

Sarmad Chandio

SPARTA Lab @ University of Iowa
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Data Analysis, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Large Language Models (LLM), Social Computin

Education

- 2021–present **Ph.D. in Computer Science**
Advisor: [Dr. Rishab Nithyanand](#), University of Iowa
- 2017–2021 **B.S. in Computer Science (Dean's Honor List)**
LUMS, Pakistan

Professional Experience

- 2021–present **Research Assistant**
[SPARTA](#) at University of Iowa
Human-platform Interaction • Platform auditing • Internet measurement
- 2020–2021 **Research Assistant**
[ISPL](#) at LUMS, Pakistan
Online privacy compliance • Internet measurement

Publications

- ICWSM 2024 **Youtube Audit Methodologies**
How Audit Methods Impact Our Understanding of YouTube's Recommendation System?
[Sarmad Chandio](#), Daniyal Dar, Rishab Nithyanand

Projects

Role of Social Media in Radicalizing Users

Is there a relationship between social media use and radical traits of a person? I employ causal inference techniques (e.g difference in differences) on observational data formulating a natural experiment to find that relationship.

Inferring Radicalization Through YouTube Media Diet

How does the watch behavior of radical users of YouTube differ from its non-radical users? Using NLP techniques, I explore the textual characteristics (e.g vocabulary, style, context) of videos which are preferential by radical users.

Systematic Detection of Data Voids

Uncovering gaps in indexing of online information that leads users towards misinformation. We use transformer based approaches to predict the *misinformation bubbles* during the pandemic through a Reddit dataset.

Quantitative Analysis of Volunteer and Paid Moderation

Investigating the effects of monetary incentives on Reddit volunteer moderators in a randomized control trial using regression analysis. I modified the 2017 Reddit open-source code to conduct this experiment.

Talks & Honors

- October 2023 & April 2024 Conducted a graduate level interdisciplinary workshop on the data analysis of subreddits to study online discourse in US media at WashU.
- March 2023 Career Panelist for Sonia Kovalevsky Day at UIowa.
- May 2023 Conducted a workshop at LUMS on auditing recommendation systems.