Offer #2023-06920

Post-Doctoral Research Visit F/M Factuality vs. propaganda: analyzing fact-checks

Contract type: Fixed-term contract
Level of qualifications required: PhD or equivalent
Function: Post-Doctoral Research Visit

About the research centre or Inria department

The Inria Saclay-Île-de-France Research Centre was established in 2008. It has developed as part of the Saclay site in partnership with Paris-Saclay University and with the Institut Polytechnique de Paris.

The centre has 39 project teams, 27 of which operate jointly with Paris-Saclay University and the Institut Polytechnique de Paris. Its activities occupy over 600 people, scientists and research and innovation support staff, including 44 different nationalities.

Context

Within the European Horizon project ELIAS, we seek to hire a post-doc to collaborate with us on the following topic.

Fact-checking consists of analyzing public statements made by public figures, in particular by politicians and elected officials. Fact-checking has been traditionally confined to newsrooms, where articles that a media intends to publish were checked for factuality prior to publication, to protect the media reputation and avoid legal consequences (a published mistake may have harmed someone’s reputation).

In modern times, political debates have moved online, and most media content is produced and consumed first and foremost online. Fact-checks are also increasingly produced and shared online, in particular in standard formats, such as the one established by Google. Thus, a significant amount of fact-checks is by now available on the Web, in different languages and related to different countries.

In parallel, the advancement of Natural Language Processing techniques have lead to advance political discourse analysis tools, including those for detecting propaganda, or other persuasion techniques, meant to convince an audience of a viewpoint, and which may or may not be based on facts. We have developed such a propaganda detection model, and deployed it in an application used by RadioFrance journalists, that analyze the political content disseminated by a set of French politicians.

Assignment

We want to perform a joint analysis of propaganda techniques and factuality, based on a corpus of fact-checks. Each fact-check carries over a fragment of a text (document), which may be a tweet, an article, a discourse, etc. We want to detect persuasion techniques in each such documents, and examine how the factuality (such as identified in the fact-check) correlates with the propaganda, but also with other known dimensions of the data, e.g., political orientation, language, country, and fact-check source. Further, fact-checks have often been accused of being themselves partial; it will be interesting to investigate which propaganda techniques they use (if any), and whether claim of fact-check partiality can be substantiated.

Collaboration:
The recruited person will collaborate with CEDAR team members involved in the ELIAS project.

Responsibilities:
The person recruited is responsible for carrying on collaborative research on the topic, proposing and implementing ideas, writing and presenting scientific articles.

Steering/Management:
The person recruited will supervise or co-supervise students collaborating on the topic.

Main activities

Main activities (5 maximum):

[...]
Additional activities (3 maximum):

Examples of activities:

- Analyse the requirements of {partners, clients, users}
- Propose **** solutions for ****
- Develop programs/applications/interfaces of ****,****
- Design experimental platforms ****
- Write documentation
- Write reports
- Write ****
- Test, change up until validation
- Distribute the *** * to **** via ****
- Provide user training for the service’s main clients
- Lead a user community
- Present the works’ progress to partners, ****to an audience of financiers ****
- Other ****

Skills

Advanced knowledge and demonstrated research capabilities in: data management, Web data, and machine learning are required.

Good system development skills and experience managing a software project involving several people is a plus.

Benefits package

- Subsidized meals
- Partial reimbursement of public transport costs
- Leave: 7 weeks of annual leave + 10 extra days off due to RTT (statutory reduction in working hours) + possibility of exceptional leave (sick children, moving home, etc.)
- Possibility of teleworking and flexible organization of working hours
- Professional equipment available (videoconferencing, loan of computer equipment, etc.)
- Social, cultural and sports events and activities
- Access to vocational training
- Social security coverage

Remuneration

Gross salary : 2788 € per month

General Information

- Theme/Domain : Data and Knowledge Representation and Processing Information system (BAP E)
- Town/city : Palaiseau
- Inria Center : Centre Inria de Saclay
- Starting date : 2024-02-01
- Duration of contract : 2 years
- Deadline to apply : 2024-01-31

Contacts

- Inria Team : CEDAR
- Recruiter : Manolescu Ioana / Ioana.Manolescu@inria.fr

About Inria

Inria is the French national research institute dedicated to digital science and technology. It employs 2,600 people. Its 200 agile project teams, generally run jointly with academic partners, include more than 3,500 scientists and engineers working to meet the challenges of digital technology, often at the interface with other disciplines. The Institute also employs numerous talents in over forty different professions. 900 research support staff contribute to the preparation and development of scientific and entrepreneurial projects that have a worldwide impact.

The keys to success

Strong appetite for research, curiosity, good communication skills

Warning : you must enter your e-mail address in order to save your application to Inria. Applications must be submitted online on the Inria website. Processing of applications sent from other channels is
Instruction to apply

Defence Security:
This position is likely to be situated in a restricted area (ZRR), as defined in Decree No. 2011-1425 relating to the protection of national scientific and technical potential (PPST). Authorisation to enter an area is granted by the director of the unit, following a favourable Ministerial decision, as defined in the decree of 3 July 2012 relating to the PPST. An unfavourable Ministerial decision in respect of a position situated in a ZRR would result in the cancellation of the appointment.

Recruitment Policy:
As part of its diversity policy, all Inria positions are accessible to people with disabilities.