Joel Niklaus

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EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Research Visit
Oct. 2022 - Mar. 2023 | Switzerland
Advised by Daniel E. Ho and Percy Liang
Collaboration with CRFM

UNIVERSITY OF BERN
PhD in Computer Science
Jul. 2020 - Jun. 2023 | Switzerland
NRP 77 Project: Open Justice vs. Privacy

UNIVERSITIES OF BERN, NEUCHÂTEL, AND FRIBOURG
MSc in Computer Science
Sep. 2018 - Dec. 2019 | Switzerland
Grade average: 5.50/6 | Thesis: 6/6
Exchange at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (Spring 2019)

UNIVERSITY OF BERN
BSc in Computer Science
Sep. 2013 - Aug. 2018 | Switzerland
Grade average: 5.41/6 | Thesis: 6/6
Exchange at University of Exeter, England (Spring 2017)

LINKS

Google Scholar
LinkedIn:// **joelniklaus**
Twitter:// **@joelniklaus**
Github:// **joelniklaus**
HuggingFace:// **joelito**

SKILLS & INTERESTS

LANGUAGES
German • English • Spanish • French

PROGRAMMING
used regularly:
Python • Java • PHP • TypeScript
can get things done:
Kotlin • Sass • SQL • LaTeX

FRAMEWORKS
huggingface • PyTorch • SpaCy • Keras

TOOLS
Docker • Git • PyCharm • AWS • GCP

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Legal NLP • Legal Judgment Prediction • Automatic Summarization • Multilingual Language Model Pretraining

EXPERIENCE

THOMSON REUTERS LABS | Data Science Intern
Mar. 2022 - Aug. 2022 | Zug, Switzerland
Cheaply Pretraining Longformers for the Legal Domain. Patent Application pending.

NIKLAUS.AI | AI Consultant
Apr. 2022 - present | Bern, Switzerland
I consult companies on topics in AI, and especially in NLP. Selected customers:
Darrow AI Ltd. (Legal Judgment Prediction in the US)

BERN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES | Lecturer
Aug. 2021 - present | Bern, Switzerland
I planned and conducted the technical part of the module Software Engineering.

ARTORG CENTER | Data Scientist
Mar. 2020 - Oct. 2020 | Bern, Switzerland
I analyzed Eye-Tracking data for a tele-health application.

UNIVERSITY OF BERN | TA for Natural Language Processing Seminar (BSc/MSc), "Programming Languages" (MSc), "Software Engineering" (BSc) and "Computer Networks" (BSc)
Sep. 2015 - Aug. 2022 | Bern, Switzerland
I organized and executed practice hours; I composed and corrected lab assignments and exams; I organized talks with guest lecturers;

AWARDS

2021	Research Grant	60'000 CHF for Swiss Federal Supreme Court
2019	Nominee	Best MSc Thesis, University of Fribourg, Department of Computer Science
2017	Winner	Excellent Work in Computer Science (BSc Thesis), Joint Alumni Assoc., Universities Bern, Neuchâtel & Fribourg

SELECTED FIRST-AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

J. Niklaus, D. Giofré
Budget-Longformer: Can we Cheaply Pretrain a SoTA Legal Language Model From Scratch?
Efficient Natural Language and Speech Processing (ENLSP) @ Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), New Orleans, US

J. Niklaus, M. Stürmer, I. Chalkidis
An Empirical Study on CrossLingual and CrossDomain Transfer for Legal Judgment Prediction
Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (AACL), Taipeh, Taiwan

J. Niklaus, I. Chalkidis, M. Stürmer
Swiss-Judgment-Prediction: A Multilingual Legal Judgment Prediction Benchmark
In Natural Legal Language Processing Workshop (NLLP) @ Empirical Methods for Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Punta Cana, Dominican Republic