Detecting paranoia among social media users

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Artificial intelligence and text mining techniques can be used to detect paranoia among social media users. Specifically, work published in the *International Journal of Computational Science and Engineering*, has examined the behavior of Twitter users in their updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in order to detect personality disorders associated

with paranoia.

Mourad Ellouze, Seifeddine Mechti, Moez Krichen, and Lamia Hadrich Belguith of the University of Sfax in Tunisia and Vinayakumar Ravi of the Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, suggest that the behavior of people towards the pandemic driven by mistrust of authority and fueled by disinformation has somewhat hindered the way in which we have dealt with this global crisis.

The team suggests that in parallel with this general behavior among some people there is a more worrying reaction among those with serious mental health problems associated with paranoia. Such conditions, when faced with the existential angst presented by a lethal pandemic, can lead to serious anxiety, grief, and suicidal thoughts.

Ultimately, the team's analysis of Twitter users discussing COVID-19 could allow them to find people who may be suffering unduly and may be entering a personal crisis. In other words, the tools they discuss could be used as a proxy diagnostic that could allow qualified professionals to offer an appropriate intervention for patients with paranoia. Perhaps it might also be used to guide decisions made by Twitter itself and its algorithms that lower risk for its vulnerable users.

More information: Mourad Ellouze et al, A deep learning approach for detecting the behaviour of people having personality disorders towards COVID-19 from Twitter, *International Journal of Computational Science and Engineering* (2022). DOI: 10.1504/IJCSE.2022.124553

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