

PhD Program in Computer Science and Mathematics

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Rajesh Sharma

Associate Professor  
Institute of Computer Science,  
University of Tartu (UT), Estonia



Sala Consiglio  
Dept. of Computer Science

## Data Science for Social Good

Societal issues such as misinformation and abusive speech have become a menace in recent times. Individuals have started (mis)using online social media platforms for spreading misinformation and hate speech. These are critical issues as they can create riots in a society, leading to loss of property and lives. Also, these platforms are being used to study posts related to other societal issues like mental health, where individuals discuss their issues more openly due to anonymity being provided by these platforms. In this talk, Rajesh will touch upon various societal issues (mentioned earlier), which can be studied using several data science techniques. The digital traces, if studied responsibly and scientifically, can help to mitigate this menace in society.

*Rajesh Sharma is presently (from January 2021 - present) working as Associate Professor and is leading the Computational Social Science Group (<https://css.cs.ut.ee/>) at the Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu (UT), Estonia. His group works on problems related to understanding societal issues such as misinformation, hate speech, segregation, mental health, users' behavior using digital traces such as financial transactions, mobile call data records and more importantly social media data. Group often applies techniques from AI, NLP and most importantly network science/social network analysis. Rajesh has co-authored over 80 research articles.*

*Earlier, Rajesh joined University of Tartu in August 2017 and worked as a senior researcher till December 2020. From Jan 2014 to July 2017, he has held Research Fellow and postdoc positions at the University of Bristol, Queen's University Belfast, UK and the University of Bologna, Italy. Prior to that, he completed his PhD from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in December 2013. He has also worked in IT industry for about 2.5 years after completing his master's from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, India.*