

**Call for Abstracts for the organized session**  
**Social media networks**  
**at the conference**  
**Networks in the Global World 2016**  
**Multiple Structures and Dynamics:**  
**Applications of Network Analysis to European Societies and Beyond**

**July 1-3, St. Petersburg, Russia**

[www.ngw.spbu.ru](http://www.ngw.spbu.ru)

**Deadline: March 1st 2016**

**Chair:** *lina Hellsten, VU University Amsterdam*

The rise of social media enables online social networks. Social media has been considered as a virtual space for social interactions, but specific social media also has its particular technical functions that may facilitate or block certain types of uses of the 'space'. We approach the concept of social space as a metaphor for a new type of place for social interactions, the main characteristics being the flexibility of boundaries between social groups with unclear group membership. This poses challenges for research into the social and semantic networks in the various types of social media, such as online communities, blogs, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and other social media forums. This new social media data enables more varied approaches that combine social, content and meanings networks online. Such multimode networks pose new challenges for social sciences theories and methods.

This has also lead to more and more data being collected about us and our activities. Our social media interactions and our online search and shopping behaviour, but also offline location tracking and sensor and surveillance networks are all generating large, often real-time data sets. Potentially, these could help answer important questions facing society today. But processing them productively represents a real challenge, at the interface of social and computer science. Meeting that challenge requires not only thorough comprehension of the methodologies involved in analysing big data, but also a theoretical understanding of societal problems and, not least, the associated legal and ethical factors.

The session on social media networks focuses on the theoretical and methodological challenges posed by social media interactions.

In particular, we invite presentations that combine social network measures with semantic networks, and focus on multi-mode networks of actors and the content of their communications.

Please submit your abstract (not exceeding 200 words) [here](#) before **March 1st 2016**.

When submitting, don't forget to select the session title "**Social media networks**" from the list.

The conference [website](#) provides additional information.

We are looking forward to your contributions.

Email any questions to [i.r.hellsten@vu.nl](mailto:i.r.hellsten@vu.nl) or [netglow@spbu.ru](mailto:netglow@spbu.ru).