

Boise State University

**ScholarWorks**

---

Computer Science Faculty Publications and  
Presentations

Department of Computer Science

---

2018

## 2nd FATREC Workshop: Responsible Recommendation

Toshihiro Kamishima

*National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)*

Pierre-Nicolas Schwab

*Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management*

Michael D. Ekstrand

*Boise State University*

# 2nd FATREC Workshop: Responsible Recommendation

Toshihiro Kamishima  
National Institute of Advanced  
Industrial Science and Technology  
(AIST)  
Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan  
mail@kamishima.net

Pierre-Nicolas Schwab  
Solvay Brussels School of Economics  
and Management  
Brussels, Belgium  
pschwab@ulb.ac.be

Michael D. Ekstrand  
People & Information Research Team  
Department of Computer Science  
Boise State University  
Boise, Idaho, USA  
michaelekstrand@boisestate.edu

## ABSTRACT

The second Workshop on Responsible Recommendation (FATREC 2018) was held in conjunction with the 12th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems on October 6th, 2018 in Vancouver, Canada. This full-day workshop brought together researchers and practitioners to discuss several topics under the banner of social responsibility in recommender systems: fairness, accountability, transparency, privacy, and other ethical and social concerns.

## CCS CONCEPTS

• **Information systems** → **Recommender systems**; • **Social and professional topics** → **Codes of ethics**;

## KEYWORDS

recommender system, fairness, transparency, ethics

### ACM Reference Format:

Toshihiro Kamishima, Pierre-Nicolas Schwab, and Michael D. Ekstrand. 2018. 2nd FATREC Workshop: Responsible Recommendation. In *Twelfth ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys '18)*, October 2–7, 2018, Vancouver, BC, Canada. ACM, New York, NY, USA, Article 4, 1 page. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3240323.3240335>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The 2nd FATREC Workshop: Responsible Recommendation was held in conjunction with the Recsys 2018 conference, following the success of FATREC 2017 workshop [1].

This workshop is a venue for discussing problems of social responsibility in maintaining, evaluating, and studying recommender systems. Recommender systems are increasingly impacting people's decisions in different ways of life including commerce, employment, dating, media consumption, health, education, and governance. We encourage a discussion of various topics related to responsible recommendation: considerations on ethics and fairness in recommendation, transparent and accountable recommendation, social impact of recommenders, user privacy, compliance with regulations, such as EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or IEEE Ethically Aligned Design (EAD), and other related concerns.

---

Permission to make digital or hard copies of part or all of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. Copyrights for third-party components of this work must be honored. For all other uses, contact the owner/author(s).

*RecSys' 18, October 2–7, 2018, Vancouver, BC, Canada*

© 2018 Copyright held by the owner/author(s).

ACM ISBN 978-1-4503-5901-6/18/10.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3240323.3240335>

## 2 TOPICS OF INTEREST

This workshop aims to draw attention to the above issues at the RecSys community, as has been done in the ML community through events such as FAT\* conference. There are many potential aspects of responsibility in recommendation, as follows.

**Responsibility** What does it mean for a recommender system to be socially responsible? How can we assess the social and human impact of recommender systems?

**Fairness** What might 'fairness' mean in the context of recommendation? How could a recommender be unfair, and how could we measure such unfairness?

**Accountability** To whom, and under what standard, should a recommender system be accountable? How can or should it and its operators be held accountable? What harms should such accountability be designed to prevent?

**Transparency** What is the value of transparency in recommendation, and how might it be achieved? How might it trade off with other important concerns?

**Compliance** How should algorithms and especially recommendation algorithms be designed to adhere the laws or regulations, such as the EU GDPR or the IEEE EAD? How should data collection be rethought to meet those new privacy standards? How to meet the requirements in terms of transparency and explainability of algorithmic decisions.

**Safety** How can a recommender system distorts users' opinions? What is required to be resilient to such a distortion? What is a proper treatment of private or sensitive information when making recommendation?

## 3 PUBLICATION

In this workshop, no official proceeding is published and we allowed to submit already published or submitting manuscripts.

This workshop has two types of tracks. Position papers addresses one or more of the themes in the previous section, or practical issues in building responsible recommendations. These could be both research systems or production systems in industry. Research papers presents empirical or analytical results related to the social impact of recommender systems or algorithms. These could be explorations of bias in recommender systems, explainability and transparency of recommender systems, experiments regarding the impact of the recommender on its users or others, and so on.

These manuscripts can be accessible from the workshop site: <https://piret.gitlab.io/fatrec2018/>.

## REFERENCES

- [1] M. D. Ekstrand and A. Sharma. 2017. FATREC Workshop on Responsible Recommendation. In *Proc. of the 11th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems*.