

1 Dicembre 2024

## Giuseppe Russo

Europaallee 45, Zurich, 8004, Switzerland

+39 3298856668 | [giuseppe.russo@epfl.ch](mailto:giuseppe.russo@epfl.ch) | [giuseppepepperusso.github.io](https://giuseppepepperusso.github.io)

### RESEARCH STATEMENT

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I am dedicated to expanding the use of causal methods in decision-making to address pressing societal challenges, such as **online radicalization**, **the social impact of AI**, and **sustainability**. To build computational methods that can both measure and influence behavior, it is essential to tackle the dual challenges of establishing causality and mitigating potential risks of harm. Thus, I focus on developing causal inference frameworks that identify the key drivers of social behaviors, leveraging these insights to design **targeted interventions and responsible AI solutions** that are contextually informed and ethically sound. My work has been published in top-tier venues (**EMNLP**, **ACL**, **ICWSM**, **TheWebConf**), obtained multiple awards, including the **Best Paper Award at ICWSM '24** and the **Lightning Talk honors at IC2S '23 and '24**, and received both national and international media coverage.

### EDUCATION

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#### Stanford University

*Visiting Scholar, Socially Aware Language Technology (SALT) Lab, Computer Science*  
*Mentor: Diyi Yang*

Apr 2025 - Sept 2025

*Palo Alto, USA*

#### Bocconi University

*Visiting Scholar, MilaNLP Group, Computer Science, Milan*  
*Mentor: Dirk Hovy*

Nov 2024 - Mar 2025

*Milan, Italy*

#### EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)

*Postdoctoral Scholar, Computer Science*  
*Mentor: Robert West*

Mar 2024 - Current  
*Lausanne, Switzerland*

#### ETH Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule)

*Ph.D. in Data Science*  
*Mentor: Frank Schweitzer*

Oct 2021-Feb 2024

*Zurich, Switzerland*

Co-Advisor: *Robert West*

PhD Thesis: *Computational Approaches for Identifying Causal Effects in Online Social Platforms*

Thesis Committee: *Frank Schweitzer, Emilio Ferrara, Francesco Pierri*

#### ETH Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule)

*Master of Science in Computer Science*

Sep 2017 - May 2020

*Zurich, Switzerland*

#### Politecnico di Milano

Oct 2014 - July 2017

## SELECTED AWARDS

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- (1) Best Paper Award at ICWSM 2024
- (2) Swiss National Science Foundation Scientific Exchanges (19,500 CHF)
- (3) Lightning Talk Honor the International Conference of Computational Social Science 24 (top 2% submissions)
- (4) Lightning Talk Honor the International Conference of Computational Social Science 24 (top 1% submissions)
- (5) Outstanding Student Award Politecnico of Milano 2017

## PUBLICATIONS

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\*: Advised Students.

### [Self-Recognition in Language Models](#)

Tim R. Davidson, Viacheslav Surkov, Veniamin Veselovsky, **Giuseppe Russo**, Robert West, Canglar Gulcehre  
Proceedings of the Conference of Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), Findings, 2025.

### [Does Content Moderation Lead Users Away from Fringe Movements? Evidence from Recovery Community](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Maciej Styczen\*, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Robert West

Proceedings of the International Conference on Web and Social Media (**ICWSM**), under submission, 2025  
Awarded of Lightning Talk Honor at IC2S2, top 2% submissions (20/752)

### [Stranger Danger! Cross-Community Interactions with Fringe Users Increase the Growth of Fringe Communities](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Robert West

Proceedings of the International Conference on Web and Social Media (**ICWSM**), 2024

Awarded with Best Paper Award

Also presented at IC2S2 2024 (oral)

### [The AI Review Lottery: Widespread AI-Assisted Peer Reviews Boost Paper Scores and Acceptance Rates](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Tim R. Davidson, Veniam Veselovsky, Robert West

Under submission at CSCW 2025

### [Shock! Quantifying the Impact of Core Developers' Dropout on the Productivity of OSS Projects](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Christoph Gote, Christian Zingg, Giona Casiraghi, Luca Verginer, Frank Schweitzer

Proceedings of the ACM on Web Conference (**TheWebConf**), 2024

Also presented at IC2S2 2024 (oral)

### [Spillover of Antisocial Behaviour from Fringe Platforms: The Unintended Consequences of Banning](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Luca Verginer, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Giona Casiraghi

Proceedings of the International Conference on Web and Social Media (**ICWSM**), 2023

Awarded of Lightning Talk Honor at IC2S2, top 1% submissions (16/957)

### [Helping a Friend or Supporting a Cause? Disentangling Active and Passive Cosponsorship in U.S. Congress](#)

**Giuseppe Russo**, Christoph Gote, Laurence Brandenberger, Sophia Schlosser, Frank Schweitzer

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association of Computational Linguistics (**ACL**), 2023

**Understanding Online Migration Decisions Following the Banning of Radical Communities**

**Giuseppe Russo**, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Giona Casiraghi, Luca Verginer

Proceedings of the ACM Web Science Conference (**WebSci**), 2023

**Control, Generate, Augment: A Scalable Framework for Multi-Attribute Text Generation**

**Giuseppe Russo**, Nora Hollenstein, Claudiu Musat, Ce Zhang

Proceedings of the Conference of Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), Findings, 2023

**A Longitudinal Study of Italian and French Reddit Conversations Around the Invasion of Ukraine**

Francesco Corso\*, **Giuseppe Russo**, Francesco Pierri

Proceedings of the ACM Web Science Conference (**WebSci**), 2024

## VISITS AND INTERNSHIPS

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**Computer Science Department, The NLP Group, Stanford University**

*Visit to Prof. Diyi Yang, Palo Alto (US), Apr 2025 - May 2025*

**Computer Science Department, EPFL**

*Visit to Prof. Robert West, Lausanne (CH), February 2023 - September 2023*

**ABB, Data Science Team**

*Research Scientist Intern, Zurich (CH), March 2019 - September 2019*

**IBM Research, Medical Decision Group**

*Research Scientist Intern, Zurich (CH), April 2020 - September 2020*

## INVITED TALKS

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1. October 2025, **Bocconi University**, Milano (MilaNLP Group, AI Seminar)

Invited Talk: Assessing the Impact of AI Systems on Online Civility

2. May 2024, **USC**, Marina del Rey (Information Science Institute AI Seminar)

Invited Talk: Causal Inference to Inform Curation Practises in Online Platforms

3. November 2023, **Google Research**, (AI Seminar Google Research Zurich)

Invited Talk: Causal Inference and Language Models to Mitigate Users' Radicalization Pathways

4. September 2023, **ETH Zurich**, (MTEC Department)

Invited Lecture: Causal Inference Data Science for Good Lecture Series

5. September 2022, **ETH Zurich**, (MTEC Department)

Invited Lecture: Causal Inference Data Science for Good Lecture Series

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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**Languages:** Python, Java, C++, Matlab, SQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, R, Haskell

**Databases:** Spark, MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Neo4j

**Frameworks:** Docker, Django, Flask, oTree