

Preface

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With the emergence of Computational Social Science as a field of collaboration between computer scientists and social scientists, the study of social networks and processes on these networks (social contagion) has been gaining interest. Many topics of traditional sociological interest (such as the diffusion of innovation, emergence of norms, identification of influencer) can now be studied using detailed computational models and extensive simulation.

The advent and popularity of online social media also allows the creation of massive data sets which can inform models and underlying sociological theory. The ubiquity of "smart devices" (such as smart phones) also provides opportunities to gather extensive data on the behaviors and interactions of humans in "real space". The goal of this symposium is to bring together a community of researchers interested in addressing these issues and to encourage interdisciplinary approaches to these problems.