

# Fatma Elsafoury

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I'm a 3rd year PhD student at the University of The West of Scotland. My research interests are in social science computing and AI in ethics. In particular, I focus in my research on hate speech detection, social bias, and fairness in natural language processing (NLP). I also organize the women\_in\_NLP talk series.

## Research Experience

- June 2022 - **Research Intern**, *IBM research*, New York, US.
- Sept 2022 **Responsibilities:** I worked with the multilanguage NLP team on measuring bias in and fairness in language models, and the effectiveness of different debiasing methods.
- Sep 2019 **Research associate**, *Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)*, Glasgow, UK.
- Feb 2022 **Responsibilities:** My responsibilities were to build an online platform to detect hateful textual content.

## Publications

- 2022 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Steve Wilson, Stamos Katsigiannis, and Naeem Ramzan. "SOS: Systematic Offensive Stereotyping Bias in Word Embeddings". A long paper **Accepted at COLLING 2022**.
- 2022 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Steve Wilson, and Naeem Ramzan. "A Comparative Study on Word Embeddings in Social NLP Tasks". A long paper **published at the SocialNLP workshop at NAACL 2022**.
- 2022 **Fatma Elsafoury**. "Darkness can not drive out darkness: Investigating Bias in Hate Speech and Abuse Detection Models". A long paper **published at the Student Research Workshop (SRW) workshop at ACL 2022**.
- 2021 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Stamos Katsigiannis, Steve Wilson, and Naeem Ramzan. "Does BERT Pay Attention To Cyberbullying?". A short paper at **SIGIR 2021**.
- 2021 **Fatma Elsafoury**, Stamos Katsigiannis, Zeeshan Pervez, and Naeem Ramzan. "When the timeline meets the pipeline: A survey on automated cyberbullying detection". **Published in the IEEE-ACCESS Journal 2021**.
- 2020 **Fatma Elsafoury**. "Teargas, Water Cannons and Twitter: A case study on detecting protest repression events in Turkey 2013". Published in the **Text2Story Workshop at ECIR 2020**.
- 2017 Sarah Birch, and **Fatma Elsafoury**. "Fraud, Plot, or Collective Delusion? Social Media and Perceptions of Electoral Misconduct in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum". **Published in the Election Law Journal 2017**.

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## Talks

- November 2022 "*Bias and fairness in hate speech detection*" at the **Interaction Lab, Heriot-Watt university**.
- October 2022 "*SOS: Systematic Offensive Stereotyping Bias in Word Embeddings*" at the **COLING main conference**.
- August 2022 "*On bias and fairness in large language models*", the **Exit talk at IBM Research**.
- July 2022 "*Comparative study on word embeddings and social NLP tasks*" at the **SocialNLP workshop at NAACL**.
- June 2022 "*Different biases in word embeddings*" at the **Language Models seminars at IBM Research**.
- May 2022 "*Darkness can not drive out darkness: Investigating Bias in Hate Speech and Abuse Detection Models*" at the **SRW at ACL**.
- April 2022 "*Bias in NLP*" at the **DAAI seminar** at Birmingham City University.
- July 2021 "*Does BERT Pay Attention To Cyberbullying?*" at the **SIGIR 2021** conference.
- June 2021 "*A true cyberbullying type lies in the eye of the beholder: A comparative study on detecting different types of cyberbullying using different word embeddings*" at the 73rd **Language Lunch at the University of Edinburgh**.
- Nov 2020 "*Does BERT pay attention to attribution?*" at the 72nd **Language Lunch at the University of Edinburgh**.
- Apr 2020 "*Teargas, Water Cannons and Twitter: A case study on detecting protest repression events in Turkey 2013*" at the **Text2Story Workshop at ECIR 2020**.

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## Awards

- Oct 2022 **Enrichment scheme (Community award)**, *Alan Turing Institute*, London, UK.  
I received this award to work with the *Online Hate* project team and the causal inference study group to measure the causal inference on bias in word embeddings on hate speech detection models. I'm the only PhD student from the university of the West of Scotland who won this award.
- 2020 **Studentship award**, *ECIR*, Lisbon, Portugal.  
I received this award for free registration to attend the conference and present my work.
- 2014 **Lord Kelvin Adam Smith (LKAS)**, *Glasgow University*, Glasgow, UK.  
I was one of 11 who got this scholarship in 2011. I was the only student from Egypt, Africa, and the Middle East to win this award to study in the UK.
- 2011 **ERASMUS MUNDS**, *Twente University*, Twente, The Netherlands.  
I was one of only 3 Egyptian women who won this scholarship to study in the Netherlands.

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## Education

- Nov 2019 - **PhD student**, *Computer Science*, The University of the West of Scotland.
- Nov 2023 Working on social biases and their influence on Toxicity and Hate Speech Detection.
- Dec 2019 **MSc by Research**, *Computer Science*, University of Glasgow.  
*Thesis Title*: Detecting Protest Repression Incidents from Tweets.
- Mar 2013 **MSc**, *Geoinformatics*, Twente University, Enschede, Netherlands.  
*Thesis Title*: Monitoring Urban Traffic Status Using Twitter Messages.
- May 2008 **BSc**, *Computer and information sciences*, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.  
*Thesis Title*: Personal identification through iris recognition system.

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## Community Service

- 2021 - Present Organizer of the **Women\_in\_NLP** Talk Series. My role is to invite female researchers or practitioners in NLP, organize the event, announce it, and host it. Since starting, I have hosted speakers from Allen AI, Google, Microsoft Research, and others.
- 2021 - Present Volunteer at the **ACL Year Round Mentorship** which is a network that helps and supports junior researchers in natural language processing (NLP).
- 2020 - Present Volunteer at the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (**SICSA**) **PhD Peer Support Group** where mental support is provided to PhD students in Scottish universities by fellow PhD students. My duties include co-hosting two sessions a month to allow the students to express themselves in a safe and friendly environment.
- Jan 2022 - May 2022 Member of the **students' mental health advisory board at the University of the West of Scotland** where we meet monthly to discuss strategies to support the students' mental health.
- 2021 Volunteer at the WiML workshop at NeurIPS conference My role was to help participants in Gather Town virtual environment and to micro-blog about the posters and the talks presented.
- 2018 Volunteer at **Code First Girls** which is an initiative that aims at empowering women through teaching them basic web technologies.
- 2018 Volunteer at the **Programming Workshop For Scientists In Africa (PWS Africa)** which is an initiative to teach programming to students with less opportunities in African countries. The activities included teaching Python to undergraduate students in Ibadan University, Nigeria.

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## Professional Experience

- Dec 2013 **Software Developer**, *ESRI-NEA*, Cairo, Egypt.
- Aug 2014 **Responsibilities:** Responsible of developing mapping applications using Java script and ArcGIS.
- May 2009 **Software Developer**, *ICON Technologies*, Cairo, Egypt.
- Aug 2011 **Responsibilities:** Responsible of developing web and desktop mapping applications.

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## Teaching Experience

- April 2019 **Lecturer (Part-time)**, *School of Computing*, Dundee University.
- Aug 2019 **Responsibilities:** I worked with Data Science MSc students where I helped students with their Programming and Machine Learning assignment and marking assignments.
- Sept 2017 **Lab Assistant**, *School of Computing*, Glasgow University.
- Jan 2019 **Responsibilities:** I worked as Python and Alice lab tutor for undergraduate students and Java lab tutor for MSc students. I was involved in exam invigilation and Marking. I also supervised 2 MSc students.
- Oct 2018 **Web development Tutor (Volunteer)**, *Code First Girls*, Glasgow University.
- Dec 2018 **Responsibilities:** I worked as web development tutor for female students and employees in the university of Glasgow. I was responsible for teaching HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, JQuery and GitHub.
- July 2018 **Python Tutor (Volunteer)**, *PWS Africa*, Ibadan University, Nigeria.
- July 2018 **Responsibilities:** I worked as Python tutor for undergraduate and MSc students at the school of Math in Ibadan university. I was responsible for preparing course material, teaching Python (Basics) and Data Science toolkit (Pandas, Numpy and Matplotlib).



## Languages

**Arabic**, *Native Speaker*.

**English**, *Fluent*.

**German**, *A2-level(post-Beginner)*.