



INTERSECTIONS 2024

The International Conference of the Romanian Sociologists Society

Workshop 1

AI in Academia: Tools and Techniques for Students, Researchers, and Teachers

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Description

Attendees will learn about various AI tools, including OpenAI's GPT models, Claude from Anthropic, and Google's Gemini, among others. The basics of prompting will be introduced to help participants understand how to interact with AI effectively.

One of the highlights is a live demonstration on training a custom GPT model, showcasing how AI can be tailored to write articles in specific styles. This hands-on session aims to demystify the process of working with AI for content creation.

The workshop will also explore AI's potential for students, focusing on how these tools can aid in course preparation, exam preparation, and writing papers. Ethical considerations in AI use will also be addressed.

For teachers, the workshop will demonstrate how AI can assist in creating lecture content, slides, and assignments, emphasizing the ease of integrating AI into the educational workflow. Researchers will benefit from learning how AI can streamline literature reviews, draft research hypotheses, and boost overall productivity.

Towards the end, the discussion will highlight the competitive advantages AI brings to academia, particularly for institutions with limited funding, enhancing research and teaching capabilities.



Workshop 2

Computational Social Sciences in Romania

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Description

Engaging in digital daily activities results in the generation of substantial volumes of data. Consequently, with the increases in data storage and analytical capabilities, along with progress in machine learning, new opportunities are emerging in social sciences research. Computational social sciences refer to an interdisciplinary domain that uses computational methods on extensive datasets to enhance our understanding of human behaviour (Edelmann et al., 2020). While not as well-established in academia as fields such as biology or physics (Lazer et al., 2020), the computational power linked to social research is increasing interest among sociologists and other social scientists (Edelmann et al., 2020). The societal and scholarly worth of computational social science, which operates within an open academic setting, for comprehending individuals and groups in both their physical and digital existences, is unquestionable. However, there are substantial barriers that impede the development of computational social science. Within this framework, we extend an invitation to participate in a discussion regarding the challenges and prospects of implementing computational social science in Romania. How can social scientists produce and access big data given that such endeavours are costly and usually handled by transnational tech corporations, often infringing on personal data ethical considerations? How can the increased institutional distance between social science departments and engineering and computer science departments (Lazer et al., 2020) be lessened? What strategies can Romanian academics employ to make the most of available resources and develop new capabilities to educate new scholars in computational social sciences?



Workshop 3

Introduction to data science in RStudio: from objective to deliverable with application in labour market studies

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Description

The data science workshop aims to provide students with a practical introduction to the process of data analysis in the study of labour relations. This workshop offers an introduction in issues of employment relations, followed by applied instructions on both the statistical techniques used in social science data analysis and the strategy for structuring and communicating the results. Participants will learn, with a comparative perspective, about several important issues in the labour market, such as labour market slack, income inequalities, migration, and the role of actors (firms, employees, governments) in driving these problems. As well, by making use of real and comparative socio-economic data, the participants will learn how to merge theory with data and to use techniques for descriptive and graphical data analysis, examining relationships between variables, testing statistical hypotheses, and interpreting and translating data into text.

Nowadays, familiarity with data analysis is important because many societal debates focus on the use and understanding of statistical information. Thus, the workshop provides participants not only with practical skills in R (under RStudio) but also the understanding of the labour market and with strategic communication skills.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to RStudio – let's learn simple lines of code;
- Import, clean and pre-process your data;
- Gain insights into your data (basic descriptive statistics);
- Data visualization techniques;

Throughout this workshop, participants will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to correlate key issues in sociology and economics and to use theoretical knowledge in empirical analyses.