User Perspectives in Fair Recommender Systems: A Paradigm Shift

Keynote Abstract

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Abstract

The landscape of recommender systems has experienced a transformative shift in recent years, fueled by the urgent need to address the ethical challenges surrounding algorithmic biases and the quest for fairness [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. In this talk, we delve into the central role of user perspectives, recognizing their significance as key drivers for constructing fair recommendation algorithms [6]. Through real-world case studies, we first unveil the profound impact of biased recommendations on individuals, communities, and society at large [7]. We expose the potential consequences of these biases, shedding a light on the necessity for change [8, 9, 10]. With this critical backdrop in mind, we showcase and discuss recent techniques that, by embracing user perspectives, can lead to more inclusive and representative recommender systems, thereby fostering trust and engagement among users [11, 12, 13].

Keywords

Beyond Accuracy, Ethics, Fairness, Recommendation, User Modeling.

Biography

Mirko Marras is Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Cagliari (Italy), where he co-leads the research unit on responsible machine learning. Prior to that, he has been postdoctoral researcher at EPFL (Switzerland) and visiting scholar at Eurecat (Spain) and New York University (USA). His research ranges across various domains impacted by user modeling and personalization, including education, entertainment, and healthcare. He has co-authored more than 60 papers in top-tier conferences and journals and has given tutorials at ICDE 2021, ECIR 2021, WSDM 2021, ICDM 2020, and UMAP 2020. He has also co-chaired several workshops on this theme, including the Bias series at ECIR (2020-2023), the L2D workshop at WSDM 2021, the R&PRMI workshop at ICCV 2021, the FATED workshop at EDM 2022, and the RKDE workshop at ECML-PKDD 2023. He serves as associate editor for the Springer's Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing.

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