

# Automatic Fact Verification and Fake News Detection

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# About me

- Full name:  
Assistant Prof. Dr. Leon Richard Anthony Strømberg-Derczynski  
(*“Leon” is fine*)
- British citizen by birth
- Living in Denmark for a long time
- Previously at:
  - University of Sheffield
  - Aarhus University
  - University of California San Diego
- Next book is almost finished:  
“Automatic fact checking and misinformation detection”

# What will we learn?

- Describing and categorising misinformation
- How technology is misused
- Mitigating misinformation
- Detecting misinformation on the web
- Monitoring user reactions
- Detecting lies through style
- Checking factual claims
- How to identify suspicious accounts and networks

# New course!

- This is a new course
  - Adapted partly from U.Washington's CSE-599b
- There are very few like it in the world
- It might be bumpy, but:
  - you will be experts at the bleeding edge of science and misinformation research by the end
  - .. I hope!

# Course structure

- Three course weeks this semester
- Each week has five lectures
- Most lectures are in two parts:
  - presentation
  - group work/discussion
  - You don't have to be around for the second part, but you do have to give a good presentation
- Most lectures will have some required reading
- Many lectures require some work from the day before

# Assessment

- Three assignments
- Each assignment incorporates work done during the week
- The first two assignments are 30% and 30% of the grade
- The last larger one is 40%
- Expect regular group work. You're welcome to change groups as needed.

# Academic goals

- I really enjoy research - I've been working on misinformation since 2012
- Would be excited to try to help you extend excellent projects from this course into publications. Some options:
  - ICWSM ([www.icwsm.org/2020](http://www.icwsm.org/2020)); deadline Jan 15
  - ACL ([acl2020.org](http://acl2020.org)); deadline ~December
  - CHI late-breaking work ([chi2020.acm.org](http://chi2020.acm.org)); Jan 6
  - Various journals - depends on the project!