Security Lancaster Newsletter July 2021

Leipzig Symposium on Intelligent Systems

(LEISYS)

Thursday 22nd July 2021, 2pm to Thursday 22nd July 2021, 8pm

Join us for an exciting update on current research and developments in the dynamic and diverse field of intelligent systems!

The idea of intelligent computer systems has come a long way: Originating in the realm of science-fiction writers of the early 20th century, mid-century artificial intelligence concepts developed slowly but steadily into complex advanced AI systems providing, e.g., image and speech recognition to a wide range of applications. Today, many companies and developers market such AI-based products and services as intelligent computer systems, or at least, they are often perceived as such by the public. In fact, most people are the subject of learning algorithms at least once a day, for example while browsing social media or interacting with their mobile devices.

The *Leipzig Symposium on Intelligent Systems* (LEISYS) aims to bring researchers from a diverse set of backgrounds together, to facilitate discussions about applications and risks of intelligent systems, as well as methods to develop such systems. The expertise of the speakers at the symposium covers, among other topics, Machine Learning, Logic, Cognitive Systems, and Formal Methods.

The symposium will take place on **July 22, 2021, between 14:00 and 20:00 (CET)**.

We encourage listeners from all backgrounds of Computer Science to attend and participate in the discussions.

Registration to this online event is **free of cost**, but you need to register here. If you are a student or staff at Lancaster University, you can connect to the symposium Teams space directly at this link.

LEISYS is organised by the School of Computing and Communications at Lancaster University in Leipzig, the new branch campus of Lancaster University in the heart of Europe.

General Chairs: Thomas Schmid, Sven Linker

Local Organiser: Wiebke Lamer

Meet a Colleague

Professor Mark Levine

I am a social psychologist specializing in the psychology of group processes and how they impact on pro-social and anti-social behaviour. Over the last 10 years I have moved towards interdisciplinary work at the intersection of psychology and technology – leading large multi-site projects which include computer scientists, software engineers, roboticists and HCI researchers. The focus of this work has been on the interactions of social identity and technology in privacy, security, policing, health and environmental domains.

As co-lead for the Behavioural Sciences theme in Security Lancaster I'm particularly keen on exploring opportunities to study 'real-life' behavior (captured through digital traces) but am ever mindful of the ethical

challenges raised by the collection and use of digital data. My research has used CCTV footage to conduct micro-behavioural analyses of behavior in public spaces; has used analysis of natural language in online forums to study identities in the context of health and crime; has used smartphone generated data to study everyday prejudice and intergroup conflict; has combined environmental sensors with life logging technology to study socio-technical resilience for older people with co-morbid health conditions; has explored the role of social identities in building peer-to peer energy trading platforms

I'm currently working on a number of EPSRC and Dstl funded projects including:

- Citizen Forensics (EPSRC) https://www.citizenforensics.org; (reframing key challenges that underlie modern policing in a socio-technical world)
- Socio Technical Resilience in Software Development (STRIDE) (EPSRC) (on the psychology of Resilience and Automation in Software Development)
- https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/T017465/1;
- CCTV analysis of transport emergencies (DSTL) (micro-behavioural coding of social interactions in emergencies)

I have just started work on the REASON project – a UKRI funded project which is part of the Trustworthy Autonomous Systems (TAS) programme. The project brings together the Universities of York, Lancaster, Sheffield, Southampton and the Open University to study the social, legal, ethical, empathy and cultural rules that autonomous systems must engage with. The Lancaster project will focus on the interactions of humans and drones in disasters and emergencies. https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/3m-awarded-to-interdisciplinary-project-to-improve-socio-technical-resilience-and-trustworthiness-of-autonomous-systems

Funding Calls

- ESRC research grant - The ESRC Research Grants (open call) invites proposals from eligible individuals and research teams for standard research projects, large-scale surveys and other infrastructure projects and for methodological developments. The call offers researchers considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic providing that it falls within ESRC's remit. Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, but the social sciences must represent more than 50 per cent of the research focus and effort. We particularly encourage ambitious and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques and those with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact. We are also keen to encourage fresh ideas from new researchers and appropriate proposals are welcomed from those with limited research experience. Our funding decisions are based on a number of criteria including quality, timeliness, potential impact and value for money. The call is for applications ranging from £350,000 to £1 million (100 per cent full economic cost (fEC)) for a period of up to five years. You can submit proposals to the call at any time – there are no fixed closing dates.

- Secondary Data Analysis Initiative - This grant supports research that exploits existing data resources for social and economic research, created by the ESRC and other agencies, for comparative analysis. It also aims to develop research capacity and skills in using large and complex secondary data.
  Grants can be for up to £300,000 for a period of up to 24 months. Funding is based on the full economic costs of the research, with ESRC providing 80% of the cost and the research organisation covering the balance.
  Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, but the social sciences must represent more than 50% of the research focus and effort.
  Additional primary (first-time) data collection will not be funded under this call.

- N8 Policing Research Partnership - As part of the Research Coproduction element of the N8 PRP we will annually make a call for bids to our Small Grants.
  The Small Grants Awards open call provides pump-priming funds to support research into targeted and important areas of policing work and areas where the gaps in knowledge are most prominent and where research benefits are of greatest value. They provide the necessary flexibility to move swiftly to respond to emergent areas of policing, new challenges and pressing concerns.

- Advancing safely to full vehicle automation - Funders: Innovate UK, Co-funders: The Department for Transport (DfT) and the Centre for Connected and Autonomous

Vehicles (CCAV). Total fund: £1,500,000. Closing date: 28 July 2021 11:00 UK time.

- [Software for research communities](#) - Funders: [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC](#)). Total fund: £4,500,000. Closing date:14 October 2021 16:00 UK time.
- [Enabling an equitable digital society](#) - Funders: [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)](#). Total fund: £5,000,000. Award range: £625,000 - £1,250,000. Closing date:14 September 2021 16:00 UK time.
- [Develop digital economy research communities with NetworkPlus](#) - Funders: [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC](#)). Total fund: £16,250,000. Maximum award: £3,250,000. Closing date:29 July 2021 16:00 UK time.

Seminar Series

The next seminar will be delivered by [Professor Rob Procter](#) on Friday 27th August from 2pm until 3pm - more details coming soon!

A full list of our seminars can be found [here.](#)

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