level of abstraction: It describes the structure and behaviour of a class of models and is not case-specific (Sprinkle et al. 2010). Metamodeling is commonly used in software development to reduce the resulting software's sensitivity towards change (Atkinson & Kühne, 2003). UML is an example of a metamodel - with its rules and language specific models can be created.

In simulation modeling, meta-models can be used to describe how different (sub)components of a model relate or communicate to each other (Cetinkaya 2010).

This purpose is not so very different from that of exploratory modeling as described by Bankes (1993). He proposed exploratory modeling as an approach

in cases where there is insufficient or uncertain knowledge about the system of interest. Exploratory modeling explores the consequences of changing assumptions or mechanisms through simulation experiments.

SO WHY IS IT DIFFERENT HUH?

4.3 Research Goal & Questions

5 Methodology

5.1 Defining the purpose, scope and criterea of the metamodel

5.2 Finding the elements of the metamodel through case-study based simulation modelling

5.3 Analysing the importance and sensitivity of metamodel elemenys

5.4 Evaluation of the metamodel

References