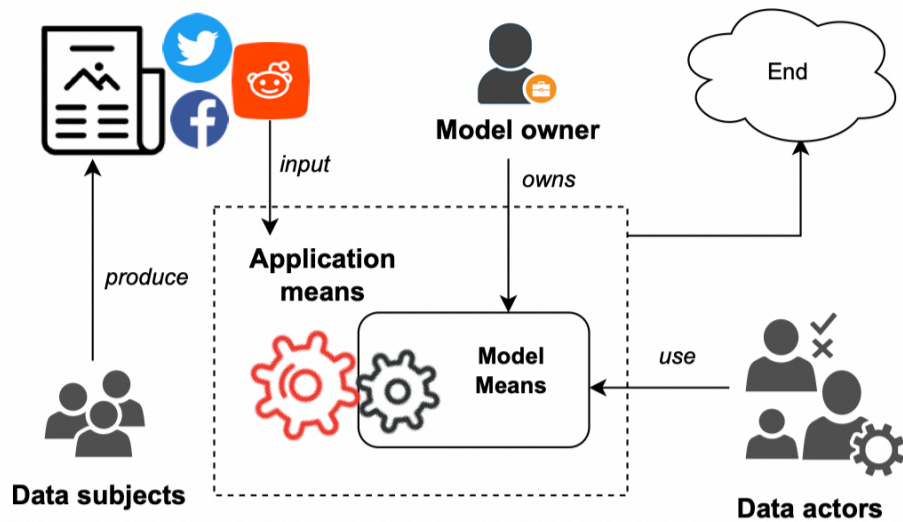# The Intended Uses of Automated Fact-checking Artefacts: *Why*, *How* and *Who*
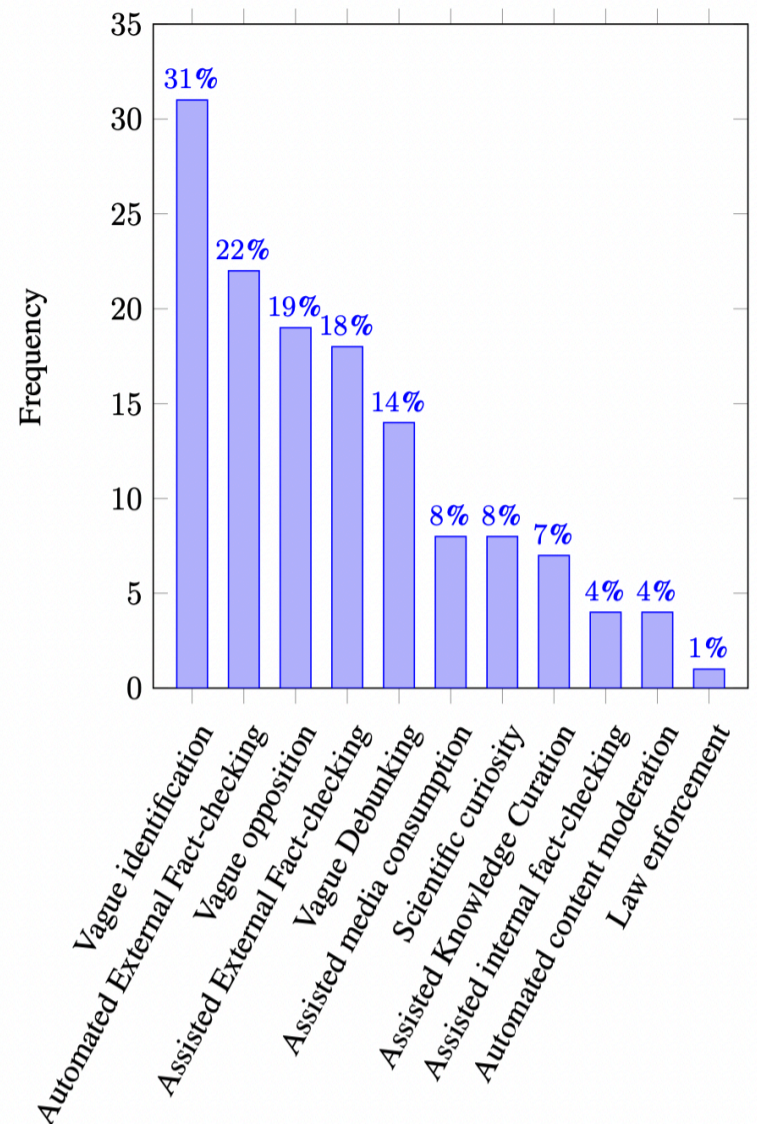
Michael Schlichtkrull, Nedjma Ousidhoum, Andreas Vlachos

- Diagram of epistemic elements present in narratives.

Content Analysis

- We extracted quotes from the introductory sections of 100 papers on automated fact-checking.
- We annotated the epistemic elements in the quotes.

> *"The dissemination of fake news may cause large-scale negative effects, and sometimes can affect or even manipulate important public events.[...] Therefore, it is in great need of an automatic detector to mitigate the serious negative effects caused by the fake news."*

—**vague identification** in Wang et al. (2018).

> *"The ever-increasing amounts of textual information available combined with the ease in sharing it through the web has increased the demand for verification, also referred to as fact-checking. [...] In this paper, we introduce a new dataset…"*

— **vague opposition** in Thorne et al. (2018).

> *"Rumours are rife on the web. False claims affect people's perceptions of events and their behaviour, sometimes in harmful ways} [...] While breaking news unfold, gathering opinions and evidence from as many sources as possible as communities react becomes crucial to determine the veracity of rumours and consequently reduce the impact of the spread of misinformation."*

— **vague debunking** in Derczynski et al. (2017).

- Examples of Vague narratives

- Frequency of epistemic narratives

Findings

- Inconsistent means and ends.

- Feasibility rarely has empirical backing.

- Vague narratives hinder understanding.

Recommendations

Clearly state **who** will use your artefact.

Clearly state **how** your artefacts should be used.

Ensure **coherent modeling** & **application means**.

Consider **stakeholders** other than journalists.

Document **the efficacy of your epistemic narrative**.