



Examining anti-social behaviour in online discussions about the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine

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Ukraine has long been a target for the Kremlin’s disinformation campaigns. Since the 2014 annexation of Crimea, Russia has employed a variety of information-operation tactics to undermine the Ukrainian government and destabilize Ukrainian society. For example, Russia deployed a network of paid Internet trolls via the Internet Research Agency to spread disinformation in and about Ukraine. The use of these tactics has only intensified during Russia’s 2022 invasion. This presentation will focus on a common tactic of information operations – their reliance on troublesome anti-social behaviours like online trolling, cyberbullying and hate speech to harass and silence opponents. While what is commonly viewed as anti-social may be a communal norm and means of socializing in some online communities, that is not the case in most, where such behaviour may negatively affect group cohesion and have psychological and emotional consequences on individual social-media users. This presentation will demonstrate how to use automated content analysis to detect and study anti-social behaviour on social media in the context of online discussions related to the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war.