

Warwick Q-Step Methods Spring Camp 2019

18—19 March 2019

Hosted by the Warwick Q-Step Centre, the annual Spring camp is designed to embed quantitative methods into real world problems, enable undergraduates to have the opportunity to interact with postgraduates (to help bridge the undergraduate/postgraduate divide), provide students with practical hands-on lab-based learning and expose them to the wider University research community across the disciplines.

Each year the Q-Step Spring Camp will focus on key quantitative methods themes. The theme of this year's Spring Camp is SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS, focusing on the use of social media data in different domains as well as data collection methods, data analysis and visualization.

The event will provide an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and postgraduate students to gain experience learning and working with others in a range of professions and disciplines, as well as developing the conceptual and practical/computational tools one can use for social media analysis.

Day 1: Social Media Analysis

09.30 — 10.00: **Registration and Coffee—Chancellors Suite**

10.00 — 11.00: **Federico Botta, Research Fellow in Data Science, Warwick Business School**



'Quantifying crowd size and mobility patterns using online data'

Federico Botta is a Research Fellow in the Data Science Lab at Warwick Business School. His research aims to provide a deeper understanding of human behaviour, both at the collective and individual level, by using novel data streams. Large data sets are constantly being generated thanks to our interactions with large technological systems, such as the Internet and the mobile phone network, or they can be collected through our usage of smart phone apps and tracking sensors. Federico uses tools from data science, network theory, behavioural and computational social sciences to analyse these data sets and investigate different aspects of human behaviour.

11.00 — 12.00: **Alexia Pretari, Global Advisor - Impact Evaluations, Oxfam GB**



'Social media for improved governance: an impact evaluation'

Alexia Pretari is a Global Advisor on Impact Evaluations at Oxfam GB. She leads on the development of new tools and methods for assessing resilience capacities. She is currently working on the design and implementation of the impact evaluation of a project aimed at building active citizenship and leaders' responsiveness, through the use of social media by community activists. Alexia is passionate about finding ways for impact evaluations to better reflect how power, and its different dimensions and intersections, play out and affect communities, households and individuals.

12.00 — 13.00: **Lunch**

13.00 — 14.00:

Elliot Jones, Demos

'Is anyone listening? How social media analysis can inform the policy debate'



Elliot Jones is a researcher at Demos's Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM). CASM has developed its own social media analytic tools built with social research in mind, and Elliot is currently using these to explore patterns of ethical and unethical gambling advertising and understanding perceptions and presentations of virtue online. He has contributed to ongoing CASM research into how Russia has used Twitter in its disinformation and influence operations in the UK and Europe. Elliot holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford.

14.00 — 15.00:

Joshua Feldman, BBC

'Understanding our audiences: Social listening at the BBC'



Joshua Feldman is a data scientist at the BBC, where he uses a host of machine learning techniques to answer business problems and help the organization better understand its audiences. He mainly codes in R and SQL, taking a specialist interest in computational text analysis and data visualization. He holds an MSc in quantitative research methodology from the London School of Economics.

15.00 — 16.00:

Coffee and Networking — Chancellors Suite

16.00:

Finish

Day 2: Interactive Workshop — Social Media Analysis

09.30 — 16.30:

Dr James Tripp, Academic Technologist at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, University of Warwick



Day 2 gives participants the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the collection, analysis and visualisation of social media data using the R statistical language.

James Tripp trained as a Cognitive Scientist (BSc, PhD) at the University of Warwick. He teaches technical workshops, writes software (GitHub) and administers CIMs linux systems. His passions are open source software, data analysis and visualisation.



**A step-change in
quantitative social
science skills**

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