

Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal

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Research Interests

My research focuses on fairness in socio-technical systems in the space of governance and politics. Broadly, I'm interested in the following questions:

- **AI in Governance:** How machine learning systems when introduced in the governance process influence outcomes and how they can be leveraged to generate desired outcomes.
- **Political Outreach:** How political actors construct narratives around specific topics and engage with selected public figures to define their image and influence the elections.

Education

MSc in Artificial Intelligence

Sep 2016 - Feb 2018

KU Leuven, Belgium

Percentage: 76.81% (Magna Cum Laude)

Thesis: Statistical Modeling of Students' Performance in an Open-Admission Bachelor Program in Flanders - The need to discriminate between explanatory and predictive modeling

B.Tech in Instrumentation and Control Engineering

Jul 2011 - May 2015

NIT Trichy, India

CGPA: 8.1/10 (First Class)

Research Experience

SCAI Centre Fellow

Jan 2019 – present

Centre for Socetal impact through Cloud and Artificial Intelligence

Microsoft Research India

Mentors: Amit Sharma and Joyojeet Pal

Research Intern

July 2018 – Dec 2018

Technology for Emerging Markets group, Microsoft Research India

Mentor: Amit Sharma

Research Intern

May 2014 – July 2014

Computational Intelligence Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Mentor: SN Omkar

Industry Experience

Analyst

Jul 2015 – Jul 2016

Data Archival Team

Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Chennai, India

Verified Certification

Data Analysis for Social Scientists - Grade: 91%

Feb 2018 - Jun 2018

Massachusetts Institute of Technology on *edX, Inc. (MOOC platform)*

Publications

In-Press Publications

1. Palashi Vaghela, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, and Joyojeet Pal (*in press*). "Birds Of A Caste - How Caste Hierarchies Manifest In Retweet Behavior Of Indian Politicians." *In Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020)*, 2020.

Referred Conference Publications

1. Anmol Panda, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Monojit Choudhury, Kalika Bali, and Joyojeet Pal. "Topical focus of political campaigns and its impact: Findings from politicians' hashtag usage during the 2019 Indian elections." *In Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020)*, pp.607-617. 2020.
2. Devansh Mehta, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Alok Sharma, William Thies, and Amit Sharma. "Using Mobile Airtime Credits to Incentivize Learning, Sharing and Survey Response: Experiences from the Field." *In Proceedings of the 3rd ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS 2020)*, pp. 254-264. 2020.
3. Devansh Mehta, Sebastin Santy, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Brij Mohan Lal Srivastava, Alok Sharma, Anurag Shukla, Vishnu Prasad, U. Venkanna, Amit Sharma, and Kalika Bali. "Learnings from Technological Interventions in a Low Resource Language: A Case-Study on Gondi." *In Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2020)*, pp. 2832-2838. 2020.
4. **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Amit Sharma, and Chenhao Tan. "Explaining machine learning classifiers through diverse counterfactual explanations." *In Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2020)*, pp. 607-617. 2020.

5. **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Amulya Yadav, and Amit Sharma. "Optimizing peer referrals for public awareness using contextual bandits." *In Proceedings of the 2nd ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS 2019)*, pp. 74-85. 2019
6. **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Tinne De Laet, Maarten Pinxten, and Tom Broos. "Predicting first-year engineering student success: from traditional statistics to machine learning." *In Proceedings of the 46th SEFI Annual Conference 2018*, vol. 46, pp. 322-329. SEFI-Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs, 2018
7. Juhi Ajmera, P. R. Siddharthan, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Gautham Vasan, Naresh Balaji, and V. Sankaranarayanan. "Autonomous visual tracking and landing of a quadrotor on a moving platform." *In 2015 Third International Conference on Image Information Processing (ICIIP)*, pp. 342-347. IEEE, 2015.

Referred Posters and Extended Abstracts

1. Devansh Mehta, Alok Sharma, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Anurag Shukla, Vishnu Prasad, William Thies, Venkanna U, Colin Scott, and Amit Sharma. "Facilitating Media Distribution with Monetary Incentives." *In Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pp. 1-7. 2020.
2. Faisal Lalani, **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, and Joyojeet Pal. "The Appeal of Influencers to the Social Media Outreach of Indian Politicians" *In Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2019)*, pp. 607-617. 2019.
3. **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, Devansh Mehta, Alok Sharma, William Thies, and Amit Sharma. "Learnings from an ongoing deployment of an IVR-based platform for voter awareness." *In Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2019)*, pp. 257-261. 2019. ([a non-archival version won Outstanding Poster Award at COMPASS 2019](#))

Referred Journal Publications

1. **Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal**, T. R. Shravan, and S. N. Omkar. "Scale adaptive object tracker with occlusion handling." *International Journal of Image, Graphics and Signal Processing (IJIGSP)* 8, no. 1 (2016): 27

Invited Talks

When Machine Learning meets Educational Science

Feb 2018 Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, KU Leuven

Mar 2018 Leuven Engineering and Science Education Center (LESEC)

News Media

Dalit MPs less likely to be heard on Twitter than upper castes

Oct 2020

With Palashi Vaghela and Joyojeet Pal in [The Times of India](#)

Birds of Brahmanical Feather Flock Together

Aug 2020

With Palashi Vaghela and Joyojeet Pal in [The Wire](#)

Elections 2019: What tweet for tat tells you about Rahul Gandhi

Apr 2019

With Joyojeet Pal in [LiveMint](#)

References

Amit Sharma

Senior Researcher, Microsoft Research India

Joyojeet Pal

Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research India

Chenhao Tan

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Boulder

Tinne De Laet

Associate Professor, KU Leuven