

# CHRIS SAMARINAS

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## EDUCATION

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**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece**

October 2013 - Jun 2017

*Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science*

- GPA: 9.67/10.00 (ranked 1/130, highest GPA since **1992** out of 3,000+ CS graduates)
- Ranked 1/130 in national university entrance exam in my department and top 0.2% nationwide.
- Thesis: *Mining answers from the web using information retrieval techniques and machine learning*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**National University of Singapore, Singapore**

Feb 2020 – Present

*Research Assistant*

- Research on *latent retrieval for large-scale question answering and fact-checking*.
- Developed Quin, a framework for *large-scale semantic search* that returns text snippets related to questions or statements. Deployed in a real-world semantic search engine for COVID-19.
- Research on *robust and efficient on-device detection of toxic textual content* on the web browser.
- Developed ToxicFilter, a web browser extension for client-side detection of toxic content on webpages without depending on a hosted service.

**Plural AI, London, United Kingdom**

Oct 2018 – Jan 2020

*Research Engineer*

- Plural AI is a fintech startup that builds a *knowledge engine* for the finance industry. The company focuses on extracting content from corporate websites and financial statements to enrich a financial *knowledge graph*, and support question answering on complex financial queries.
- Developed a novel framework for *concept extraction* and *saliency scoring* from corporate websites. Owned the whole machine learning pipeline, from the *annotation tool development* and website crawling, to the production-ization and deployment.
- Developed a smart tool for efficient curation of an industrial *category graph*.
- Developed a scalable semantic search service of companies using a novel *topic modeling* technique.

**Donaco LTD, London, United Kingdom**

Jun 2018 – Jan 2019

*Research Engineer*

- Donaco is an online advertising startup that tries to revolutionize online donations.
- Designed a system for *contextual recommendation* of charity campaigns in news articles.
- Worked on the advertising platform and tried to utilize the real-time user behavior for better ad serving.

**Foshan.io, Remote Software Consultant**

Aug 2018 – Nov 2018

- Responsible for the development of the new version of the *historical* HotBot metasearch engine.

## RESEARCH

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**Latent Retrieval For Large-Scale Fact-Checking and Question Answering with NLI Training** [code] [presentation]

Chris Samarinas, Wynne Hsu, Mong Li (submitted to IEEE ICTAI 2020)

Funded by the *Institute of Data Science* and supported by the *Tensorflow Research Cloud Program*

**WAMBy: An Information Retrieval Approach To Web-Based Question Answering**

Chris Samarinas, Grigorios Tsoumakos (SETN 2018)

**Personalized high quality news recommendations using word embeddings and text classification models** (preprint)

Chris Samarinas, Stefanos Zafeiriou

## AWARDS

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**Bioengineering Hackathon, 1st place** 2018

*EMB IEEE Student Chapter AUTH, StudentGuru*

- 1st place for developing DropSense in 48 hours, a platform that monitors and connects elderly with their relatives and paid carers using Wear OS smartwatches.

**Hackathon Thessaloniki, Honor** 2014

*Municipality of Thessaloniki*

- Awarded for developing CityReport in 24 hours, an online responsive web application for instant issues reporting.

**Great Moment for Education Scholarship, Award** 2013

*Eurobank Ergasias*

- A scholarship for achieving the highest grade at school at the national university admission examination.

**National Mathematics Competition, First Prize** 2009

*Hellenic Mathematical Society*

- Awarded for competing in the final stage “Archimedes”, top 50 out of 20,000 participants.

## GRANTS

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**Innovate UK Smart Grant** 2019

*UK Research and Innovation*

- Awarded for our work at Plural AI, building a knowledge engine for the finance industry.

**Horizon 2020 Grant** 2019

*European Union Funding for Research and Innovation*

- For our research at Plural AI on entity extraction and semantic search.

**Tensorflow Research Cloud Program** 2020

*Google*

- Granted free access to TPU pods for 6 months for our project on large-scale latent retrieval.

## SKILLS

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<b>Programming languages</b>	Python, Java, C, C++, Prolog
<b>Web development</b>	JavaScript, HTML5, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB
<b>Machine Learning</b>	Tensorflow, PyTorch
<b>Other</b>	Kubernetes, noe4j, GCP, Latex, Android development