

Anastasia Giachanou

Postdoctoral researcher in Natural Language Processing

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SUMMARY

I am a research scientist and engineer with a strong interest in natural language processing and information retrieval. Since the start of my research career I developed and evaluated different approaches with the aim to solve a wide range of data-driven problems including sentiment analysis, online reputation analysis and patent retrieval. Most recently, I am developing new methodologies on fake news detection. With a 6 years experience on applied machine learning and data analysis, I am very eager to apply my expertise on new areas and solve new exciting problems.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 - now **Postdoc Fellow Researcher**
Pattern Recognition and Human Language Technology Research Center, Universitat Politècnica de València, València, Spain
“Early Fake News Detection on Social Media” funded by the Swiss National Foundation
Responsibilities: Research and develop methods to detect fake news online, evaluate the effectiveness of the methods, develop new data resources, supervising Ph.D. students working on fake news and hate speech detection, write up and publish the findings at conferences and journals
Technologies used include: Python, Scikit-learn, Tensorflow, NLTK
- 2014 - 2018 **Research and Teaching Assistant**
Faculty of Informatics, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland
Ph.D. thesis: “Tracking Opinion Change Over Time” (advisor: Prof. Fabio Crestani)
Responsibilities: Research and develop methods on opinion/emotion analysis, tracking sentiment evolution towards specific topics, online reputation analysis, opinion retrieval, develop new data resources, data analysis, publish, teaching
Technologies used include: Python, Scikit-learn, Java, R, MongoDB
- 2011 - 2014 **Scientific & Administrative Coordinator, IC1002 COST Action**
Research Committee, Alexander Technological Institution of Thessaloniki, Greece
Responsibilities: Experimental studies on patent retrieval, patent classification, website development, administrative support at organizing meetings, publishing
Technologies used include: Java, C++, Terrier

EDUCATION

- June 2014 - Oct. 2018 **Ph.D. in Informatics**
Faculty of Informatics, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI),
Lugano, Switzerland
Thesis: “*Tracking Opinion Evolution on Social Media.*”
Advisor: Prof. Fabio Crestani
Defence date: 16 October 2018
- Sept. 2009 - Dec. 2010 **M.Sc. in Informatics**
School of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, Glasgow,
United Kingdom
Thesis: “*Comparison between user-generated and automatic graph
layouts by SketchNode extension.*”
Grade: Merit, B1
- Oct. 2004 - March 2009 **B.Sc. in Informatics** (4-year degree)
School of Informatics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
Thessaloniki, Greece

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Dec. 2018 - May 2020 Early postdoc fellowship by Swiss National Foundation on the project
“*Early Fake News Detection on Social Media*”

TEACHING

- Spring 2018 Business Intelligence, M.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Fall 2017/18 Programming Fundamentals, 1st year B.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Fall 2016/17 Human-Computer Interaction Design, M.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Spring 2016 Data Analytics, M.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Fall 2015/16 Information Retrieval, 3rd year B.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Spring 2015 Data Analytics, M.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI
Fall 2014/15 Fundamentals of Informatics, M.Sc., Faculty of Informatics, USI

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Anastasia Giachanou, Julio Gonzalo, and Fabio Crestani. Propagating sentiment signals for estimating reputation polarity. *Information Processing and Management*, 56(6), 2019
- Anastasia Giachanou, Paolo Rosso, and Fabio Crestani. Emotional signals for credibility detection. In *SIGIR '19*, pages 877–880, 2019
- Anastasia Giachanou, Ida Mele, Paolo Rosso, and Fabio Crestani. Emotional influence prediction of news posts. In *ICWSM '18*, 2018
- Anastasia Giachanou and Fabio Crestani. Like it or not: A survey of twitter sentiment analysis methods. *ACM Computing Surveys*, 49(2):28, 2016
- Anastasia Giachanou and Fabio Crestani. Explaining sentiment spikes in twitter. In *CIKM '16*, pages 2263–2268, 2016
- Anastasia Giachanou, Morgan Harvey, and Fabio Crestani. Topic-specific stylistic variations for opinion retrieval on twitter. In *ECIR '16*, pages 466–478, 2016

RESEARCH VISITS & SEMINARS

- Seminar on “Fake News Detection with Content and Social Information” at Open University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus (Nov. 2019)

- Keynote talk on “Misinformation Detection in Online Social Networks using Content Information” at SNAMS 2019, Granada, Spain (Oct. 2019)
- Seminar on “Sentiment and Emotional Signals for Reputation Analysis and Fake News Detection”, Symanto, Spain (July 2019)
- Seminar on “Tracking Public Opinion on Social Media”, Valencia, Spain (March 2018)
- Participation in the Dagstuhl Seminar “User-Generated Content in Social Media”, Germany (June 2017)
- Research visit to Prof. Paolo Rosso, Universitat Politècnica de València, Valencia, Spain (May 2017)
- Research visit to Prof. Julio Gonzalo, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, Spain (June 2016)
- Seminar on “Topic-Specific Stylistic Variations for Opinion Retrieval on Twitter Explaining Sentiment Spikes” at Aalborg Universitet, Aalborg, Denmark (Oct. 2016)
- Research visit to Prof. Kasturi Dewi Varathan, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Oct. 2015)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Journal Editorial Board:** Information Processing and Management (IP&M)
- **PC member:** ECIR 2020, SIGIR 2019, NewsIR 2019, SIGIR 2018, NewsIR 2018, ECIR 2017, ECIR 2016, CIKM 2016
- **Journal Reviewer:** Information Processing and Management (IP&M), Journal of Information Systems (JIS), International Journal of Data Science and Analytics (JDSA) Social Network Analysis and Mining (SNAM)
- **Reviewer:** JCDL 2018, TPDL 2017, ICTIR 2017, CIKM 2017, SIGIR 2017, ICADL 2016, ECIR 2015, KDD 2015
- **Student Volunteer:** SIGIR 2016
- **Local Organizer:** IIR 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Early postdoc fellowship by Swiss National Foundation on the project “*Early Fake News Detection on Social Media*” (December 2018 - May 2020)
- IP&M journal top reviewer award (Dec. 2017)
- SIGIR ACM Student grant to attend the 50th Celebration of the Turing Award (June 2017)
- Short-Term Scientific Mission travel grant by COST Action IC1302 for a research visit at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, NLP&IR Group, Madrid, Spain (June 2016)
- BCS IRSG travel grants to attend ECIR conference (March 2016 & Apr. 2017)
- SIGIR ACM student travel grant to attend SIGIR conference (July 2016)
- ELIAS travel grant to attend the Russian Summer School on Information Retrieval (Aug. 2015)
- Registration Fee Recipient for registration fees at CLEF Conference (Sept. 2013)
- SAAS Scholarship for university fees of my master studies at University of Glasgow (Sept. 2009)
- Prize awarded by Eurobank EFG for my Hellenic National Exam academic records (March 2004)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming & Scripting Languages:** Python, R, Java, C, C++, C#, PHP
- **Markup Languages:** HTML, LaTeX, XML
- **Databases:** MySQL, MongoDB
- **Tools & Libraries:** Tensorflow, Keras, Theano, scikit-learn, NLTK, WEKA, Terrier, Lucene, Mallet

OTHER SKILLS

- **Creative problem solving:** Very passionate in solving problems, a skill obtained and improved through my research and work experience over the last eight years.
- **Teamwork:** Excellent skills in teamwork obtained through collaborations.
- **Presentation skills:** Excellent presentation skills obtained through presentations at conferences, seminars and a keynote talk at SNAMS 2018.
- **Writing skills:** Excellent writing skills developed through the published articles and projects proposals.
- **Languages:** Greek (Native), English (Excellent), Spanish (Intermediate), German (Conversational)
- **Hobbies:** Tennis, dancing, photography