

TTO 2020

**Proceedings of the  
2020 Truth and Trust Online Conference  
(TTO 2020)**

October 16-17, 2020  
Virtual

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## Preface

The annual Conference for Truth and Trust Online (TTO) took place on October 16-17, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was held online.

The mission of TTO, now in its second edition, is to bring together all parties working toward improving the truthfulness and trustworthiness of online communications. TTO is an annual forum for academia, industry, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss the problems facing (social) media platforms and technical solutions to understand and address them. It is organised as a unique collaboration between practitioners, technologists, academics and platforms, to share, discuss, and collaborate on useful technical innovations and research in the space.

The aim of TTO is to be a forum from which many parties can benefit: (i) for academics, to learn about the real problems that industry is facing and how their proposed solutions can be more impactful, (ii) for industry, to improve their product safety by brainstorming collective actions together with other stakeholders, and (iii) for the public, to gain insights into how their concerns on social media safety are being addressed.

We invited submissions on topics such as misinformation, disinformation, trustworthiness of COVID-19 news and guidance, hate speech, online harassment and cyberbullying, credibility, hyper-partisanship and bias, image/video verification, fake amplification, fake reviews, polarization and echo chambers, transparency in content and source moderation, and privacy requirements.

We invited two kinds of submissions: technical papers and talk proposals. The idea was to attract both fully worked papers and “ideas.” The technical papers were an opportunity for authors to publish and present new research, and they are included in these proceedings. In contrast, the talks do not appear in the proceedings and they were designed as an opportunity for scholars, activists, developers, lawyers, ethics experts, fact-checkers, public servants, journalists, and all around researchers to present and discuss ideas related to the topic of the conference.

We received 18 submissions for technical papers, and we accepted 7 of them, an acceptance rate of 39%. We further received 37 talk proposals, and we accepted 23 of them, an acceptance rate of 62%.

Here are some statistics about the submitted papers and talks by area: 11 about COVID-19, 9 about fact-checking, 8 about manipulated media and deep fakes, 6 about bias, polarization, propaganda, 6 about modeling and classifying, 6 about analyzing the news, 6 about trust, bias, deception, 5 about communication, literacy, context, and 3 about generated media.

Here are some statistics about the authors of the paper submissions by country: 16 from USA, 10 from France, 7 from Malaysia, 6 from Greece, 6 from UK, 5 from Germany, 5 from India, 3 from Pakistan, 2 from Portugal, 2 from Switzerland, 1 from Australia, 1 from the Philippines, and 1 from Slovakia.

And now some statistics about the authors of the submitted talk proposals by country: 45 from United States, 17 from United Kingdom, 10 from South Korea, 4 from Germany, 2 from Australia, 2 from Switzerland, 1 from Brazil, 1 from France, 1 from Greece, 1 from India, 1 from Israel, 1 from Netherlands, 1 from Taiwan, 1 from United Arab Emirates, and 1 from Viet Nam.

Each paper received about 4 reviews, and each talk proposals typically received 3 reviews. There were 40 PC members, and the acceptance decisions were made after two weeks of intense online discussions between the reviewers and the PC chairs.

We thank the reviewers for their hard work, and to the authors for contributing their very interesting research and discussions, which have allowed us to produce a very interesting and balanced programme.

*Emiliano De Cristofaro and Preslav Nakov*  
*TTO-2020 PC Chairs*

# Organization

This conference is a truly unique collaboration among academia, industry, and practitioners.

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# Conference Program

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