Call for papers

UMUAI Special issue on: Fair, Accountable, and Transparent Recommender Systems

USER MODELING AND USER-ADAPTED INTERACTION:
The Journal of Personalization Research (UMUAI)


BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

This special issue addresses research on responsible design, maintenance, evaluation, and study of recommender systems. It is a venue for work that has evolved out of recent workshops and conferences (e.g., FairUMAP, FATRec, FATML, FAT*) on fair, accountable, and transparent (FAT) recommender systems. In particular, it addresses what it means for a recommender system to be responsible, and how to assess the social and human impact of recommender systems. The questions addressed under each criterion are seen as follows:

- **Fairness**: what might ‘fairness’ mean in the context of recommendation? How could a recommender be unfair, and how could we measure such unfairness?
- **Accountability**: to whom, and under what standard, should a recommender system be accountable? How can or should it and its operators be held accountable? What harms should such accountability be designed to prevent?
- **Transparency**: what is the value of transparency in recommendation, and how might it be achieved? How might it trade off with other important concerns?

TOPICS

**Modelling**
- Fairness of user and item models (e.g., low confidence recommendations, disbalanced data, measures of diversity, low confidence recommendations)
- Accountability of user and item models (e.g., accountability by or for different stakeholders, requirements on modeling to enable accountability)
- Transparency of user and item models (e.g., explanatory needs for different user groups, explaining individual and global consumptions patterns)

**Recommendation**
- Fairness of recommendations (e.g., trade-offs between criteria, bias for classes of items or users)
- Accountability of recommendations (e.g., mechanisms for reporting/accounting, balancing filtering and completeness)
- Transparency of recommendations (e.g., explanatory visualizations, user control, comparing explanatory aims)

**Methodologies**
- Methodologies to assess Fairness (e.g., metrics for balance, diversity, and other social welfare criteria; evaluation simulations; assessing stakeholder specific bias)
- Methodologies to assess Accountability (e.g., metrics and user studies of accountability mechanisms)
- Methodologies to assess Transparency (e.g., metrics and evaluation frameworks for assessing the impact of interface or interaction strategies)

**Impacts**
- Impacts of Fairness practices (e.g., balancing needs of different groups of users or stakeholders in recommender systems)
- Impacts of Accountability practices (e.g., mechanisms for reporting data and models or decisions about them)
- Impacts of Transparency practices (e.g., counterfactuals and what-if recommendations)

GUEST EDITORS/CONTACT

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PAPER SUBMISSION & REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions will be pre-screened for topical fit based on extended abstracts. Extended abstracts (up to three pages in journal format) should be sent to n.tintarev@tudelft.nl. Detailed instructions for paper submissions and updates will be posted online.

Deadline for extended abstracts: June 5th, 2019
Notification about extended abstracts: June 19th, 2019
Deadline for full manuscript submission: August 2nd, 2019
Notification 1st cycle: October 14, 2019
Deadline for revised manuscripts: December 12, 2019
Notification 2nd and final cycle: January 17, 2020
Deadline for camera-ready manuscripts: February 28, 2020