

Koustuv Saha

Curriculum Vitae

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A computer scientist interested in the interdisciplinary area of computational social science and its applications in mental wellbeing and precision medicine, working with real-world problems from natural language processing, machine learning, causal inference analysis, and statistical modeling. Current research involves sensing mental health using social media with a focus on situated communities, such as college campuses and workplaces.

Education

- 2016– **Doctor of Philosophy Student, Computer Science.**
School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology
Advisor: Dr. Munmun De Choudhury, Specialization: Social Computing
◦ April 2018, Passed Ph.D. Qualifying Examination. Committee: Dr. Gregory D. Abowd (Chair), Dr. Jacob Eisenstein, Dr. Thomas Ploetz, and Dr. Munmun De Choudhury (Advisor)
- 2008–2012 **Bachelor of Technology (Hons.), Computer Science and Engineering.**
Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Guide: Dr. Sujoy Ghose, B.Tech Project: Ontology based Semantic Information Retrieval

Publications

Refereed Conference and Journal Articles

- 2019 Ribeiro, F. N.*, **Saha, K.***, Babaei, M., Henrique, L., Messias, J., Goga, O., Benevenuto, F., FAT* Gummedi, K. P., & Redmiles, E. M. (2018). On Microtargeting Socially Divisive Ads: A Case Study of Russia-Linked Ad Campaigns on Facebook. *To Appear In the Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAT*)*, (* co-primary authors), [PDF](#).
- 2018 **Saha, K.**, Weber, I., & De Choudhury, M. (2018). A Social Media Based Examination of the Effects of Counseling Recommendations After Student Deaths on College Campuses. In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media., *Presented at ICWSM 2018*, [PDF](#).
- 2018 **Saha, K.**, & De Choudhury, M. (2017). Modeling Stress with Social Media Around Incidents of Gun Violence on College Campuses. In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 1,(CSCW),92., *To be presented at CSCW 2018*, [PDF](#).
- 2017 **Saha, K.**, Chan, L., de Barbaro, K., Abowd, G. D., & De Choudhury, M. (2017). Inferring Mood Instability on Social Media by Leveraging Ecological Momentary Assessments. In Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies, 1,(3),95., *Presented at UbiComp 2017*, [PDF](#).
- 2017 **Saha, K.**, Weber, I., Birnbaum, M. L., & De Choudhury, M. (2017). Characterizing Awareness of Schizophrenia Among Facebook Users by Leveraging Facebook Advertisement Estimates. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 19(5)., *Presented at Mental Health Symposium, CHI 2017*, [PDF](#).
- 2017 Sharma, E.*, **Saha, K.***, Ernal, S. K.*, Ghoshal, S.*, & De Choudhury, M. (2017). Analyzing Ideological Discourse on Social Media: A Case Study on the Abortion Discourse. In Proceedings of the 2017 International Conference of The Computational Social Science Society of the Americas (CSS), (* co-primary authors), [PDF](#).

Patents

- 2015 Patel, L., **Saha, K.**, Das, S., & Biswas, A., A System and Method for Sentiment Analysis of Text., *US Provisional Patent Filed, Aug'14, US Patent Filed, Aug'15.*
- 2015 Patel, L., **Saha, K.**, Das, S., & Biswas, A., A System and Method for scalable and continuous learning and annotation of data., *US Provisional Patent Filed, Mar'15.*
- 2014 Bose, A., **Saha, K.**, Das, S., & Biswas, N., A System and Method for Predicting Compliance Issues., *US Provisional Patent Filed, Feb'14.*

Experience

- Aug 2016– **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Georgia Tech*, School of Interactive Computing.
Advised by Dr. Munmun De Choudhury, as a Ph.D. (Computer Science) student, I specialize in social computing. Broadly motivated in topics and methods related to computational social science and human-centered machine learning. In particular, my research interest involves social media sensing of mental wellbeing in situated communities, such as college campuses and workplaces.
- May 2018 – **Visiting Scholar**, *Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS)*.
 - July 2018 Advised by Dr. Krishna P. Gummadi, I worked on the problem of how social media based advertisement platforms enable advertisers to micro-target their audience in a malicious way. In particular, we experimentally studied how Facebook ads from the Russian IRA run prior to 2016 U.S. elections exploited Facebook's targeted advertising infrastructure to efficiently target ads on divisive or polarizing topics (eg, immigration, race-based policing) at vulnerable sub-populations.
- May 2017 – **Research Intern**, *Fred Hutch*, Hutch Data Commonwealth.
 - July 2017 Advised by Dr. Naveen Ashish, I worked in the domain of biomedical data sciences and computational social science. My primary research problem included high dimensional machine learning using genomics data to predict the risk of Colorectal Cancer. Also, worked on quantifying the 'impact' of tweets to analyze the outreach of Cancer Research information and awareness.
- Dec 2012 – **Senior Researcher**, *Abzooba Inc.*, X, NLP & Data Sciences R&D.
 - Aug 2016 As the product development lead of XPresso, Abzooba's flagship product, improvised techniques, and implemented modules for extracting information in an end-to-end automated, scalable, and efficient fashion. Worked with predictive analytics based business problems from finance, retail, and healthcare sector. Instrumental in conceptualization and implementation of Continuous Learning System (CLS). Ranked 1st at a US based retail giant's Hackathon for Compliance Risk Index (CRIX). Role involved dealing with algorithms and techniques in NLP and Machine Learning, as well as technological advances in software development at production level.
 - NLP problems such as aspect based sentiment analysis, emotion categorization, document classification, semantic search, trending topics detection, ontology building, and so on.
 - NLP techniques like Semantic Role Labeling, Dependency Parsing, Word-Vectors, Topic Modeling, Latent Semantic Hashing.
 - Data Sciences problems like predicting compliance risk, member expenses, distributor costs, etc.
- Sep 2013 – **Visiting Faculty Member**, *Praxis Business School*, Analytics.
 - Jul 2014 Conducted courses on Big Data Analytics and Retail Analytics. Subjects included Hadoop, Map Reduce, Unix and Programming fundamentals, and Natural Language Processing.
- Aug 2012 – **Junior Research Associate**, *Infosys Ltd.*, Infosys Labs, R&D.
 - Nov 2012 Conceptualized & implemented an information extraction tool from unstructured financial reports. Contributed in ideation of a semantic similarity based recommendation system of research projects.
- May 2011 – **Research Intern**, *Siemens Information Systems Ltd.*, Corporate Technologies R&D.
 - July 2011 Set up a Hadoop cluster of 30 computers, installed Mahout and Katta for running jobs. Developed a tool for accessing Lucene indexes to search and analyze their content based on parameters.

Academic Distinctions

- 2008 Qualified in Top 0.5% at IITJEE 2008 and Top 0.3% at AIEEE 2008.
- 2006 Awarded National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) Scholarship by NCERT, Govt. of India.

Miscellaneous

- Skills and Interest Computational Social Science, Crisis Informatics, Social Computing, Mental Health, Campus Wellbeing, Natural Language, Causal Inference, Time Series, Statistical Modeling, Machine Learning, Data Sciences
- Reviewing JMIR, ACM CSCW (2017, 2018), ACM CHI (2017, 2018), IEEE TAFF
- Programming Java, Python, R, C, Bash, HTML, CSS, Javascript
- Libraries Stanford CoreNLP, LIWC, NLTK, WordNet, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Vowpal Wabbit
- Framework MySQL, MongoDB, BigQuery, Hadoop, Neo4J
- Languages English, Bengali, Hindi

Last Updated: 2018/10/28