DEPARTEMENT D'INFORMATIQUE DEPARTEMENT FÜR INFORMATIK

## INFORMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Speaker:

**Prof. Anwitaman Datta (De Montfort University and Nanyang Technological University)** 

## On Automated Misinformation Rebuttal —A COVID-19 Vaccination Datasets-Based Exposition

## Abstract:

Misinformation has emerged as a major societal threat in the recent years in general; specifically in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it wrecked havoc, for instance, by fuelling vaccine hesitancy. Cost-effective, scalable solutions for combating misinformation are the need of the hour. This work explores how existing information obtained from social media and augmented with more curated fact-checked data repositories can be harnessed to facilitate automated rebuttal of misinformation at scale. While the ideas herein may be generalized and reapplied in the broader context of misinformation mitigation fusing a multitude of information sources and catering to a spectrum of social media platforms and audience in diverse languages, this work serves as a proof of concept, and is confined in its scope to only rebuttal of (English) tweets, and in the specific context of misinformation regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

## **Bio:**

Anwitaman Datta joined De Montfort University, UK in October 2024 as a Professor of Cyber Security and he holds an associate professorship (on leave) at the College of Computing and Data Science, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His core research interests span the topics of large-scale resilient distributed systems, information security and applications of data analytics. Presently, he is exploring topics at the intersection of computer science, public policies & regulations along with the wider societal and (cyber)security impact of technology. This includes the topics of social media and network analysis, privacy, cyber-risk analysis and management, cryptocurrency forensics, the governance of disruptive technologies, as well as impact and use of disruptive technologies in digital societies and in government's technology stack.

Date and time: Location: Contact person: Wednesday, April 23<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10.30 am Pérolles 21, room C130, Bd de Pérolles 90, Fribourg Prof. Philippe Cudré-Mauroux

The colloquium is free and open to the public.