



Public Lecture Series

Thursday, 6 June 2024

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Unveiling Immigrant Identities in the Digital Sphere

Jisu Kim, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

15:30 – 17:00

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis Breguet 2, room 2.310, and on WEBEX ([link](#)).

Abstract

In today's digital age, understanding online behaviors and identities is of paramount importance. The growing presence of individuals online not only signifies the expanding reach of the digital realm but also presents a distinct opportunity to delve into their behaviors and identities. This extends to studying immigrants online, which yields real-time insights into migration patterns and demographic shifts, thereby informing policy-making and resource allocation decisions. Moreover, this avenue of study offers invaluable insights into integration processes, access to resources, and cultural dynamics, enriching our understanding of societal trends and needs. With this in mind, the presentation introduces a fresh method for identifying immigrants online, employing Twitter data analysis to detect distinctive patterns associated with immigrant status.

The proposed approach encompasses a comprehensive data collection strategy, incorporating both structured and unstructured data sources. While geolocation data are pivotal in international migration studies, this also involves extracting linguistic cues, cultural references, and migration-related keywords from textual data. Additionally, it entails examining network structures and interactions within online communities. Furthermore, ethical considerations and potential challenges related to this approach are addressed, including privacy issues and algorithmic biases. Strategies for mitigating these challenges are explored, such as anonymization methods, transparent data collection practices, and rigorous validation procedures.

By delving into the realm of digital sphere, this presentation aims to deepen our understanding of immigrant experiences online, illuminating their behaviors, interactions, and identities. This has broad implications across disciplines like sociology, anthropology, and immigration studies, offering insights into the integration processes and social dynamics within immigrant communities in the digital era.

About the Speaker

Jisu Kim, having earned her PhD in Data Science from Scuola Normale Superiore in Italy, currently works as a research scientist in the Department of Digital and Computational Demography at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. She has been working on exploring and establishing novel methods to improve relevant statistics of international migration using social media data. Her research focuses on the intersection of migration sciences, development economics, social networks, and data-driven algorithms.

Selected Publications

- Kim, J, et al. (2023) Where do migrants and natives belong in a community: a Twitter case study and privacy risk analysis. *Social Network Analysis and Mining* 13.1: 15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13278-022-01017-0>
- Kim, J, et al. (2023). Online social integration of migrants: evidence from Twitter. *Migration studies journal*: <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnad017>
- Kim, J., et al. (2022). Origin and destination attachment: study of cultural integration on Twitter. *EPJ Data Science*, 11(1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjds/s13688-022-00363-5>
- Kim, J., et al. (2020). Digital footprints of international migration on Twitter, *International Symposium on Intelligent Data Analysis*. Springer.