Peer review assignment

CS-234: Technologies of societal self-organization, Fall 2020

NOTE: If you have **any questions regarding this assignment**, please **do not hesitate to contact us** by starting a [discussion on Moodle](#) so that (1) we can help you and (2) your classmates who might potentially have the same questions benefit from our answers.You **can also always contact the CS-234 staff** at: `cs234@groupes.epfl.ch`

Friendly reminder: Please read this document carefully. Pay extra attention to the colored bold text.

For this exercise, you are going to peer review each other's write-ups. For doing the reviews, you are going to use your new best friend HotCRP.

Each of you is assigned to do reviews for **three** write-ups, which means you will also get three reviews for your own write-up. You will see the list of write-ups that you are assigned to review on your HotCRP home page. Additionally, you should have received an email from Simone about your trolling assignment (more on this later). **If for some reason you have not received this email, please let us know as soon as possible!**

You will see that we have already specified a template in HotCRP for your reviews. In your review, you are going to evaluate the following:

Clarity: Does the author do a good job of making the content easy to understand? Does the author successfully and clearly communicate their main ideas? Does the organization of the paper make it easy for the reader to follow the ideas of the author?
Insight: Does the author demonstrate a deep understanding of the readings through the points they bring up in their write-up? Does the author provide an insightful analysis on how the readings are related to each other?
Key ideas, insights, critique: In this section, you should first briefly summarize the main ideas/arguments of the write-up. Note that when you do this, you summarize the ideas/arguments of the write-up and not the reviewed readings. Then, you should give decently-detailed feedback on the ideas and insights from the write-up. When doing so, we expect you to avoid giving feedback without backing it up. For instance, if you disagree with one of the arguments in the write-up, you should explain why you disagree with it, ideally by giving references to the readings and classroom discussions.

You will see that there's a `Metareview` field in the review form. Please **<u>DO NOT</u>** fill this out!

Note that the guidelines above are not comprehensive. We provide you with some questions and ideas that you might find useful when doing your reviews. You are free to add/remove questions/criteria to those that we listed above.

Troll me once, shame on you. Troll me twice, shame on me

Even though you are all assigned to review three write-ups, you will actually assume two different roles in the process. For two write-ups, you are going to be an honest, benevolent and helpful reviewer. You will follow the standard review procedure by evaluating the write-ups to the best of abilities and understanding. If you think that the authors did a good job, you give positive feedback. If you think that the write-up has problems and can be improved, then you give useful feedback to the authors so that they can use it to improve their write-up. For the third write-up, you are going to be the *troll reviewer*. As the troll, you will try to sabotage the reviewing process by deliberately misunderstanding the ideas/points of the write-up; criticizing without clearly justifying your reasons and providing useful feedback with which the author can work to improve their write-up. **However, there is a catch: your goal is to <u>avoid being identified as the troll</u> by the author of the write-up once they receive all three reviews.**

Another important point is that when trolling, you have to follow the CS234 troll etiquette. You are supposed to be a "civilized troll". This means you have to: (1) still be respectful to your classmates, (2) absolutely avoid <u>ad hominem</u>, (3) avoid crossing legal boundaries, and (4) avoid using foul language, insults and/or slurs.

Finally, your identity as the reviewer of a write-up is hidden from everybody, and especially the author of the write-up, except for the two other people who are reviewing the same write-up as you do. **Therefore, make sure that you keep yourself anonymous; meaning, do not put your name or any other personally-identifiable information in your review.**

Submission deadline is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 @ 23:59.