

Daniel Kansaon

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Introduction

I am a Ph.D. candidate at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (UFMG), working within the [Social Computing Research Group](#) under the supervision of [Dr. Fabrício Benevenuto](#). Additionally, I collaborate with the [GATE Group](#) at the University of Sheffield, focusing on Natural Language Processing applications.

My research focuses on Data Science and NLP, specifically in detecting and analyzing misinformation and hate speech. I am currently investigating the dynamics of political polarization and systems with significant societal impact, aiming to build a safer and more transparent digital environment.

Interests: Data Analysis, Complex Networks, Natural Language Processing and Sentiment Analysis.

Education

Ph.D (4th year) in Computer Science *July 2021 – Present*
Federal University of Minas Gerais - UFMG, Brazil

- **Areas:** Social Computing, Data Science, Machine Learning, NLP, and Complex Networks

M.Sc in Computer Science *July 2018 – Feb 2021*
Federal University of Minas Gerais - UFMG, Brazil

- **Thesis:** Mining Portuguese Comparative Sentences in Portuguese

Specialization — Distributed Software Architecture *March 2018 – July 2019*
Pontifical Catholic University - PUC, Brazil

- **Areas:** Software architecture and technologies to build scalable systems.

B.Sc. — Information System *January 2014 – Dec 2017*
Pontifical Catholic University - PUC, Brazil

- **Thesis:** Classification Techniques for Sentiment Analysis.

Recent Experience

Research Visitor *Sheffield, England*
University of Sheffield *Sept 2025 – Dez 2025*

- Working in an NLP group studying the impact of fear messages and hate speech.

Lecturer – Modular Programming (undergraduate course) *Minas Gerais, Brazil*
Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUCMG) *March 2025 – July 2025*

- Responsible for planning and teaching the course content, including object-oriented programming, Java, UML, and software design principles.
- Designed and graded exams, programming assignments, and practical exercises.

Research Visitor *Saarbrücken, Germany*
Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik *June 2023 – Sept 2023*

- Internship exploring text tools for large-scale data processing.

Graduate Research Assistant (3 semesters) *Minas Gerais, Brazil*
Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Minas Gerais - MPMG *January 2020 – July 2021*

- Working as a data scientist on sentiment analysis projects during a university partnership with government projects.

Teaching Assistant *Minas Gerais, Brazil*
Federal University of Minas Gerais *July 2019 – Dec 2020*

- Discipline: Programming and Software Development Algorithms and programming techniques in the C language for Undergraduate students at UFMG.

Selected Publications

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

[From Fake News to Real Protests: WhatsApp's Role in Brazilian Political Coordination](#)  2025

Daniel Kansaon, Philippe Melo, Savvas Zannettou, and Fabrício Benevenuto,
In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2025.

[A Sticker is Worth a Thousand Words: Characterizing the Use and Abuse of Stickers on WhatsApp Political Groups in Brazil](#)  2025

Philippe Melo, Daniel Kansaon, Joao M. M. Couto, Julio C. S. Reis, and Fabrício Benevenuto,
In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2025.

[Strategies and Attacks of Digital Militias in WhatsApp Political Groups](#)  2024

Daniel Kansaon, Philippe Melo, Savvas Zannettou, Anja Feldmann, Fabrício Benevenuto,
In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Buffalo, US, 2024

[Telegram Monitor: Monitoring Brazilian Political Groups and Channels on Telegram](#)  2022

Manoel Júnior, Philippe Melo, Daniel Kansaon, Vitor Mafra, Kaio Sá, Fabrício Benevenuto,
In Proceedings of the 33rd ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media, Barcelona, Spain, 2022.

Brazilian Conferences

[WhatsApp Monitor 2.0 – Monitoring Brazilian Political Groups on WhatsApp](#)  2024

Márcio Inacio da Silva, Daniel Kansaon, Philippe Melo, Fabrício Benevenuto,
Brazilian Database Symposium.

[“Click Here to Join”: A Large-Scale Analysis of Topics Discussed by Brazilian Public Groups on WhatsApp](#)  2022

Daniel Kansaon, Philippe Melo, Fabrício Benevenuto,
In Proceedings of the Brazilian Symposium on Multimedia and the Web, Curitiba, Paraná, 2022.

[WhatsApp Monitor: A Fact-Checking System to Combat Misinformation](#)  *(Translated)* 2021

Philippe Melo, Fabrício Benevenuto, **Daniel Kansaon**, Vitor Mafra, Kaio Sá.
In Proceedings of the XXVII Simpósio Brasileiro de Sistemas Multimídia e Web, RS, Brazil, 2021.

[Mining Portuguese Comparative Sentences in Online Reviews](#)  2020

Daniel Kansaon, Michele A. Brandão, Júlio C. S. Reis, Breno Matos, Matheus Barbosa, Fabrício Benevenuto.
In Proceedings of the 26th Brazillian Symposium on Multimedia and the Web, 2020, São Luís, Brazil.

[Leveraging the Facebook Ads Platform for Election Polling](#)  2019

Filipe Ribeiro, Daniel Kansaon, Fabrício Benevenuto.
In Proceedings of the 25th Brazillian Symposium on Multimedia and the Web (WebMedia), 2019, Rio, Brazil.

[Sentiment Analysis in Tweets in Brazilian Portuguese](#)  *(Translated)* 2018

Daniel Kansaon, Michele A. Brandão, Saulo A. Pinto.
In Proceedings of the 7th Brazilian Workshop on Social Network Analysis and Mining, 2018, Natal, Brazil.

Brazilian Journals

[Mining Comparative Opinions in Portuguese: A Lexicon-based Approach](#)  2024

Daniel Kansaon, Michele A. Brandão, Julio C.S Reis, Fabricio Benevenuto.,
Journal of the Brazilian Computer Society.

Analysis of Classification Algorithms for Emotion Detection in Brazilian Portuguese Tweets [↗](#) (*Translated*)

2019

Daniel Kansaon, Michele A. Brandão, Saulo A. Pinto.

ISys - Brazilian Journal of Information Systems, v. 12, p. 116-138, 2019.

Projects

Elections without Fake News

Eleicoes-sem-fake [↗](#)

- Project focused on bringing transparency to Brazilian elections.

WhatsApp Monitor

Monitor [↗](#)

- This monitor system shows the popular content shared in WhatsApp political public groups

Dataset: Dataset with Portuguese comparative sentences

Dataset [↗](#)

- Dataset with labeled comparative sentences.