# Emanuele La Malfa

personal page

#### Work Experience

#### **Post Doctoral Researcher**

Jul. 2023 - Current

Benchmarking Large Language Models.

The Alan Turing Institute & University of Oxford, UK

• Principal Investigators: Prof. Michael Wooldridge, Nigel Shadbolt, and Anthony Cohn.

**Research Assistant** Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2021

Enabling rapid adoption of artificial intelligence through an anonymized data protocol and explainable models.

University of Oxford, UK

- Principal Investigator: Prof. Marta Kwiatkowska.
- Collaboration with GenieAl and funded through the InnovateUK scheme.
- The collaboration led to a paper published at EMNLP 2020.

Consultant Mar. 2018 – Aug. 2019

IBM, Global Business Unit

IBM, Milan, Italy

- Design, development, and deploy of a search engine for a public financial institution.
- Design, development, and deploy of a cloud document management system for a public financial institution.

#### Education

#### **University of Oxford**

PhD in Computer Science, supervised by Prof. Marta Kwiatkowska.

Oct. 2019 – Nov. 2023 Oxford, UK

**Polytechnic University of Milan** 

Feb. 2015 – Sept. 2017

Master's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

Milan, Italy

**Polytechnic University of Milan** 

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering.

Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2014 Milan, Italy

Selected Publications

#### **Language Models are Implicitly Continuous**

ICLR 2025 (main track)

Samuele Marro, Davide Evangelista, X. Angelo Huang, Emanuele La Malfa, Michele Lombardi, Michael Wooldridge

#### A Notion of Complexity for Theory of Mind via Discrete World Models

EMNLP 2024 (Findings)

X. Angelo Huang, Emanuele La Malfa, Samuele Marro, Andrea Asperti, Anthony Cohn and Michael Wooldridge

## **Graph-enhanced Large Language Models in Asynchronous Plan Reasoning**

ICML 2024 (main track)

Fangru Lin, Emanuele La Malfa, Valentin Hofmann, Elle Michelle Yang, Anthony Cohn and Janet Pierrehumbert

## Deep Neural Networks via Complex Network Theory: a Perspective

IJCAI 2024 (main track)

Emanuele La Malfa, Gabriele La Malfa, Giuseppe Nicosia, Vito Latora

## Language-Models-as-a-Service: Overview of a New Paradigm and it its Challenges

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR) - oral presentation at AAAI 2025 - media coverage here and here

Emanuele La Malfa, Aleks Petrov, Frieder Simon, Christoph Weinhuber, Raza Nazar, Anthony Cohn, Nigel Shadbolt and Michael Wooldridge

#### **Language Models Tokenizers Introduce Unfairness Between Languages**

NeurIPS 2023 (main track) - website

Aleksandar Petrov, Emanuele La Malfa, Philip Torr, Adel Bibi

#### The King is Naked: on the Notion of Robustness for Natural Language Processing

AAAI 2022 (main track) - oral presentation -

Emanuele La Malfa, Marta Kwiatkowska

## **On Guaranteed Optimal Robust Explanations for NLP Models**

IJCAI 2021 (main track)

Emanuele La Malfa, Rhiannon Michelmore, Agnieszka Zbrzeny, Nicola Paoletti, Marta Kwiatkowska

## Assessing Robustness of Text Classification through Maximal Safe Radius Computation

EMNLP 2020 (Findings)

Emanuele La Malfa, Min Wu, Luca Laurenti, Benjie Wang, Anthony Hartshorn, Marta Kwiatkowska

#### Understanding the Logical Capabilities of Large Language Models via Out-of-Context Representation Learning

Working paper

Jonathan Shaki, **Emanuele La Malfa**, Michael Wooldridge and Sarit Kraus

## When Claims Evolve: Evaluating and Enhancing the Robustness of Embedding Models Against Misinformation Edits

Under-review

Jabez Magomere, Emanuele La Malfa, Manuel Tonneau, Ashkan Kazemi, Scott Hale

## Code Simulation as a Proxy for High-order Tasks in Large Language Models

Under-review

Emanuele La Malfa, Christoph Weinhuber, Orazio Torre, Fangru Lin, Angelo X. Huang, Samuele Marro, Anthony Cohn, Nigel Shadbolt and Michael Wooldridge

#### **Jailbreaking Large Language Models in Infinitely Many Ways**

Technical report

Oliver Goldstein, Emanuele La Malfa, Felix Drinkall, Samuele Marro, Michael Wooldridge

#### One Language, Many Gaps: Evaluating Dialect Fairness and Robustness of Large Language Models in Reasoning Tasks

Under review

Fangru Li, Shaoguang Mao, Emanuele La Malfa, Valentin Hofmann, Adrian de Wynter, Jing Yao, Si-Qing Chen, Michael Wooldridge, Furu Wei

#### A Scalable Communication Protocol for Networks of Large Language Models

Under review

Samuele Marro, Emanuele La Malfa, Jesse Wright, Guohao Li, Nigel Shadbolt, Michael Wooldridge, Philip Torr

#### **Grants & Fellowships**

#### **Schmidt AI2050 Senior Fellowship**

1M \$

Foundations of LLM-based Multi-Agent Systems. PI: Prof. Michael Wooldridge.

#### **Teaching Experience**

Deep Learning in Healthcare	2024 (HT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Machine Learning	2023 (MT)
Classes	University of Oxford, UK
Probabilistic Model Checking	2023 (MT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Ethical Computing in Practice	2023 (HT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Deep Learning in Healthcare	2023 (HT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Probabilistic Model Checking	2022 (MT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Machine Learning	2021 (MT)
Classes	University of Oxford, UK
Probabilistic Model Checking	2021 (MT)
Practical sessions	University of Oxford, UK
Fundamentals of Computer Science	2016 (OctDec.)
Practical sessions	Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

## Conferences and Workshops Organization

Benchmarking	<b>Large</b>	Language	Mod	lels	
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28/11/2023

02/02/24

Bocconi, Italy

19/04/2023

ICREA, Barcelona

Workshop Organizer The Alan Turing Institute, London, UK

## LOD2020, LOD2021, LOD2022, LOD2023, LOD2025

General Chair (2025), Conference Chair (others)

Lake District/Siena

## Invited Lectures, Talks, and Presentations

## **Code Simulation Challenges for Large Language Models**

Group Talk

# On Robustness for Natural Language Processing

Group Talk

## On the Notion of Robustness for Natural Language Processing Departmental Talk

17/01/2023 King's College University of London, UK

**Robustness for Natural Language Processing** 

22/04/2022

Lecture - Deep Fridays

University of Bologna, Italy 04/03/2022

Explainable AI

Royal Holloway University of London, UK

Lecture - Advanced Artificial Intelligence Course

# Academic Reviewing and Volunteering

The Alan Turing Institute - Reviewer

Reviewers for the Turing Fellow Program - Panel "Fundamental Research in Data Science and AI"

**Ukrainian Global University - Interviewer** 

I interviewed Ukrainian students who want to study in a partner university abroad.

The Kharkiv and Przemyśl Project

I spent a week in Przemyśl (Poland) as a volunteer to help refugees who arrived (returned) from (to) Ukraine.

**Ukrainian Global University - Interviewer** 

I interviewed a dozen of prospective undergraduate Ukrainian students who want to study in a partner university abroad.

**Eutanasia Legale - Volunteer** 

July 2021

August 2022

June-May 2022

April-June 2023

October - December 2023

I have collected signatures for a referendum to decriminalize euthanasia. The overall campaign gathered 1.2 million valid signatures.

#### **Tutoring and Mentoring**

**Williams-Exeter Exchange Programme** 

2023-2025

Tutoring Saad Waheed, Alisa Kanganis, and Simon Socolow (Williams-Exeter Programme exchange students in machine learning).

**University of Oxford** 

2022

Tutoring Edward Kusel and Aleksandar Radoslavov for their part-B projects (undergraduate in Computer Science).

**Lead the Future - Mentor** 

2022-current

Lead the Future helps Italian STEM talents find their path to brilliant careers. I am currently mentoring 8 students.

## Mentoring and Students Supervision

#### Samuele Marro

I co-supervised his Master's thesis (accepted at ICLR'25). Samuele is a PhD student at the Dept. of Engineering, University of Oxford (2024-).

#### **Angelo Huang**

I co-supervised his Bachelor's thesis (accepted at EMNLP'24). Angelo is a Master's student in Computer Science at ETH (2025-).

#### Giovanni Monea

PhD student in Computer Science at Cornell University (2025-).

Lead the Future

Simone Alghisi

PhD student in Information Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Trento.

Lead the Future

**Andrea Cerutti** 

**Orazio Torre** 

Master's student in Computer Science and Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Milan.

Lead the Future

Riccardo Inghilleri

Master's student in Computer Science at the Polytechnic University of Milan.

Lead the Future

Bachelor's student in Computer Science at the University of Salerno. **Annalaura Pegoraro** 

Lead the Future

Bachelor's student in math at the University of Padova and an exchange student at Berkeley (Summer 2024).

**Mattea Busato** 

Lead the Future Lead the Future

Bachelor's student at Bocconi University and an exchange student at the University of Toronto. **Christoph Weinhuber** 

Incoming PhD student at the University of Oxford, Dept. of Computer Science (2024-).

# **Saad Waheed**

I supervised Saad for two terms for the Williams-Exeter exchange program (2024) - Saad is a bachelor's student at Williams College (US).

## Alisa Kanganis

I supervised Alisa for two terms for the Williams-Exeter exchange program (2024) - Alisa is a bachelor's student at Williams College (US).

#### **Simon Socolow**

I supervised Simon for a term for the Williams-Exeter exchange program (2024) - Simon is a bachelor's student at Williams College (US).

## **Academic Service**

Conference Reviewer: ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR, ACL, EMNLP (reviewer). AAAI, IJCAI, PNAS (sub-reviewer).