



Salvatore Romano

Researcher in:
Social Psychology and
Algorithm Analysis.

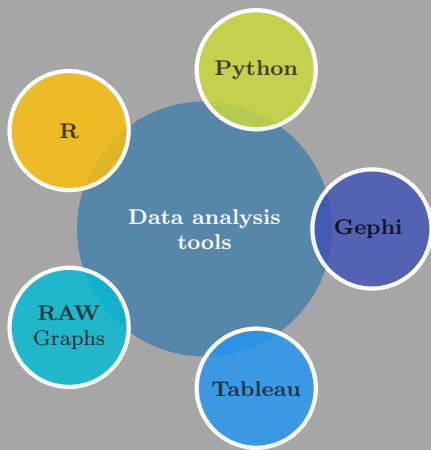
- 02/03/1994
- Milano, Italy
- salvatore@tracking.exposed

Languages

- Italian** ●●●●●
✦ Native language
- English** ●●●●●
🎓 IELTS Academic 2021 - C1
- Spanish** ●●●●●
🎓 DELE 2019 - B2

Computer Skills

See: /SalvatoreRomano1/



Other data analysis skills:

- Text Analysis (NLP, LIWC, autoIC)
- Surveys (SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics, JS)

Programming languages and software:

- JavaScript
- HTML
- Markdown
- GitHub
- LaTeX
- Linux
- Office

Working Experience

- July 2021 **Researcher - algorithm analysis** Ledger, Horizon2020
(ongoing) Member of the project Youchoose.ai, investigating shadow-ban and algorithm bias on Youtube, developing user research with surveys.
- Jan. 2021 **Researcher - algorithm analysis** Reset Foundation
(ongoing) Data Analysis on Youtube and Pornhub's algorithm with Tracking Exposed tool, in order to provide evidence for strategic litigations.
- 2020 **Research Internship** University of Amsterdam - M. Heerdink
Investigating Polarization on social media using Integrative Complexity Index and other automated techniques.
- Teaching Assistant** University of Padova
2021 Persuasion and Social Influence master course: "Hate Speech and Integrative Complexity in political communication".
2021 Social Network Analysis master course: "Semantic analysis of hate speech and negative campaign".
2020 Persuasion and Social Influence master course: "The psychological profile of the online hater".
- 2019 **Researcher: Analysis of Amazon's algorithm.** Rai2
TV Program: "Petrolio", Episod: "Il mondo (segreto) di Amazon".

Participation in conferences

As Speaker:

- 2021 **E-privacy 2021 Conference** Winston Smith, HERMES
"Two examples of algorithmic bias: polarization on Youtube and heteronormativity on Pornhub." Slides Video
- Political Psychology Master Course** University of Padova
Lecture on "Negative Campaign as predictor of online Hate Speech during 2019 European elections in Italy." Slides, Video.
- Digital Methods Winter School** University of Amsterdam
2021 project pitch and Tutorial on "Youtube Tracking Exposed: measuring polarization of the debate ad filter bubbles".
2020 project pitch and Tutorial on "Youtube Tracking Exposed: crowdsourced data donations".
- 2020 **Remote Chaos Experience Conference 2020** Berlin
Tutorial on "Youtube Tracking Exposed: algorithm audit".
- Data Cities: Smart Technologies, Tracking and Human Rights** Disruption Lab, Berlin
Workshop conduction: "Smash your filter bubble".
Radio Interview: "The power of algorithms"
- Workshop on algorithm design** Simply Secure, Berlin
Workshop conduction: "Algorithms EXposed Design, how to shape effective communication about algorithms."

As student

- 2019 **Summer School - Text Analysis** University of Padova
"Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data"
- Summer School - Frontiers of Science** University of Padova
"Big Data in Physical, Social and Humanistic Science"
- Summer School - Digital Methods** University of Amsterdam
"Trolls, bots and dictators" - The current state of social media research.
- 2017 **Winter School - Globalization** University of Padova
"Spaces and times of Globalization Boundaries, borders and walls."

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About Me

I am a researcher graduated in Social Psychology. I'm working on social media's algorithm: I investigate the causes and the consequences of social problems like Hate Speech and bipolarization, using automated techniques like Network and Text Analysis.

Memberships



Tracking Exposed - "Tools for data scraping".



Algorithms Exposed - "Break free of your filter bubble".



National Net Against Hate Discourses.

Personal Skills



Interdisciplinary team work



Leadership



Work under pressure

Education

2017-2020 **Master degree - Social and Communication**

University of Padova

Psychology

Master Thesis: "Haters gonna (make you) hate: Negative Campaign as predictor of online Hate Speech during 2019 European elections in Italy."

Final grade: 107/110.

Erasmus Internship: member of DatActive research project, University of Amsterdam. (4 months)

Erasmus Semester: Sociology of new media, University of Seville. (6 months)

Optional subjects: "Social Network Analysis" Communication Strategies master degree Report: "Machine learning for automatic detection of Fake News"

Optional subjects: "Cognitive, behavioral and social data" Data science master degree. Report: "Comments on twitter: semantic network and sentiment analysis of the political sphere"

2014-2017 **Bachelor degree - Developmental, personality and interpersonal relationship psychology**

University of Padova

Bachelor Thesis: "Welcoming refugees into families. Analysis of the participants' social networks by questionnaires."

Publications

2021 **"Heteronormativity and Pornography: an Algorithmic Analysis of Pornhub"** (Accepted with minor revision)

Iir Rama, Lucia Bainotti, Alessandro Gandini, Giulia Giorgi, Silvia Semenzin, Claudio Agosti, Giulia Corona, Salvatore Romano.

Porn studies journal.

2021 **"YTREX: crowdsourced analysis of YouTube's recommender system during COVID-19 pandemic"**

Leonardo Sanna, Salvatore Romano, Giulia Corona, Claudio Agosti

Information Management and Big Data, Springer.

Data sprint reports supervised at Digital Methods Winter Schools, University of Amsterdam.

2021 "Echo Chambers, Filter Bubble and Polarization on Youtube: the USA's post-electoral debate".

2020 "Investigating polarization via YouTube's Recommender Systems: how is Brexit polarized on youtube?".

2019 **Blog article publication for DatActive research project**

"Why psychologists need new media theory".

References

Stefania Milan (s.milan@uva.nl)

Univ. of Amsterdam - Sociology

Davide Belardo (d.beraldo@uva.nl)

Univ. of Amsterdam - Media Studies

Marc Heerdink (m.w.heerdink@uva.nl)

Univ. of Amsterdam - Psychology

Caterina Suitner (caterina.suitner@unipd.it)

Univ. of Padova - Psychology