



# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND BIG DATA FOR MIGRATION STUDIES

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## ABOUT Jisu



Jisu holds a PhD in Data Science from Scuola Normale Superiore in Italy. She has been working on exploring and establishing novel methods to improve relevant statistics of international migration using social media data. Her research focuses on the intersection of migration studies, economics of migration, complex social networks, statistical models and data-driven algorithms. Her current research interests focus on exploring how big data sources can aid our understanding of the social and cultural contexts of migration, including the role of social networks and cultural attitudes towards migration and integration.



## ABOUT Ebru



Ebru holds a PhD in Public Policy and Administration from Bocconi University in Italy. Her PhD studies centered on demography and migration studies and she obtained her degree in 2021 with her dissertation *Digital and Computational Approaches to Migration Studies: 3 Essays*. Her research focuses on the patterns and outcomes of migration and mobility, combining of digital trace data and traditional data.

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## Objectives of this workshop

- to introduce two types of big data, i.e., Twitter data and Google trends data.
  - to introduce the data format, related literature, empirical findings, advantages and critical challenges of such data
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- What is Twitter and Google Trends data?
  - How can it be used in social sciences and migration studies?
  - Advantages and shortcomings of the data and how to address them
  - Comparison with traditional migration data (stock and flow data) and research examples.



# AGENDA

1:00 - 1:20 Introduction to instructors and the outlines of the course

1:20 - 2:20 Twitter data in the studies of migration by Jisu

2:20 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 3.30 Google trends data in migration studies by Ebru

3.30 - 4.00 Open discussion

4:00 End of the workshop



**Tell us about yourselves :)**

## Course materials

Twitter:

<https://github.com/jisukimmmm/PAA2023Workshop>

Google trends:

<https://github.com/EbruSanliturk/PAA2022Workshop>



## Jisu Kim

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## Open discussion questions

- What are some of the key skills and competencies that researchers need to develop in order to effectively use Google Trends and Twitter data in their work?
- How can we ensure that these data sources are used in a responsible and ethical manner?
- In what ways can big data sources help us identify and respond to emerging migration challenges, such as forced displacement due to conflict or environmental disasters?
- Strengths of Twitter data for estimating population dynamics (Migrant stock and flows)
- Big changes on Twitter policy → use of ChatGPT?
- How do you think the changes to Twitter access for scientists will change research on the platform?
- How should we keep up with ever-changing nature of these platforms?
- Tips on managing the large volume of data