Computer Science
Seminar

Human-centered Data Science for Crisis Informatics

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Abstract: Disasters arising from natural hazards are associated with the disruption of existing social structures, but they also result in the creation of new social ties by those affected as they problem-solve alone and together. With social media now being a site for some of this interaction, there is much to learn about the nature of those changing social structures, including how and why they shift. However, the study of this social arena is challenging, because the high-tempo, high-volume convergent nature of crisis events produces vast amounts of social media data, necessitating the use of the data science methods. On the other hand, to glean meaningful insight from the crisis-related social media activity, it is necessary to use methods that account for the complex social context of the user activity, including qualitative analysis.

In this talk Kogan will show how Human-Centered Data Science provides methodological approaches that both harness the power of computation methods and account for the highly situated nature of social media activity in disaster. Utilizing these methodological approaches, she will show how disaster-related coordination and distributed problem solving take shape on two social media platforms: Twitter and OpenStreetMap.

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