**PhD Project Proposal**

School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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| **Proposed Project Title:** **Exploring the relationship between ‘Fake News’ and Political Orientation using machine-learning**  |
| **Principal Supervisor: Deepak Padmanabhan Second Supervisor: Muiris MacCarthaigh (QUB Politics)** |
| **Project Description:** It is often said we live in a post-truth world. We come across fake news almost daily, often without knowing it, and people’s susceptibility to be generators or propagators of fake news varies across various facets such as age, gender and the social geography of your upbringing. In this project, we examine an overlooked facet: political orientation. Using machine learning methodologies over large scale corpora, we will investigate how political orientation can influence susceptibility to fake news. Some of the research questions this project will consider include: (i) the degree to which political orientation influences the likelihood of a person generating fake news, (ii) the degree to which political orientation determines the likelihood of a person believing fake news and (iii) Does exposure to news content that is diverse across the political spectrum help in attenuating propensities to generate and propagate fake news. These questions will be considered separately in a variety of fake news domains, including current political events, health and science.  |
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