



**The International World Wide Web Conference Committee Selects  
“Information Credibility on Twitter ”  
for the 2021 Seoul Test of Time Award**

*Research published in 2011 to be recognized by IW3C2 for being at the forefront of recognizing the importance of studying misinformation in social media*

Ljubljana, April 23 2021 – The International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) announced today that the 2021 Seoul Test of Time Award will be presented to the authors of the paper “Information Credibility on Twitter”; Carlos Castillo ([Universitat Pompeu Fabra](#), Barcelona), Marcelo Mendoza (Federico Santa María Technical University, Chile) and Barbara Poblete (University of Chile).

The award will be presented during the closing ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> international conference in The Web Conference series hosted by the team in Ljubljana on the Web. See <https://www2021.thewebconf.org> for details of the conference

The paper was first presented at the 20th International World Wide Web Conference in Hyderabad, India in March 2011. It now has more than 1,900 citations and has become foundational research in the area of social media analysis. The paper presents a method of assessing credibility of information propagated via Twitter using machine learning. It is ground breaking both in recognizing the importance of misinformation propagated by Twitter as well as using an automated approach based on machine learning. The problem addressed by the paper has been of increasing importance since the paper was published, and the authors were very prescient in choosing to address this problem over a decade ago.

Dame Wendy Hall, Chair of IW3C2, said: “It is hard to believe that in 2011 Twitter and other social media platforms were still very much in their infancy. Twitter was only launched in 2006. Who would have thought that 140 character messages would become so important in our lives. In 2011 issues about misinformation and fake news on social media were not headline news around the world as they are now. This paper was one of the first to undertake a serious study in this area and to apply machine learning to the analysis of social media. It is a very worthy winner of the Seoul Test of Time award 2021.”

The recipients of the award provided some insights on how these ideas developed: "The paper was written after a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile in February 2010. The year before, 2009, a political campaign had increased enormously the popularity of Twitter in Chile, and politicians, journalists, media personalities, all had a significant social media presence by the end of 2009. This was the first time social media played such an important role in a major disaster there. There were massive rumours of looting in the days following the earthquake, and indeed some looting happened but not nearly as much as expected. The main research question we wanted to tackle was whether social media had contributed to fears of looting. In the end, we never addressed that question. Instead, we started a line of research on social media credibility that is now perhaps even a more pressing issue than ten years ago."

Because of the global public health crisis caused by Covid-19, the 2021 conference will take place fully on-line from April 19-24 2021. The local organising committee in Ljubljana have worked very hard to ensure that the conference will as ever provide a forum for industry professionals, researchers, policy makers, developers, and other practitioners to reflect on, discuss and debate the evolution of the Web, and its impact on society and culture while identifying future opportunities and research directions that can help us create a Web that is open, safe, inclusive, and balanced. This is even more important in the almost totally digital world we find ourselves in at the moment.

### **About the Seoul Test of Time Award**

Inaugurated in 2014, the Seoul Test of Time Award is made possible by the generous contribution of the organisers of WWW2014 held in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2014. It is awarded annually to the author or authors of a paper presented at a previous World Wide Web conference that has, as the name suggests, stood the test of time.

The first Award, presented at WWW2015 in Florence, was made to Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, for their world-changing paper 'The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine', originally presented at the World Wide Web Conference in Brisbane in 1998.

### **About the IW3C2**

The International World-Wide Web Conference Committee is the Association that organises global academic conferences on Web technology: <https://www.iw3c2.org/conferences>. For further information contact: [contact@iw3c2.org](mailto:contact@iw3c2.org)

### **About The Web Conference**

Since its first event, in 1994 at CERN, the Web Conference (formerly the WWW Conference) has provided scientists, researchers, policy makers, activists and technology industry leaders with the forum to discuss the evolution of Web and its impact on business, culture and society. The conference is organized each year by a local team of volunteers in different parts of the world in collaboration with the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2)