

**IDEA 1:****Project title 1: Reducing hate speech on social media via predicting the evolution of antisocial users**

*Your response*

**What you want to do?**

*Your response. Longer response that provides a bit more description than what's in the title.*

To serve the purpose of this research, first of all, I would want to research to present that how much do antisocial users on social media contribute to the spread of hate speech. Second, I would want to know, are those users always “antisocial users”? In other words, is there any term of evolution in which they turn from normal users to those who spread hate/offensive speeches and would be likely to get banned on social media? To answer this question, I would like to conduct investigations into the behaviors of the targeted users in the period from the time they registered to the time they frequently publish hate/offensive speeches. Next, I would like to gather the information of some users, which include both the finally-get-banned users and those who don't get banned. The information I would like to gather should be those which the users already made public on social media.

Using this information, I want to take certain attributes of the users into account. These attributes could include age, gender, professions, etc. (Because I would want the identity information to be more reliable, I might use Facebook data). I want to explore the relations between the attributes and whether the users get banned in the end. Through this experiment, I want to seek if there is any chance that some of the attributes might help to predict whether a user would turn into an account that likes to spread hate/offensive speech.

**Why should we care?**

*Your response. Provide a motivation of why this project is worth pursuing? That is, if you are successful, what difference will it make?*

I have always been wondering how to reduce hate/offensive speech on the internet so that people can create a better online community environment. Therefore, I am curious about researching the factors that lead to the spread of hate/offensive speech. One of such factors is the users who present anti-social behaviors on social media. Knowing this, I wonder how those anti-social users evolve from maybe normal users to users who finally get banned. Furthermore, I want to know the relations between the attributes of the users and their evolution, and how reliable can we use the relations to predict the evolution. If successful, this research could make people better detect the accounts that might turn into anti-social accounts and provide early intervene.

**Keywords** – To mark topic and domain of the idea.

*Your response. Comma separated keywords*

Hate speech, offensive languages, anti-social, attributes, evolution, relations, predict

**IDEA 2:****Project title 2: Would trust bias lead to the spread of misinformation/fake news on social media?**

*Your response*

**What you want to do?**

*Your response. Longer response that provides a bit more description than what you have in the title*

To serve the purpose of the research, first of all, I would want to research the cognitive bias that people might have towards different sources of information. Second, I would want to specifically focus on trust bias. I would relate to current work to present a proper definition of trust bias. According to the definition, I would further research data gathered from social media. For example, I would probably gather posts from Facebook, and see if people tend to re-post the posts that come from their close connections.

**Why should we care?**

*Your response. Provide a motivation of why this project is worth pursuing? That is, if you are successful, what difference will it make?*

We have been long discussing the spread of misinformation/fake news. When receiving a piece of information, one way to help us decide the attitude we should hold towards information is to tell from the sources. For example, if a piece of information comes from Youtube, then we probably should not rush into trusting it all; this is because that Youtube is known for misleading and incorrect information. If it comes from CNN, it would be more likely to be authentic information. When the information comes from a certain person, especially someone we are close to, the trust bias might come in leading to too easily a trust we would give to the information. For example, if we receive the information from a reliable family member, a possibility is that we might tend to believe the information and further send the information out. In this case, if the information is not true, we contribute to the spread of misinformation.

Therefore, I believe this research is worth conducting. Knowing how the trust bias affects the spread of misinformation/fake news would help us understand more about the trust mechanism we hold towards information; it would also make us more prudent, and thus help to reduce the spread of misinformation/fake news.

**Keywords** – To mark topic and domain of the idea.

*Your response. Comma separated keywords*

Trust bias, misinformation, fake news, social media, spread