## <u>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</u>

The academic sub-disciplines concerned with computer approaches to the social sciences are referred to as computational social science. Computers are used to model, simulate, and evaluate social phenomena in this way. Computational economics, computational sociology, cliodynamics, culturomics, and automated content analysis in social and traditional media are among the fields. It employs social simulation, modelling, network analysis, and media analysis to investigate social and behavioural links and interactions. Analytical sociology focuses on individual social interactions and the difficult-to-predict aggregate results that result. It aims to find generalizable mechanisms that give rise to emerging social system traits, which then feed back on individual decision-making. This edited book is focused on computational methods including agent-based simulations, machine learning, and large-scale online experiments, and it has a lot of overlap with the then-emerging field of computational social science. Computational social science has the potential to develop sociology in the same way that econometrics progressed economics in the last halfcentury by giving relevant analytical tools to rigorously address sociology's key problems. Computational social scientists from the fields of computer science and physics frequently see establishing empirical regularities as their primary goal. However, references to social laws appear unfounded and misplaced from the perspective of the social sciences, and in this book, we outline how analytical sociology, with its theorygrounded approach to computational social science, can help to move the field forward from mere descriptions and predictions to explanations of social phenomena.

Dr. KISHORE.M & Dr. SUMALATHA.D



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Edited by Dr. KISHORE.M Dr. SUMALATHA.D

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