

Fatma Elsafoury

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My research interests are in social science computing and AI ethics. In particular, I focus in my research on hate speech detection, social bias, and fairness in natural language processing.

Education

- Nov 2019 - **PhD student**, *Computer Science*, The University of the West of Scotland.
- Nov 2023 Working on social biases and their influence on Toxicity and Hate Speech Detection.
- Dec 2019 **MSc by Research**, *Computer Science*, University of Glasgow.
Thesis Title: Detecting Protest Repression Incidents from Tweets.
- Mar 2013 **MSc**, *Geoinformatics*, Twente University, Enschede, Netherlands.
Thesis Title: Monitoring Urban Traffic Status Using Twitter Messages.
- May 2008 **BSc**, *Computer and information sciences*, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.
Thesis Title: Personal identification through iris recognition system.

Publications

- 2021 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Steve Wilson, Stamos Katsigiannis, and Naeem Ramzan. "SOS: Systematic Offensive Stereotyping Bias in Word Embeddings". A full paper **under-review at ACL ARR 2021**.
- 2021 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Stamos Katsigiannis, Steve Wilson, and Naeem Ramzan. "Does BERT Pay Attention To Cyberbullying?". A short paper at **SIGIR 2021**.
- 2021 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Stamos Katsigiannis, Zeeshan Pervez, and Naeem Ramzan. "When the timeline meets the pipeline: A survey on automated cyberbullying detection". **Published in IEEE-ACCESS Journal 2021**.
- 2020 **Fatma Elsafoury**. "Teargas, Water Cannons and Twitter: A case study on detecting protest repression events in Turkey 2013". Published in **Text2Story Workshop at ECIR 2020**.
- 2017 Sarah Birch, and **Fatma Elsafoury**. "Fraud, Plot, or Collective Delusion? Social Media and Perceptions of Electoral Misconduct in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum". **Published in Election Law Journal 2014**.

Talks

- July 2021 "Does BERT Pay Attention To Cyberbullying?" at the **SIGIR 2021** conference.
- June 2021 "A true cyberbullying type lies in the eye of the beholder: A comparative study on detecting different types of cyberbullying using different word embeddings" at the 73rd **Language Lunch at the University of Edinburgh**.
- Nov 2020 "Does BERT pay attention to attribution?" at the 72nd **Language Lunch at the University of Edinburgh**.
- Apr 2020 "Teargas, Water Cannons and Twitter: A case study on detecting protest repression events in Turkey 2013" at the **Text2Story Workshop at ECIR 2020**.

Community Service

- 2021 - Now Organizer of **Women_in_NLP** Talk Series which is a monthly talk series where female researchers in NLP are invited to give a talk about their research and their journey in NLP. Since February 2021, I have hosted: **Rachael Tatman** (Rasa), **Khyathi Chandu** (Carnegie Mellon University), **Vered Schwartz** (Allen AI), **Jasmijn Bastings** (Google), and **Sabine Weber** (University of Edinburgh), **Maria Antoniak** (Cornell University), and **Alexandra Olteanu** (Microsoft Research).
- 2021 - Now Volunteer at the **ACL Year Round Mentorship** which is a network that helps and supports junior researchers in natural language processing (NLP).
- 2020 - Now Volunteer at the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (**SICSA**) **PhD Peer Support Group** where mental support is provided to PhD students in Scottish universities by fellow PhD students.
- 2018 Volunteer at **Code First Girls** which is an initiative that aims at empowering women through teaching them basic web technologies.
- 2018 Volunteer at the **Programming Workshop For Scientists In Africa (PWS Africa)** which is an initiative to teach programming to students with less opportunities in African countries. The activities included teaching Python to undergraduate students in Ibadan University, Nigeria.

Scholarships and Funding

- 2020 **Studentship** for free registration at the **ECIR** conference (150 Euros).
- 2019 **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)** project funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The KTP project funds my PhD tuition fees, salary, hardware, travel costs, development costs, and research costs (overall project funding: 223,238.00 GBP).
- 2011 **Erasmus Munds scholarship**. The scholarship funded my MSc tuition fees, and stipend. One of only 3 women from Egypt who was selected for studying in the Netherlands (32,000 Euros).

Professional Experience

- Sep 2019 **Data Scientist**, *Seric Systems*, Glasgow, UK.
- Feb 2022 **Responsibilities**: Responsible of building a machine learning model to automatically detect hate speech and abuse in social media platforms and deploy the ML model as a web service.
- Dec 2013 **Software Developer**, *ESRI-NEA*, Cairo, Egypt.
- Aug 2014 **Responsibilities**: Responsible of developing mapping applications using Java script and ArcGIS.
- May 2009 **Software Developer**, *ICON Technologies*, Cairo, Egypt.
- Aug 2011 **Responsibilities**: Responsible of developing web and desktop mapping applications.

Teaching Experience

- April 2019 **Lecturer (Part-time)**, *School of Computing*, Dundee University.
- Aug 2019 **Responsibilities**: I worked with Data Science MSc students where I helped students with their Programming and Machine Learning assignment and marking assignments.
- Sept 2017 **Lab Assistant**, *School of Computing*, Glasgow University.
- Jan 2019 **Responsibilities**: I worked as Python and Alice lab tutor for undergraduate students and Java lab tutor for MSc students. I was involved in exam invigilation and Marking. I also supervised 2 MSc students.

- Oct 2018 **Web development Tutor (Volunteer)**, *Code First Girls*, Glasgow University.
- Dec 2018 **Responsibilities:** I worked as web development tutor for female students and employees in the university of Glasgow. I was responsible for teaching HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, JQuery and GitHub.
- July 2018 **Python Tutor (Volunteer)**, *PWS Africa*, Ibadaan University, Nigeria.
- July 2018 **Responsibilities:** I worked as Python tutor for undergraduate and MSc students at the school of Math in Ibadan university. I was responsible for preparing course material, teaching Python (Basics) and Data Science toolkit (Pandas, Numpy and Matplotlib).

Languages

Arabic, *Native Speaker*.

English, *Fluent*.

German, *A2-level(post-Beginner)*.