

ANNA DALLA VECCHIA

PhD candidate in Computer Science specializing in context-aware recommender systems and applied machine learning. Experienced in working with real-world, heterogeneous data (tourism, wearable devices), focusing on personalization, fairness, and model evaluation.

 annadallave99@gmail.com
 GitHub: 4nnina
 LinkedIn
 Website

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science
University of Verona

October 2023 - Sept 2026
📍 Verona, Italy

Thesis: "Context-Aware Recommender Systems: Challenges in Personalization and Fairness"
Advisors: Prof. Elisa Quintarelli, Ph.D., and Sara Migliorini, Ph.D.
Expected defence: March 2027

Master's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering (110/110 cum laude)
University of Verona

October 2021 - July 2023
📍 Verona, Italy

Thesis: "The Synergies of Context and Data Aging in Recommendations: Issues and Solutions"
Advisors: Prof. Elisa Quintarelli, Ph.D.

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (110/110 cum laude)
University of Verona

October 2018 - July 2021
📍 Verona, Italy

Thesis: "Taint Analysis: tracking sensitive information through static analysis of Cobol code"

EXPERIENCE

Visiting Researcher
Tampere University

Feb 2025 - Jun 2025
📍 Tampere, Finland

Research visit focused on fairness and bias in context-aware recommender systems.
Explored the use of large language models to support contextual modeling and analysis in recommendation tasks.

Occasional self-employment
University of Verona

May 2023 - Jun 2023
📍 Verona, Italy

Designed and implemented a data processing pipeline for automatically extracting publication metadata from Scopus and storing them in a relational database. Developed a semi-automated, rule-based system to assign publications to authors, supporting evaluation and optimization processes.

Internship
University of Verona

Sep 2022 - Nov 2022
📍 Verona, Italy

Developed and evaluated data mining and machine learning approaches for personalized recommendations using heterogeneous data from sensors. Worked with two real-world datasets (wearable devices and TV programs) to validate recommendation and prediction tasks.

Research Fellowship
University of Verona

Oct 2021 - Jul 2022
📍 Verona, Italy

Designed and implemented a system combining a Django web application with machine learning and deep learning models to forecast tourist point of interest occupancy using real-world data of the municipality of Verona. The work resulted in a peer-reviewed publication at the 26th European Conference on Advances in Databases and Information Systems (ADBIS 2022), "Forecasting POI Occupation with Contextual Machine Learning".

Teaching Assistant
University of Verona

Oct 2022 - Jun 2026
📍 Verona, Italy

Teaching Assistant for courses in Programming I and Databases of the Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, and Programming and Databases of the Master's degree in Data Science.
Supervised bachelor's and master's students on machine learning projects, taking responsibility for technical direction and quality of delivered results.

Internship
University of Verona

Nov 2020 - Jan 2021
📍 Verona, Italy

Improved a static COBOL analyzer by expanding the interval analysis test suite and refactored code to improve maintainability.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, C

ML & Data Science: TensorFlow, scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy, Large Language Models (experimental)

Data: feature engineering, model evaluation, time-series analysis

Databases: PostgreSQL, MySQL, Cassandra

Tools: Git, GitHub

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Workshop Chair Fairness Exploration in Heterogeneous Data and Algorithms (FEHDA 2025), co-located with the 29th European Conference on Advances in Databases and Information Systems (ADBIS 2025).

Invited speaker at outreach workshops promoting women in computer science (NERD? Non è roba per donne?, IBM and Job&Oriente, University of Verona).

Participation as author and presenter in leading international conferences, including VLDB, EDBT, ADBIS, EDOC, AICT, and related workshops.

PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications below. Full list available on Google Scholar (scholar.google.com/citations/7v3fqEEAAAAJ).

- Anna Dalla Vecchia, Niccolò Marastoni, Barbara Oliboni and Elisa Quintarelli. "ACTER: Activity Customization through Timely and Explainable Recommendations". In: Information Systems 138 (2026), p. 102666. issn: 0306-4379.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.is.2025.102666>.
- Anna Dalla Vecchia, Sara Migliorini, Elisa Quintarelli, Mauro Gambini and Alberto Belussi. "Promoting sustainable tourism by recommending sequences of attractions with deep reinforcement learning". In: Information Technology & Tourism 26.3 (2024), pp. 449–484. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40558-024-00288-x>.  **2024 Best Paper Award**
- Anna Dalla Vecchia. "Context-Aware Recommender Systems: Challenges in Personalization and Fairness." Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment (2025). ISSN 2150: 8097. https://www.vldb.org/2025/Workshops/VLDB-Workshops-2025/PhD/PhD25_2.pdf

Reference	Articles	Citations	h-index
Google Scholar	16	60	5
Scopus	16	40	4

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Best Paper Award for "Promoting sustainable tourism by recommending sequences of attractions with deep reinforcement learning" at *Information Technology & Tourism*.

Mobility Grant for EU destinations for the research visit at Tampere University, Tampere, Finland.

Duration: 4 months

Funds: ≈ 2,000 EUR

Travel Grants Winner of a scholarship for participation in the 26th European Conference on Advances in Databases and Information Systems (ADBIS 2022) with the Diversity and Inclusion program.

LANGUAGES

Italian: mother tongue

English: fluent

Spanish: elementary

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