Lorcan McLaren

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Machine learning (Scikit-learn, PyTorch, HuggingFace)
- Natural language processing (NLTK, SpaCy etc.)
- Data analysis (Pandas, Numpy, Tidyverse, Google Sheets, Excel)
- Web scraping (Beautiful Soup, Selenium)
- Object-oriented programming
- Web development fundamentals (HTML, CSS, JS)
- Scripting in UNIX environments
- Version control (Git)

LEADERSHIP & TEACHING

- Teaching assistant
  - Research Methods in Political Science, Spring 2024
  - Intro to EU Politics, Autumn 2023
- Former convenor for the School of Computer Science & Statistics at TCD
- Former deputy chair of the TCD Students' Union lobby group

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

In order of proficiency:
- Python
- R
- C++
- Java
- Perl

GET IN TOUCH

Email
lorcan.mclaren@ucdconnect.ie
Website
lorcanmclaren.com

EDUCATION

PhD Quantitative & Computational Social Science

University College Dublin, 2023-Present

- Thesis: Taking the green pill – Moral language, emotion, and persuasion in the climate crisis
- Supervisor: Dr. James P. Cross

MSc Politics & Data Science

University College Dublin, 2021-2022

- Thesis: Polarising rhetoric and Twitter rage
- Supervisor: Dr. James P. Cross

BA Computer Science, Linguistics & French

Trinity College Dublin, 2016-20

- Thesis: Dominance is relative - Automatic gaze annotation and conversational dominance in the MULTISIMO corpus
- Supervisor: Dr. Carl Vogel
- 10-month Erasmus exchange at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

WORK

Data analyst @ Dataminr

July 2022-July 2023

- Conducted data exploration and built data ingests utilising APIs and web scraping
- Developed automations for data extraction, transformation, and quality assurance in consultation with subject matter experts
- Built, maintained, and updated visualisation dashboards and tools to monitor data health
- Developed protocols to systematise processes for future work

Editor @ Dataminr

July 2021-June 2022

- Monitored streams of potentially newsworthy content from around the globe and alerted clients on breaking news
- Developed new techniques for discovering breaking news events using social media and other publicly available data
- Tracked misinformation related to COVID-19 and election integrity across multiple jurisdictions in a variety of languages

PUBLICATIONS

Conference papers

L. McLaren, M. Koutsombogera and C. Vogel, "A Heuristic Method for Automatic Gaze Detection in Constrained Multi-Modal Dialogue Corpora," 2020 11th IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications, 2020, pp. 55-60. (**Best paper award** | Link)

L. McLaren, M. Koutsombogera and C. Vogel, "Gaze, Dominance and Dialogue Role in the MULTISIMO Corpus," 2020 11th IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications, 2020, pp. 83-88. (Link)