### Do users trust search engines? And if so, why?

Developing a trust measure and applying it in an experiment

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CHIIR '23: ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and

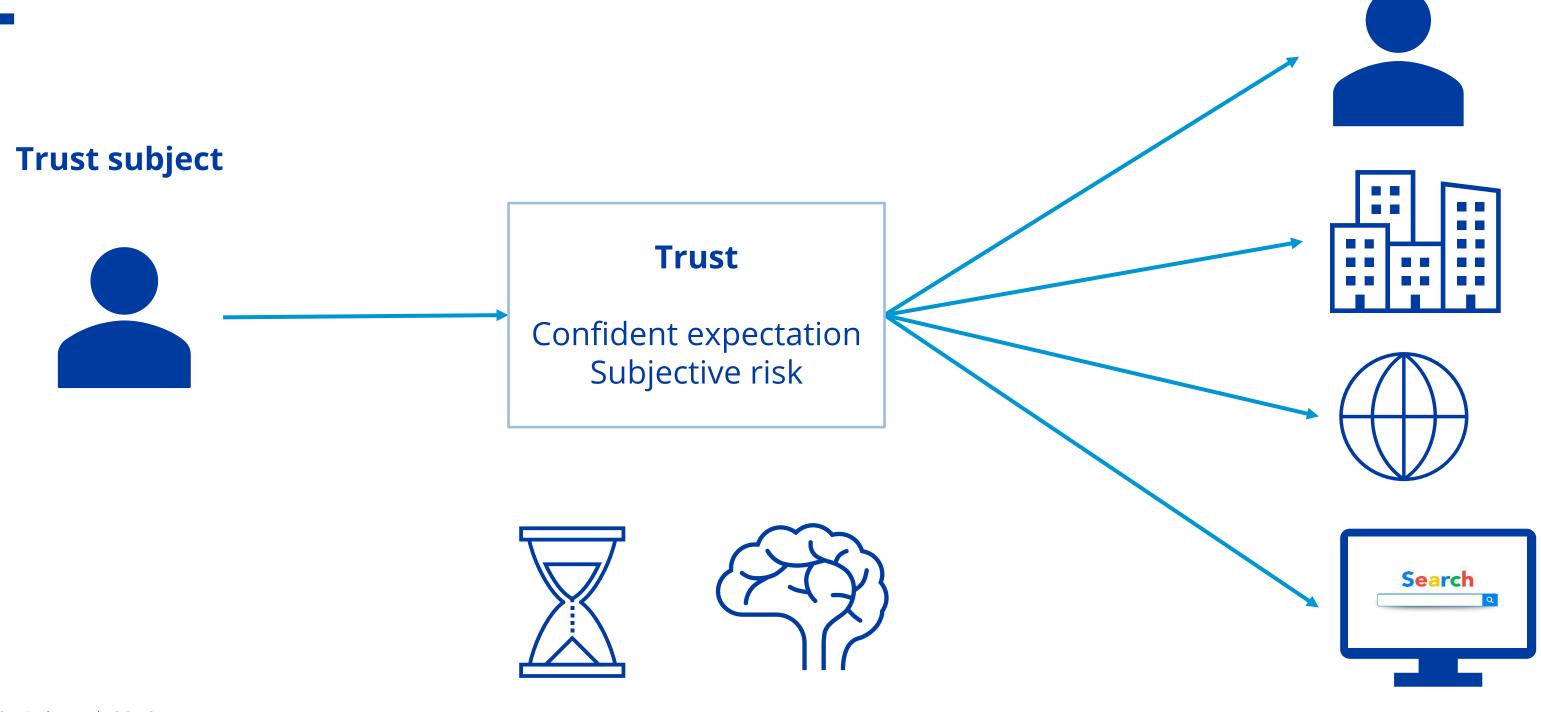
Retrieval, Austin, Texas, March 19-23, 2023

**Doctoral Consortium** 



#### Trust object

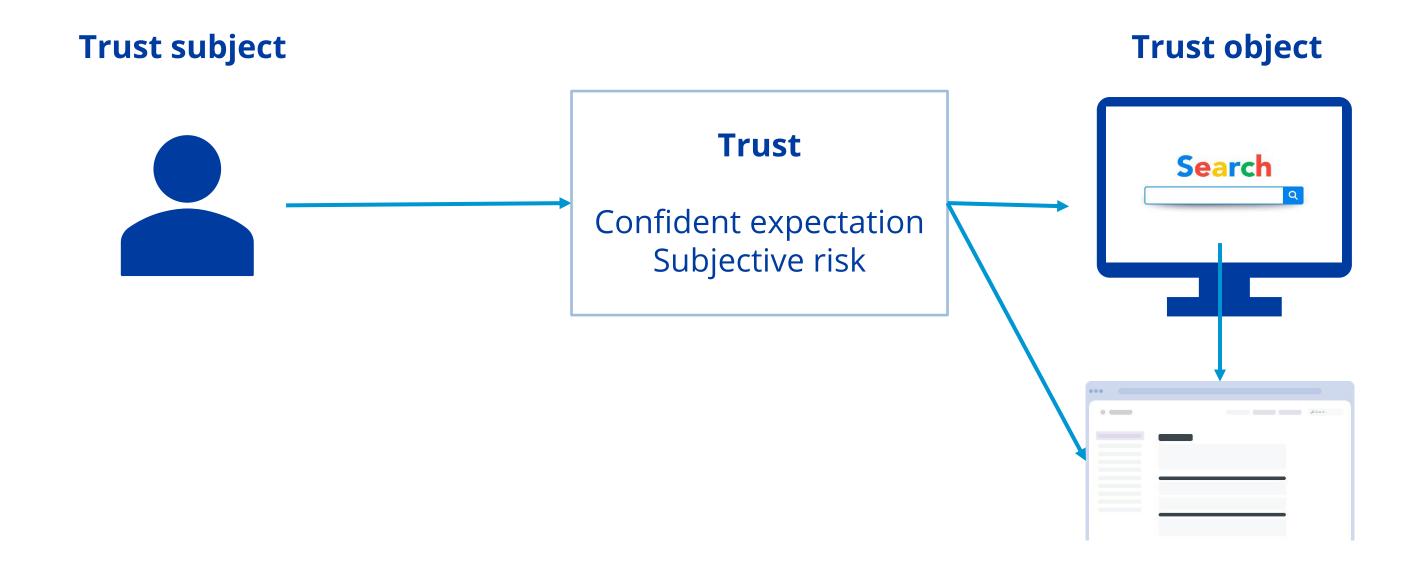
# Trust concept



PytlikZillig & Kimbrough 2016

= HAW HAMBURG

# Trust in search engines





## Trust model



## Trust in search engines

Confident expectation Subjective risk

Google displays search results that help the user doing their taxes.

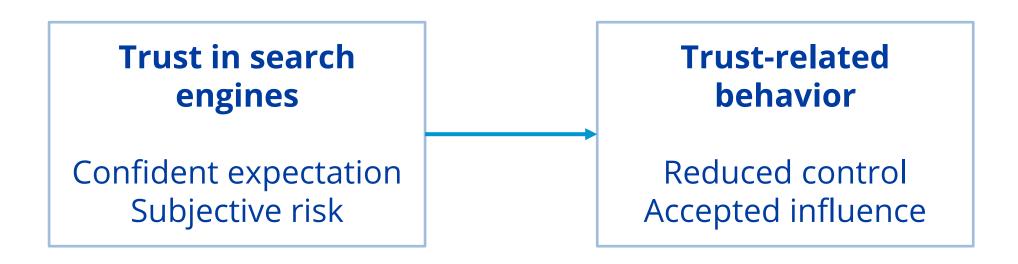
Mayer et al. 1995, McKnight & Chervany 2001

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## Trust mode





On the SERP, the user clicks on ads, featured snippets and uses the retrieved information for doing their taxes.







### Trust model



Google has the expertise and motivation, complies with the user's principles regarding retrieving financial information.

The sorting and ranking algorithm has the necessary functions, supports the user and functions without errors when retrieving financial information.

Trustworthiness of search engine operator

Abilities Benevolence Integrity

Reliance of search engine algorithm

Functionality Helpfulness Reliability Trust in search engines

Confident expectation Subjective risk Trust-related behavior

Reduced control Accepted influence

Mayer et al. 1995, McKnight & Chervany 2001, Pan et al. 2007, Thatcher et al. 2011

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## Research Questions

- To what extent does the **trustworthiness** of the search engine **operator**, as perceived by the user, affect trust in the search engine?
- To what extent does the **reliance** of the search engine **algorithm**, as perceived by the user, affect trust in the search engine?
- How does trust in the search engine affect the behavior of users?

How can trust in search engines be measured?



# Research Design









#### **Controlled laboratory study**

- Identify trust indicators in web search
- Formulate items

#### **Online questionnaire**

- Validate items
- Test summation

Trust measure

#### Online experiment

- Test effects of antecedents on trust, and trust on behavior
- Test theoretical assumptions of model



### Contributions

- Methodological contributions
  - Formative and re-usable trust measure
  - Blueprint for novel Al applications
- Conceptual contributions



### Contributions

- Methodological contributions
- Conceptual contributions
  - Holistic understanding of trust
  - Socio-technical notion of search engines
  - Identify legitimate/ misplaced trust



# Many thanks...

- ... for the SIGIR travel fund and the DAAD scholarship!
- ... for the ongoing support and advice by my supervisors!
- ... for the comments by the reviewers of my submission!



# Thanks for listening!

Feel free to connect / reach out:

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