

# Matteo Papini

*Postdoctoral researcher at UPF Barcelona*

## Education

- 2017–2021 **Ph.D., Information Technology**, *cum laude*, Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy.  
Supervisor: Prof. Marcello Restelli  
Dissertation: *Safe Policy Optimization*
- 2015–2017 **M.Sc., Computer Science and Engineering**, *Politecnico di Milano*, 110/110 cum laude.  
Master Thesis: *Adaptive Batch Size for Safe Policy Gradient Methods*
- 2012–2015 **B.Sc., Computer Engineering**, *Politecnico di Milano*, 110/110 cum laude.

## Research Interests

My main research interest is **Reinforcement Learning**. I study Reinforcement Learning and Contextual Bandit algorithms from a theoretical perspective to make them more applicable to real-world problems.

## Research Experience

- 2021–present **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra*, Barcelona.
- Autumn 2020 **Research Intern**, *Facebook AI Research*.
- 2017–2021 **Research Assistant**, *Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Politecnico di Milano*, Milan, Italy.  
*Research Topic*: Reinforcement Learning for Industry 4.0.  
*Including industrial projects with* PIRELLI TYRE S.P.A. *and* Scuderia Ferrari.

## Publications (Conference and Journal Papers)

- [1] M. Papini, A. Tirinzoni, M. Restelli, A. Lazaric, and M. Pirotta. Leveraging good representations in linear contextual bandits. In *ICML*, volume 139 of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 8371–8380. PMLR, 2021.
- [2] M. Papini, A. Tirinzoni, A. Pacchiano, M. Restelli, A. Lazaric, and M. Pirotta. Reinforcement learning in linear mdps: Constant regret and representation selection. In *NeurIPS*, 2021.
- [3] A. M. Metelli, M. Papini, P. D'Oro, and M. Restelli. Policy optimization as online learning with mediator feedback. In *AAAI*, pages 8958–8966. AAAI Press, 2021.
- [4] M. Papini, A. Battistello, and M. Restelli. Balancing learning speed and stability in policy gradient via adaptive exploration. In *AISTATS*, volume 108 of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 1188–1199. PMLR, 2020.

- [5] A. M. Metelli, M. Papini, N. Montali, and M. Restelli. Importance sampling techniques for policy optimization. *J. Mach. Learn. Res.*, 21:141:1–141:75, 2020.
- [6] P. D’Oro, A. M. Metelli, A. Tirinzoni, M. Papini, and M. Restelli. Gradient-aware model-based policy search. In *AAAI*, pages 3801–3808. AAAI Press, 2020.
- [7] L. Bisi, L. Sabbioni, E. Vittori, M. Papini, and M. Restelli. Risk-averse trust region optimization for reward-volatility reduction. In *IJCAI*, pages 4583–4589. ijcai.org, 2020.
- [8] M. Papini, A. M. Metelli, L. Lupo, and M. Restelli. Optimistic policy optimization via multiple importance sampling. In *ICML*, volume 97 of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 4989–4999. PMLR, 2019.
- [9] M. Beraha, A. M. Metelli, M. Papini, A. Tirinzoni, and M. Restelli. Feature selection via mutual information: New theoretical insights. In *IJCNN*, pages 1–9. IEEE, 2019.
- [10] M. Papini, D. Binaghi, G. Canonaco, M. Pirotta, and M. Restelli. Stochastic variance-reduced policy gradient. In *ICML*, volume 80 of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 4023–4032. PMLR, 2018.
- [11] A. M. Metelli, M. Papini, F. Faccio, and M. Restelli. Policy optimization via importance sampling. In *NeurIPS*, pages 5447–5459, 2018.
- [12] M. Papini, M. Pirotta, and M. Restelli. Adaptive batch size for safe policy gradients. In *NeurIPS*, pages 3591–3600, 2017.

## Preprints

- [P1] M. Papini, M. Pirotta, M. Restelli. Smoothing Policies and Safe Policy Gradients. 2019.

## Workshop Papers

- [W1] A. Gianola, M. Montali, and M. Papini. Automated Reasoning for Reinforcement Learning Agents in Structured Environments. OVERLAY workshop on fOrmal VERification, Logic, Automata and sYnthesis, Padova, Italy, 2021.
- [W2] M. Papini, A. Tirinzoni, A. Pacchiano, M. Restelli, A. Lazaric, and M. Pirotta. Reinforcement Learning in Linear MDPs: Constant Regret and Representation Selection. ICML Workshop on Reinforcement Learning Theory, virtual, 2021.
- [W3] M. Papini, A. Battistello, and M. Restelli. Safe Exploration in Gaussian Policy Gradient. NeurIPS-2019 Workshop on Safety and Robustness in Decision Making, Vancouver, Canada, 2019.
- [W4] M. Papini, A. Battistello, and M. Restelli. Safely Exploring Policy Gradient. 14th European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning, Lille, France, 2018.

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## Summer Schools and Exchange Programs

- Jul–Aug 2018 **Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning Summer School**, Toronto, Canada.  
Oct 2017 **ACAI Summer School on Reinforcement Learning**, Nieuwpoort, Belgium.  
Autumn 2016 **Erasmus Programme**, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.

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## Invited Talks

- July 1, 2021 **Leveraging Good Representations in Linear Contextual Bandits and MDPs**, *Mathematical Statistics and Learning*, Barcelona.  
November 2020 **Safe Policy Optimization**, for the research seminar organized by Prof. Gerhard Neumann (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), delivered online.  
September 2019 **Optimistic Policy Optimization via Multiple Importance Sampling**, *Workshop on Markets, Algorithms, Prediction and LEarning (MAPLE 2019)*, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy.

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## Teaching Experience

- 2020, 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, *Politecnico di Milano*.  
Artificial Intelligence (online class), Prof. Andrea Bonarini  
2018, 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, *Politecnico di Milano*.  
Informatica B (introductory computer science class), Prof. Luca Cassano  
Jul 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, *Reinforcement Learning Summer School, Lille, France*, organized by the SCool (formerly SequeL) team.  
2018 **Teaching Assistant**, *Politecnico di Milano*.  
Web and Internet Economics, Prof. Nicola Gatti  
2017 **Lab Assistant**, *Politecnico di Milano*.  
Informatica B (introductory computer science class), Prof. Luca Cassano  
2016 **Lab Tutor**, *Politecnico di Milano*.  
Prova Finale–Ingegneria del Software (software engineering: final project), Prof. Carlo Ghezzi

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## Editorial Activities

- 2021 Reviewer for NeurIPS, **expert reviewer** for ICML, reviewer for AISTATS, emergency reviewer for AAAI.  
2020 **Top 33% reviewer** for ICML, reviewer for NeurIPS, AISTATS, AAAI, UAI, ECAI.  
2019 Reviewer for ICML, NeurIPS, UAI.

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## Mentoring

- 2017–2020 **Master Students**, *I have co-supervised 9 master theses at Politecnico di Milano.*

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## Languages

**Italian**, mother tongue.  
**English**, fluent (FCE, Grade A — C1 CEFR level).