



## Political Bias and Disinformation on Wikipedia

For many people, Wikipedia is a major source of information. It can easily shape people's opinions about the event or person being searched. Not surprisingly, interesting things happen, e.g., edit wars on political or historical pages<sup>1</sup>. There are reasons to believe that some countries employ writers that edit Wikipedia according to their interests<sup>2</sup>.

Some Wikipedia writers are group together to approve each others' edits, such that misinformation stands a chance to stay in Wikipedia. Moreover, some newspapers and social media may refer to the misinformation on Wikipedia. Some writers cite these articles that are influenced by their edits to support their views.



In this thesis, we explore research problems around this topic, including: How can we distinguish misinformation and self-citation on Wikipedia? How do defamatory edits generate political bias among users? How does misinformation transmit from Wikipedia to other media? How do the groups of editors interact with each other? How do they enhance their credibility?

**Requirements:** Interest in networks and social computing. Basic programming skills are required. Familiarity with NLP would be beneficial.

We will have weekly meetings to address questions, discuss progress, and think about future ideas.

**Interested? Please contact us for more details!**

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<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Edit\\_warring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Edit_warring)

<sup>2</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Wikipedia\\_controversies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedia_controversies)