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SPRITE+ Expert Fellows meeting

Calling all SPRITE+ Expert Fellows! Join us at our in-person **Expert Fellows' meeting** at the spectacular [Scale Space](#) in London White City from 30 April to 01 May 2024. We are delighted to confirm two of the four speakers that will be presenting at our meeting:

- Robotics/AI - [Angelo Cangelosi](#)
- Neurotechnology - [Robert McCombe](#)

For further details and to register see [here](#). If you are interested in applying to become a SPRITE+ Expert Fellow, you can find further information on [SPRITEHub](#).

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

News and Publications from the SPRITE+ Community

SPRITE+ Expert Fellow Dr Baraa Zieni and co-authors published a paper on '[C-XAI: A conceptual framework for designing XAI tools that support trust calibration](#)' in *Journal of Responsible Technology*.

SPRITE+ Member Dr Deepak Padmanabhan published a piece on '[AI could help cut voter fraud – but it's far more likely to disenfranchise you](#)' in *The Conversation*.

SPRITE+ Member Beckett LeClair published an opinion piece on '[A technical study on the feasibility of using proxy methods for algorithmic bias monitoring in a privacy-preserving way](#)' via Montreal AI Ethics Institute.

SPRITE+ Expert Fellow Dr Carolina Are published a paper on '[Flagging as a silencing tool: Exploring the relationship between de-platforming of sex and online abuse on Instagram and TikTok](#)' in *New Media and Society*. Carolina also interviewed with TechCrunch on '[The Taylor Swift deepfake debacle was frustratingly preventable](#)'.

SPRITE+ Member Dr Charles Weir has been interviewed on the popular software developer podcast, Software Engineering Radio on '[Ruthless Security for Busy Developers](#)'. Charles also co-authored an article on '[The top risks from technology that we'll be facing by the year 2040](#)' in *The Conversation*.

SPRITE+ Expert Fellow Dr Xiaochun Cheng published a paper on '[A C-V2X Compatible Massive Data Download Scheme Based on Heterogeneous Vehicular Network](#)' in *IEEE Transactions on Computer Electronics*. Xiaochun also co-authored '[A Hierarchical Method for Locating the Interferometric Fringes of Celestial Sources in the Visibility Data](#)' in *Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics* and a chapter '[CoME: Collaborative Model Ensemble for Fast and Accurate Predictions](#)' in *Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*.

SPRITE+ Co-Investigator Prof Hamed Haddadi co-authored '[Feedback to the European Data Protection Board's Guidelines 2/2023 on Technical Scope of Art. 5\(3\) of ePrivacy Directive](#)'.

Other news

Following the advent of the [Online Safety Act](#) in October 2023, the new offences introduced by the Act came into force at the end of January - [Online Safety Act: new criminal offences circular](#). These include new communications offences covering:

- Section 179: False communications offence.
- Section 181: Threatening communication offence.
- Section 183: Sending or sharing flashing images electronically (i.e., 'epilepsy trolling').
- Section 184: Offence of encouraging or assisting serious self-harm.
- Section 187: Sending etc photograph or film of genitals (i.e., 'cyberflashing').
- Section 188 and section 190: Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film (i.e., 'intimate image abuse').

The first prosecution for the cyber-flashing offence has already taken place, see the BBC News article on [‘WhatsApp image sender becomes first convicted cyber-flasher’](#). Given the ongoing interest in online harms e.g. the [incidence of online violence against women and girls](#), as well as the concern over potential harmful impacts of AI [including spread of deepfakes](#) – the use of these offences will be very much under the spotlight.

Job Opportunities and Studentship Announcements

Parliamentary Thematic Research Leads. UK Parliament. These part-time roles, funded by UKRI and supported by all of UKRI’s research councils, will be appointed to work with UK Parliament from September 2024 to summer 2026. Closing date: 03 March 2024. Read more [here](#).

Research Fellow - Data and Artificial Intelligence. Birmingham City University. Based in the College of Computing, the ideal candidate will have strong skills and expertise in applying core data science and artificial intelligence concepts and tools to solve complex problems. Closing date: 03 March. Read more [here](#).

Assistant Professor in the policy, regulation or law of AI, data and algorithms. The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI), Cambridge. The purpose of this post is to contribute to CFI's expanding teaching programme; conduct world-leading, impactful research in topics relevant to CFI's mission; and, contribute to the development of CFI. Closing date: 11 April. Read more [here](#).

Research Associate in User-Centred Systems’ Security/ Privacy. Imperial College London are looking to hire a Research Associate (post-doctoral) to work on the UKRI Open Plus Fellowship awarded to Professor Hamed Haddadi at the Department of Computing. The objective is to provide better security and privacy for edge devices (IoT & Browser), all the way from the on-device ML models and TEE, to analytics done at the ISP end. Closing date: 30 April. Read more [here](#).

Trilateral Research are inviting applications for the following remote positions:

- [Data Scientist - SocioTech for Good.](#) The successful candidate will be responsible for leveraging your expertise in data analysis, machine learning, and statistical modelling to extract insights and drive data-driven solutions. Read more [here](#).
- [Research Impact Officer.](#) The successful candidate will support the delivery of research communication and impact efforts for the Crisis & Security cluster and to build thought leadership and support business development activities. Read more [here](#).

- Research Manager - Cybersecurity. The successful candidate will support the growth, development and operational management of the Cybersecurity Research cluster, manage team members and support the delivery of the ATHENA project which focuses on tackling disinformation in Europe. This is a combined research and management role. Read more [here](#).

PhD Studentship: Responsible AI (12 available). The University of Edinburgh. Closing date: 11 March 2024. Read more [here](#).

PhD Studentship: Safe and Privacy-Preserving Interactive Technologies. The University of Edinburgh. Closing date: 15 March 2024. Read more [here](#).

PhD Studentship: Cyber Security. University of the West of England, Bristol. Closing date: 19 April 2024. Read more [here](#).

Other Opportunities

FINAL CALL: The Institute of Cyber Security for Society (iCSS) at the University of Kent is organising a **CyberAnything Competition** and welcomes submissions from UK residents. This competition welcomes anything or everything that are cyber-related in our daily lives. Submissions can be photos, drawings, short videos, infographics (flyers and PowerPoint slides), essays, poems, and even 3-D printed objects and hand-crafted artefacts. Submitted artefacts will be judged for a number of cash prizes up to £80. Read more and submit an entry [here](#). Submission deadline: 01 March 2024.

The Financial Conduct Authority welcomes applications for participants, mentors and observers to engage in the **Market Abuse Surveillance TechSprint**. The aim of this TechSprint is to bring out solutions and proofs of concepts through the innovative and responsible use of data to improve detection rates, such as through increasing accuracy, enhanced anomaly detection, or revolutionising certain aspects of market abuse surveillance. Deadline: 18 March. For further details see [here](#).

The **Tech Science Press** is inviting submissions to a journal special issue on [Advances of Transfer Learning to Enhance Complex Systems](#). Deadline: 14 April 2024.

The **Resilience Beyond Observed Capabilities** NetworkPlus is now fully up and running and welcoming new members. The EPSRC/MoD-funded NetworkPlus is developing an interdisciplinary, cross-sector community focused on generating and sharing knowledge on future resilience. The starting point is a scenario of a catastrophic attack on digital and energy networks in the year 2051. The RBOC N+ community will engage in workshops, research, and networking to refine, deepen and test this scenario and to use it to create immersive simulations. Read more [here](#). Sign up to the Network [here](#) or contact rbocnetwork@coventry.ac.uk for more details.

Areas of Research Interest (ARIs) have been launched by UK governmental bodies to explore how research could help solve problems and inform government policy. ARIs are wide-ranging and can cover anything from economic and social policy to international relations and national security. By identifying ARIs, the civil service can ensure that research efforts are targeted where evidence is most needed to inform policy decisions and improve government performance. Read more [here](#).

The Secretary of State for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is implementing a programme to bring **academic and industry secondees** into the department, to work alongside civil servants on some of the most challenging and important science and technology policy questions facing the UK. See the full list of opportunities and apply [here](#).

The 1st International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security ([NLPAICS'2024](#)) is seeking Programme Committee members. Contact Prof. Ruslan Mitkov r.mitkov@lancaster.ac.uk to apply.

Consultations

The Information Commissioner's Office **Generative AI first call for evidence on 'The lawful basis for web scraping to train generative AI models'**. Read more [here](#). Deadline: 01 March. Read more on ICO's work on AI [here](#).

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (UK) is inviting **"insights to strengthen evidence base and inform the final recommendations of the Independent Pornography Review"**, the scope of which includes AI-generated pornography and deepfakes. Deadline: 07 March. Read more [here](#).

The Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (UK) welcomes written evidence for its inquiry into **'Defending Democracy'**. Deadline: 18 March. Read more [here](#).

The UK Government is working to improve cyber resilience across the economy and ensure organisations have the tools and support to protect themselves against cyber threats. As part of this work, it is seeking **views on a draft Cyber Governance Code of Practice**. Details will be discussed in a [webinar](#) on 04 March. Deadline: 19 March.

The International Affairs and National Security (IANS) Hub of the UK Parliament is seeking to gather expertise and evidence from the research community on ‘**Economic Security**’ broadly understood. The following survey allows scholars to indicate their relevant expertise by checking various topics and then asks a series of substantive questions. The Hub seeks to feed this evidence into two ongoing committee inquiries—one conducted on ‘Economic Security’ by the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy and the other on ‘Industrial Policy’ by the Business and Trade Committee - and to build a database of expertise for future parliamentary work. For full details see [here](#).

Funding Calls

Cyber security academic startup accelerator programme (CyberASAP) 2024-25: phase 1. Individuals based in a UK academic institution can apply for a share of up to £800,000 to join CyberASAP, the UK’s only cyber security academic startup accelerator programme. For full details see [here](#).

Submission deadline: 06 March 2024.

The **Digital Europe Programme** made €84 million available to strengthen AI and cybersecurity in a series of calls for proposals by the European Commission. See the full list of calls and their details [here](#). Submission deadline: 26 March 2024.

Calls for Papers / Proposals

FINAL CALL: The Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS). 15 – 20 July 2024, Bristol (hybrid). PETS is a renowned annual forum for experts in privacy and privacy technologies, as well as a showcase for ground-breaking research and fresh perspectives. This year’s symposium is hosted by the National Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence Online (REPHRAIN). Given REPHRAIN’s commitment to protecting citizens online and enabling individuals to navigate a world driven by the digital economy, REPHRAIN is especially pleased to be welcoming the PETS community and is looking forward to numerous collaborative discussions. Abstract deadline: 29 February. Read more [here](#).

FINAL CALL: International Conference on AI and the Digital Economy: CADE 2024. 24 - 26 June 2024, Venice (in-person or virtual attendance). WMG, the applied research and teaching faculty of the University of Warwick is hosting the international CADE 2024 conference (previously known as Competitive Advantage in the Digital Economy) in its 10th anniversary year. This year’s themes are AI in Health, AI in Finance, Digital Public Infrastructure, Smart Mobility, and Sustainability. The list of topics includes TIPS items and is available from [the CADE 2024 website](#). Abstract deadline: 03 March.



Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust,
Engagement, NetworkPlus

4th International Behavioural and Social Sciences in Security Conference (BASS24). 16 - 18 July 2024, St Andrews. CREST is inviting submissions that address the conference themes: Risk and Resilience; Information and Influence; Emerging Threats; and Global Security. Abstract deadline: 11 March. Read more [here](#).

CRESTCon Europe. 18 June 2024. CRESTCon brings together cyber security innovators and experts to explore the trends at the forefront of our industry, share world-leading insights, and collectively shape the future of secure digital landscapes. Cyber security takes centre stage and as a beacon of industry standards, CRESTCon empowers professionals and partners to navigate the dynamic landscape of digital security, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a steadfast commitment to staying ahead of evolving threats. Abstract deadline: 15 March. Read more [here](#).

1st International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security (NLPAICS 2024). 29 - 30 July 2024, Lancaster. Recent advances in Natural Language Processing (NLP), Deep Learning and Large Language Models (LLMs) have resulted in improved performance of applications. In particular, there has been a growing interest in employing AI methods in different Cyber Security applications. Abstract deadline: 05 April. Read more [here](#).

The Black Hat USA 2024. 07 – 08 August 2024, Las Vegas. Since their inception, Black Hat Briefings continue to provide security professionals with a place to learn the very latest in information security risks, research and trends. Leading security researchers from around the world take the stage each year to share their latest work and exploits in a friendly, vendor-neutral environment. Attendees will experience groundbreaking research on topics ranging from vulnerabilities within popular consumer devices, to critical international infrastructure threats, and everything in between. Abstract deadline: 10 April. Read more [here](#).

Advances in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Conference 2024. 03 – 04 June 2024, Manchester. Submissions in a form of a poster and/or short spotlight talk addressing any areas of modern data science and AI are invited, particularly submissions in the areas of Natural Language Processing, AI-Fundamentals, AI for Robotics and AI for Health. Abstract deadline: 15 April. Read more [here](#).

Human Factor in Cybercrime Conference. 29 September – 01 October 2024, Montreal. ‘This conference has become a cornerstone in fostering collaboration, sharing ground breaking research, and exploring new frontiers in cybercrime. Whether you are a seasoned researcher, early-career scholar or a Ph.D. student, the Human Factor in Cybercrime Conference provides a unique platform to engage in meaningful discussions and network with peers who share your passion.’ [Abstract deadline 30 April.](#) Read more [here.](#)

Enhancing Energy Security Resilience, Capabilities and Interoperability. 12 - 14 November 2024, Warsaw. The System Analysis and Studies (SAS) Panel will hold a Research Symposium on Enhancing Energy Security Resilience, Capabilities and Interoperability. [Abstract deadline: 01 May.](#) Read more [here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Digital Trust and Security Seminar Series with Silje Anderdal Bakken: Online drug markets: How is the digitalisation of social interaction changing illegal markets?

29 February 2024, University of Manchester.

Register [here.](#)

Launch event of the study: Algorithms, Violence, and Youth in Brazil: towards an educational model for peace and human rights

29 February 2024, online and in-person (London).

Register [here.](#)

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) call for views: Cyber Governance Code of Practice

04 March 2024, online.

Register [here.](#)

CISO Roundtable: The practical, emotional & legal challenges faced by CISOs

08 March 2024, London.

Register [here.](#)

Smart Robotics Centre - Regulation, Governance & Ethics Workshop

12 - 13 March 2024, University of Dundee.



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Register [here](#) by 01 March.

West Midlands SASIG: Fraud, credentials, and secure payments

14 March 2024, Birmingham.

Register [here](#).

ECR Connect (ahead of the Alan Turing Institute's AI UK 2024)

18 March 2024, London.

Register [here](#).

Digital Trust and Security Seminar Series with Prof. Kieron O'Hara - The Seven Veils of Privacy

20 March 2024, Manchester.

Register [here](#).

REPHRAIN Showcase - March 2024

25 March 2024, Bristol.

Register [here](#).

REPHRAIN Festival of Privacy - March 2024

26 March 2024, Bristol.

Register [here](#).

Technomoral Conversations: Who is Responsible for Responsible AI?

27 March 2024, Edinburgh.

Register [here](#).

Data Science Festival MayDay.

18 May 2024, London.

Register [here](#).

Upcoming Conferences

National Consortium for Societal Resilience [UK+] (NCSR+) 2nd National Conference on Societal Resilience

04 - 05 March 2024, University of Manchester.

Waitlist registration [here](#).

The Alan Turing Institute's AI UK 2024

19 - 20 March 2024, online and in-person (London).

Register [here](#).

Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Conference 2024

03 - 04 June 2024, Manchester.

Register [here](#) by 27 May.

CRESTCon Europe

18 March 2024, London.

Register [here](#).

International Conference on AI and the Digital Economy: CADE 2024

24 - 26 June 2024, Venice (in-person or virtual attendance).

Register [here](#).

17th International Conference on Naturalistic Decision Making

01 - 05 July 2024, Auckland University of Technology.

Register [here](#).

The Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS)

15 – 20 July 2024, Bristol.

Register [here](#).

4th International Behavioural and Social Sciences in Security Conference (BASS24)

16 - 18 July 2024, University of St Andrews.

Register [here](#).



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1st International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security (NLPAICS'2024)

29 – 30 July 2024, Lancaster.

Register [here](#).

Contact Details

Email us with your news (e.g., jobs, studentships, events, conference calls, calls for funding, publications, consultations) on admin@spritehub.org, alert us on X (formerly Twitter) by including [@SPRITEPlus](#) in your tweet or reach out on [LinkedIn](#).

The newsletter is usually published on the last Wednesday of each month. The deadline for including your news item is the second-to-last Friday of each month.

Learn more about [benefits of SPRITE+ membership](#).