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## **Editorial: Social media in political revolt; mix of rational and sentiment**

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**Biographical notes:** Piet Kommers is a Professor of UNESCO Learning Technologies and affiliated with the Universities of Twente and Utrecht, The Netherlands. His specialty is social media for communication and organisation. As a conference co-chair of the IADIS multi-conference, he initiated the conferences of web-based communities and social media, e-society, mobile learning and international higher education. He is a Professor at the UNESCO Institute for Eastern European Studies in Educational Technology and an Adjunct Professor at the Curtin University in Perth, Australia.

Margriet Simmerling is a Peer Consultant/Senior Manager for R&D projects in the area of e-society and web-based communities. She participated in the advisory board for the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and is active as a reviewer for the European Commission. She designs and moderates e-learning modules and workshops e-learning modules and workshops in the domain of education technology and psychology at the PhD level.

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## **1 Social media in political revolt; mix of rational and sentiment**

Large-scale political movements depend on avalanches of communication that resemble best the shouting on a crowded square when tensions reach a level of massive revolt. Media like Twitter are notorious igniters in the start of demonstrations; they provide individuals the trust that they are not lonely in protest. Processes like the Brexit and more recently the cry for autonomy by the separatists in Catalonia demonstrate how chaotic wisdom of the crowd may work out: rational, emotional and sentiment go hand in hand and social media have an impact on the steepness/speed of political swivels. This special issue brings exemplars of how social media so far have become a game-changer in social-political movements as large-scale propagation of tacit alternative standpoints suddenly gain momentum. Authorities in counteract already show the use of social media

tracking in order to inhibit processes like the so-called Arabic Spring in Tunisia in January 2011.

The first article addresses the usages of Twitter, and how Twitter contributes to spread rumours regarding serious economic situations. Not long ago the news was dominated by the situation in Greece and the Referendum around the GREXIT. The article ‘Twitting bad rumours – the *grexit* case’ presents an up-to-date social network analysis (SNA) investigation for serious economic situations, this case, *grexit*, via twitter posts. In this article Dimitrios Kydros deals with one of the most renowned channels of modern information, Twitter®, and the presence of keyword ‘*grexit*’ in tweets over a period of time. He gathered data in order to create networks of tweets, i.e., networks of persons or institutions that circulated globally the keyword of interest. Furthermore, Kydros created an innovative second class of network, based on semantics combined with SNA.

## **2 From blogging network to communities**

Is it possible that a grassroots network becomes a community? How could this be measured and what would be the specific circumstances. Hilary Smith Risser and SueAnn I. Bottoms followed a grassroots of math teachers. The article ‘Becoming the MTBoS: predicting sense of belonging for a grassroots blogging network’ present a model to measure the cases where individuals felt a sense of belonging to the ‘math Twitter blogosphere’ (MTBoS), the name they refer to themselves and others in the network. The article clearly analyses the factors involved in the creation of a community of practise. Clear analysis of interactions, presented in both statistical and graphical terms are included.

The second half of this first issue of *IJWBC* in 2018 is dedicated to the special issue ‘advances in web search and analytic approaches for big data’. Dr. Arunkumar Thangavelu, Dr. Venkatesan Meenakshi Sundaram and Dr. Arun Kumar Sangaiah of the VIT University, Vellore, India, selected articles addressing new developments in the domain of big data and web based communities. The following three articles give relevant information around new techniques that facilitates web based communities.

## **3 The usage of big data to predict the behaviour of the users of web based communities is big business**

Having knowledge about the connectivity pattern is of great value. In the article ‘Prediction of missing links in social networks: feature integration with node neighbour’ Anand Kumar Gupta and Neetu Sardana present a new algorithm to predict the links in a network. Their evaluation in a Facebook environment gives promising new information.

Having knowledge about the amount of time a customer spend in finding a product that leads to the commercial transaction is of high importance to the strategy of a company. In the article ‘Multi process prediction model for customer behaviour analysis’ D. Kalaivani and Arunkumar Thangavelu present their analysis of customers behaviour. Important data around the general internet usage of a customer, in combination with the time spend on buying the product, are the input of the analysis.

The use of advanced technology always implicates several challenging security risks. In the article 'Plague of cross-site scripting on the web applications: a review, taxonomy and challenges', Pooja Chaudhary and B.B. Gupta, inform us about the specific vulnerabilities and how to respond to specific worms that attack a platform.

We hope you are inspired by these contributions from Greece, the USA, Egypt and India.