Invited Speaker

We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker, Jamell Dacon, as part of the CS5850/CS6850 (Introduction to Data Analysis) course. Jamell will be presenting his innovative and socially significant research. We encourage everyone to attend this enlightening discussion.

Title: Bias and Discrimination in NLP: Race and Gender

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:30 a.m to 11:30 a.m
Zoom info:
https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/83452988692?pwd=MHRuM2JMd2ZnS2xHQ2tUeiswLzFDUT09
Meeting ID: 834 5298 8692
Passcode: 12332

Abstract. Natural language processing (NLP) is a subfield of artificial intelligence (AI) and has become increasingly prominent in our everyday lives. NLP systems are now ubiquitous as they can identify offensive and abusive conversational content and hate speech detection on social media platforms, voice and speech recognition and transcription, news recommendation, dialogue systems and digital assistant, language generation, etc. Yet, the benefits of these language technologies do not accrue evenly to all its users leading to harmful societal impacts as NLP systems reproduce gender and racial stereotypes. In this presentation, we argue that how harms arise in NLP systems, and who is harmed by these biases, can only be conceptualized, and understood at the intersection of NLP, fairness, and justice in machine learning (ML), and the relationships between language and both social and racial hierarchies.

Bio. Jamell Dacon is a 5th year Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan State University (MSU). He joined the Data Science and Engineering (DSE) Lab in Fall 2018. His current research focuses on Fairness and Bias in NLP. Why? Because Inclusivity matters in all forms. His intent is to investigate, examine and mitigate societal biases in an attempt conceptualize the “isms” that plague our society via NLP technologies, to increase social justice and reduce feelings of disenfranchisement. Specifically, he focuses on conceptualizing social harms arising from the advancements of language technologies highlighting both positive and negative societal impacts.

Host: Dr. Hamid Karimi, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science