

# Mohammad Aliannejadi (aka. Alian Nejadi)

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

☎ +31 6 16224851

✉ [m.aliannejadi@uva.nl](mailto:m.aliannejadi@uva.nl)

🌐 [aliannejadi.com](http://aliannejadi.com)

## Employment

- 01/2022-present **Assistant Professor**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 11/2019-01-2022 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Supervisor: Evangelos Kanoulas

## Education

- 03/2015-10/2019 **Doctor of Philosophy**, *Università della Svizzera italiana*, Lugano, Switzerland, Advisor: Fabio Crestani  
Thesis: Modeling User Information Needs on Mobile Devices – from Recommendation to Conversation
- 10/2018-02/2019 **Visiting Scholar**, *Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval (CIIR), University of Massachusetts*, Amherst, MA, USA, Advisor: W. Bruce Croft  
Project: Asking Clarifying Questions in Conversational Search Systems
- 09/2011-02/2014 **Master of Science**, *Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic)*, Tehran, Iran  
Major: Computer Engineering, Minor: Artificial Intelligence
- 09/2006-08/2011 **Bachelor of Science**, *Hamedan University of Technology*, Hamedan, Iran  
Major: Computer Engineering, Minor: Hardware

## Research Interests

Information Retrieval and Recommender Systems  
Conversational Search and Recommendation  
Crowdsourcing and Human Computation

## Publications

### Journal Articles

- 2024 **Analyzing Utterances in LLM-based User Simulation for Conversational Search**, I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani, ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST), (in press)
- 2024 **Understanding and Predicting User Satisfaction with Conversational Recommender Systems**, C. Siro, M. Aliannejadi, M. de Rijke, ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS), 42(2): 55:1-55:37 (2024)

- 2023 **Asking Clarifying Questions: to Benefit or to Disturb Users in Web Search?**, *J. Zou, A. Sun, Ch. Long, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas*, Information Processing and Management (**IP&M**), 60(2): 103176 (2023)
- 2023 **Users Meet Clarifying Questions: Toward a Better Understanding of User Interactions for Search Clarification**, *J. Zou, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas*, ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS**), 41(1): 16:1-16:25 (2023)
- 2022 **A Systematic Analysis on the Impact of Contextual Information on Point-of-Interest Recommendation**, *H. A. Rahmani, M. Aliannejadi, M. Baratchi, F. Crestani*, ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS**), 40(4):88:1-88:35 (2022)
- 2022 **Leveraging Social Influence based on Users Activity Centers for Point-of-Interest Recommendation**, *K. Hosseinzadeh, H. A. Rahmani, M. Afsharchi, M. Aliannejadi*, Information Processing & Management (**IP&M**), 59(2):102858 (2022)
- 2022 **Mental Disorders on Online Social Media Through the Lens of Language and Behaviour: Analysis and Visualisation**, *E. Rissola, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, Information Processing & Management (**IP&M**), 59(3):102890 (2022)
- 2021 **Ensemble Classification for Intrusion Detection via Feature Extraction based on Deep Learning**, *M. Yousefnezhad, J. Hamidzadeh, M. Aliannejadi*, Soft Computing, 25: 12667-12683 (2021)
- 2021 **Context-Aware Target Apps Selection and Recommendation for Enhancing Personal Mobile Assistants**, *M. Aliannejadi, H. Zamani, F. Crestani, W. B. Croft*, ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS**), 39(3): 29:1-29:30 (2021)
- 2019 **A Joint Two-Phase Time-Sensitive Regularized Collaborative Ranking Model for Point of Interest Recommendation**, *M. Aliannejadi, D. Rafailidis and F. Crestani*, IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (**TKDE**), 32(6): 1050-1063 (2020)
- 2018 **Personalized Context-Aware Point of Interest Recommendation**, *M. Aliannejadi and F. Crestani*, ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS**), 36(4), 45:1-45:28 (2018)
- 2014 **Improved Churn Prediction In Telecommunication Industry Using Data Mining Techniques**, *A. Keramati, R. Jafari-Marandi, M. Aliannejadi, I. Ahmadian, M. Mozaffarian and U. Abbasi*, Elsevier Journal on Applied Soft Computing, 24, 994-1012 (2014)

#### Conference Papers

- 2023 **Expand, Highlight, Generate: RL-driven Document Generation for Passage Reranking**, *A. Askari, M. Aliannejadi, C. Meng, E. Kanoulas, S. Verberne*, Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), 2023, Singapore, pages 10087-10099
- 2023 **System Initiative Prediction for Multi-turn Conversational Information Seeking**, *C. Meng, M. Aliannejadi, M. de Rijke*, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2023, Birmingham, UK, pages 1807-1817

- 2023 **CLosER: Conversational Legal Longformer with Expertise-Aware Passage Response Ranker for Long Contexts**, A. Askari, M. Aliannejadi, A. Abolghasemi, E., Kanoulas, S. Verberne, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2023, Birmingham, UK, pages 25-35
- 2023 **A Test Collection of Synthetic Documents for Training Rankers: ChatGPT vs. Human Experts**, A. Askari, M. Aliannejadi, E., Kanoulas, S. Verberne, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2023, Birmingham, UK, pages 5311-5315
- 2023 **On the Impact of Outlier Bias on User Clicks**, F. Sarvi, A. Vardasbi, M. Aliannejadi, S. Schelter, M. de Rijke, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2023, Taipei, Taiwan, pages 18-27
- 2023 **Exploiting Simulated User Feedback for Conversational Search: Ranking, Rewriting, and Beyond**, P. Owoicho, I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, J. Dalton, F. Crestani, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2023, Taipei, Taiwan, pages 632-642
- 2023 **Cross-Market Product-Related Question Answering**, N. Ghasemi, M. Aliannejadi, H. Bonab, E. Kanoulas, A. de Vries, J. Allan, D. Hiemstra, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2023, Taipei, Taiwan, pages 1293-1302
- 2023 **Query Performance Prediction: From Ad-hoc to Conversational Search**, C. Meng, N. Arabzadeh, M. Aliannejadi, M. de Rijke, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2023, Taipei, Taiwan, pages 2583-2593
- 2023 **ChatGPT in the Classroom: A Preliminary Exploration on the Feasibility of Adapting ChatGPT to Support Children's Information Discovery**, E. Murgia, Z. Abbasiantaeb, M. Aliannejadi, T. Huibers, M. Landoni, MS. Pera, ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization (**UMAP**), 2023, Dublin, Ireland, pages 22-27
- 2023 **Where a Little Change Makes a Big Difference: A Preliminary Exploration of Children's Queries**, MS. Pera, E. Murgia, M. Landoni, T. Huibers, M. Aliannejadi, European Conference on Information Retrieval (**ECIR**), 2023, Dublin, Ireland, pages 522-533
- 2023 **Market-Aware Models for Efficient Cross Market Recommendation**, S. Bhargav, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas, European Conference on Information Retrieval (**ECIR**), 2023, Dublin, Ireland, pages 134-149
- 2023 **How to Make an Outlier? Studying the Effect of Presentational Features on the Outlierness of Items in Product Search Results**, F. Sarvi, M. Aliannejadi, S. Schelter, M. de Rijke, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (**CHIIR**), 2023, Austin, Texa, USA, pages 346-350
- 2022 **The Effect of Prolonged Exposure to Online Education on a Classroom Search Companion**, M. Aliannejadi, T. Huibers, M. Landoni, E. Murgia, MS. Pera, Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum (**CLEF**), 2022, Bologna, Italy

- 2022 **Experiments on Generalizability of User-Oriented Fairness in Recommender Systems**, *HA. Rahmani, M. Naghiaei, M. Dehghan, M. Aliannejadi*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2022, Madrid, Spain, pages 2755-2764
- 2022 **Understanding User Satisfaction with Task-oriented Dialogue Systems**, *C. Siro, M. Aliannejadi, M. de Rijke*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2022, Madrid, Spain, pages 2018-2023
- 2022 **Evaluating Mixed-initiative Conversational Search Systems via User Simulation**, *I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (**WSDM**), 2022, Phoenix, USA, pages 888-896
- 2022 **Understanding and Mitigating the Effect of Outliers in Fair Ranking**, *F. Sarvi, M. Heuss, M. Aliannejadi, S. Schelter, M. de Rijke*, The Fifteenth ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (**WSDM**), 2022, Phoenix, USA, pages 861-869
- 2022 **Exploiting Document-Based Features for Clarification in Conversational Search**, *I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, European Conference on IR Research (**ECIR**), 2022, Stavanger, Norway, pages 413-427
- 2022 **Have a Clue! The Effect of Visual Cues on Children's Search Behavior in the Classroom**, *M. Landoni, M. Aliannejadi*, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (**CHIIR**), 2022, pages 310-314
- 2021 **Building and Evaluating Open-Domain Dialogue Corpora with Clarifying Questions**, *M. Aliannejadi, J. Kiseleva, A. Chuklin, J. Dalton, M. Burtsev*, Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), 2021, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, pages 4473-4484
- 2021 **Analysing Mixed Initiatives and Search Strategies during Conversational Search**, *M. Aliannejadi, L. Azzopardi, H. Zamani, E. Kanoulas, P. Thomas, N. Craswel*, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2021, Queensland, Australia, pages 16-26
- 2021 **Cross-Market Product Recommendation**, *H. Bonab, M. Aliannejadi, A. Vardasbi, E. Kanoulas, J. Allan*, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2021, Queensland, Australia, pages 110-119
- 2021 **Towards Facet-Driven Generation of Clarifying Questions for Conversational Search**, *I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (**ICTIR**), 2021, Montreal, Canada, pages 167-175
- 2021 **User Engagement Prediction for Clarification in Search**, *I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (**ECIR**), 2021, Lucca, Italy, pages 619-633
- 2021 **The Impact of User Demographics and Task Types on Cross-App Mobile Search**, *M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani, T. Huibers, M. Landoni, E. Murgia, M. Pera*, Conference on Flexible Question Answering (FQAS), 2021, Bratislava, Slovakia, pages 223-234

- 2021 **Getting to Know You: Search Logs and Expert Grading to Define Children's Search Roles in the Classroom**, *M. Landoni, T. Huibers, M. Aliannejadi, E. Murgia, M. Pera*, Design of Experimental Search & Information REtrieval Systems (DESIRES), 2021, Padova, Italy, pages 44-52
- 2021 **Right Way, Right Time: Towards a Better Comprehension of Young Students' Needs when Looking for Relevant Search Results**, *M. Landoni, M. Aliannejadi, T. Huibers, E. Murgia, M. Pera*, ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization (UMAP), 2021, Utrecht, Netherlands, pages 256-261
- 2021 **The Children's Perspective on How Emojis Help Them to Recognise Relevant Results: Do Actions Speak Louder Than Words?**, *M. Aliannejadi, M. Landoni, T. Huibers, E. Murgia, M. Pera*, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR), 2021, Vancouver, Canada, pages 301-305
- 2021 **Somewhere over the Rainbow: Exploring the Sense of Children for Relevance**, *M. Landoni, T. Huibers, E. Murgia, M. Aliannejadi, M. Pera*, European Conference on Cognitive Ergonomics (ECCE), 2021, Siena, Italy, pages 30:1-30:5
- 2020 **Say it with Emojis: Co-designing Relevance Cues for Searching in the Classroom**, *M. Aliannejadi, T. Huibers, M. Landoni, E. Murgia, M. Pera*, Joint Conference of the Information Retrieval Communities in Europe (CIRCLE), 2020, Samatan, Gers, France,
- 2020 **Analysing the Effect of Clarifying Questions on Document Ranking in Conversational Search**, *A. M. Krasakis, M. Aliannejadi, N. Voskarides, E. Kanoulas*, International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR), 2020, Stavanger, Norway, pages 129-132
- 2020 **Harnessing Evolution of Multi-Turn Conversations for Effective Answer Retrieval**, *M. Aliannejadi, M. Chakraborty, E. A. Rissola, and F. Crestani*, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR), 2020, Vancouver, Canada, pages 33-42
- 2020 **Beyond Modelling: Understanding Mental Disorders in Online Social Media**, *E. A. Rissola, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2020, Lisbon, Portugal, pages 296-310
- 2020 **Joint Geographical and Temporal Modeling based on Matrix Factorization for Point-of-Interest Recommendation**, *H. A. Rahmani, M. Aliannejadi, M. Baratchi, and F. Crestani*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2020, Lisbon, Portugal, pages 205-219
- 2020 **ANTIQUE: A Non-Factoid Question Answering Benchmark**, *H. Hashemi, M. Aliannejadi, H. Zamani, and W. B. Croft*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2020, Lisbon, Portugal, pages 166-173
- 2020 **A Tool for Conducting User Studies on Mobile Devices**, *L. Costa, M. Aliannejadi, and F. Crestani*, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR), 2020, Vancouver, Canada, pages 462-466

- 2019 **Asking Clarifying Questions in Open-Domain Information-Seeking Conversations**, *M. Aliannejadi, H. Zamani, F. Crestani, and W. B. Croft*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2019, Paris, France, pages 475-484
- 2019 **Understanding Mobile Search Task Relevance and User Behaviour in Context**, *M. Aliannejadi, M. Harvey, L. Costa, M. Pointon, and F. Crestani*, ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (**CHIIR**), 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, pages 143-151
- 2019 **Incorporating Hierarchical Domain Information to Disambiguate Very Short Queries**, *H. Bonab, M. Aliannejadi, J. Foley, J. Allan*, International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (**ICTIR**), 2019, Santa Clara, California, USA, pages 173-176
- 2019 **Category-Aware Location Embedding for Point-of-Interest Recommendation**, *H. A. Rahmani, M. Aliannejadi, R. Mirzaei Zadeh, M. Baratchi, M. Afsharchi, F. Crestani*, International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (**ICTIR**), 2019, Santa Clara, California, USA, pages 51-54
- 2019 **LGLMF: Local Geographical based Logistic Matrix Factorization Model for POI Recommendation**, *H. A. Rahmani, M. Aliannejadi, S. Ahmadian, M. Baratchi, M. Afsharchi, F. Crestani*, Asia Information Retrieval Societies Conference (AIRS), 2016, Beijing, China, pages 212-223
- 2018 **In Situ and Context-Aware Target Apps Selection for Unified Mobile Search**, *M. Aliannejadi, H. Zamani, F. Crestani, and W. B. Croft*, International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM**), 2018, Turin, Italy, pages 1383-1392
- 2018 **Target Apps Selection: Towards a Unified Search Framework for Mobile Devices**, *M. Aliannejadi, H. Zamani, F. Crestani, and W. B. Croft*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2018, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, pages 215-224
- 2018 **A Collaborative Ranking Model with Multiple Location-based Similarities for Venue Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi, D. Rafailidis, and F. Crestani*, International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (**ICTIR**), 2018, Tianjin, China, pages 19-26
- 2017 **Venue Appropriateness Prediction for Personalized Context-Aware Venue Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi and F. Crestani*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2017, Tokyo, Japan, pages 1177-1180
- 2017 **A Cross-Platform Collection for Contextual Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi, I. Mele, and F. Crestani*, International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (**SIGIR**), 2017, Tokyo, Japan, pages 1169-1172
- 2017 **Personalized Keyword Boosting for Venue Suggestion based on Multiple LBSNs**, *M. Aliannejadi, D. Rafailidis, and F. Crestani*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (**ECIR**), 2017, Aberdeen, Scotland, pages 291-303

- 2017 **Personalized Ranking for Context-Aware Venue Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi, I. Mele, and F. Crestani*, Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC), 2017, Marrakech, Morocco, pages 960-962
- 2016 **User Model Enrichment for Venue Recommendation**, *M. Aliannejadi, I. Mele, and F. Crestani*, Asia Information Retrieval Symposium (AIRS), 2016, Beijing, China, pages 212-223
- 2013 **Discriminative Spoken Language Understanding Using Statistical Machine Translation Alignment Methods**, *M. Aliannejadi, S. Khadivi, S. Shiry Ghidary, and M.H. Bokaei*, International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Signal Processing (AISP), 2013, Tehran, Iran, pages 194-202

[Peer-reviewed Workshop Papers & Technical Reports](#)

- 2023 **Performance Prediction for Conversational Search Using Perplexities of Query Rewrites**, *C. Meng, M. Aliannejadi, M. de Rijke*, QPP++@ECIR, Dublin, Ireland, pages 25-28
- 2021 **XMRec: Workshop on Cross-Market Recommendation**, *M. Aliannejadi, H. Bonab, A. Vardasbi, E. Kanoulas, J. Allan, V. Murdock*, ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys), Amsterdam, Netherlands, pages 817-818
- 2021 **MICROS: Mixed-Initiative ConveRsatiOnal Systems Workshop**, *I. Mele, C. Muntean, M. Aliannejadi, N. Voskarides*, European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), Lucca, Italy, pages 710-713
- 2021 **Keyword Extraction for Improved Document Retrieval in Conversational Search**, *O. Borisov, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, Italian Information Retrieval Workshop, Bari, Italy
- 2021 **Ranking Clarifying Questions Based on Predicted User Engagement**, *T. Lotze, S. Klut, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas*, MICROS Workshop at ECIR 2021, Lucca, Italy
- 2021 **BERT for Target Apps Selection: Analyzing the Diversity and Performance of BERT in Unified Mobile Search**, *N. Ghasemi, M. Aliannejadi, D. Hiemstra*, arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.06306
- 2020 **Extending the Use of Previous Relevant Utterances for Response Ranking in Conversational Search**, *I. Sekulic, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, Text REtrieval Conference (TREC), 2020, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
- 2020 **ConvAI3: Generating Clarifying Questions for Open-Domain Dialogue Systems (ClariQ)**, *M. Aliannejadi, J. Kiseleva, A. Chuklin, J. Dalton, M. Burtsev*, Workshop on Search Oriented Conversational AI (SCAI) at EMNLP '20, Dominican Republic
- 2020 **Longformer for MS MARCO Document Re-ranking Task**, *I. Sekulic, A. Soleimani, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, arXiv abs/2009.09392
- 2020 **A Canine Census to Develop Public Policy**, *M. Apa, M. Cecilia Faini, M. Aliannejadi, and MS. Pera*, epiDAMIK 3.0: The 3rd International workshop on Epidemiology meets Data Mining and Knowledge discovery, San Diego, CA, USA

- 2020 **On Estimating the Training Cost of Conversational Recommendation Systems**, *S. Antaris, D. Rafailidis, M. Aliannejadi*, arXiv abs/2011.05302
- 2019 **Predicting Relevant Conversation Turns for Improved Retrieval in Multi-Turn Conversational Search**, *E. Rissola, M. Chakraborty, M. Aliannejadi, F. Crestani*, Text REtrieval Conference (TREC), 2019, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
- 2018 **Venue Suggestion Using Social-Centric Scores**, *M. Aliannejadi and F. Crestani*, Workshop on Social Aspects in Personalization and Search (SoAPS) at ECIR'18, Grenoble, France
- 2018 **A Collaborative Ranking Model with Contextual Similarities for Venue Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi and F. Crestani*, Italian Information Retrieval (IIR) Workshop, Rome, Italy
- 2017 **ACM SIGIR Student Liaison Program**, *M. Aliannejadi, M. Hasanain, J. Mao, J. Singh, JR. Trippas, H. Zamani, L. Dietz*, SIGIR Forum 51(3): 42-45 (2017)
- 2016 **Venue Appropriateness Prediction for Contextual Suggestion**, *M. Aliannejadi, I. Mele, F. Crestani*, Text REtrieval Conference (TREC), 2016, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
- 2015 **University of Lugano at TREC 2015: Contextual Suggestion and Temporal Summarization Tracks**, *M. Aliannejadi, SA. Bahrainian, A. Giachanou, F. Crestani*, Text REtrieval Conference (TREC), 2015, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
- 2014 **Graph-Based Semi-Supervised Conditional Random Fields For Spoken Language Understanding Using Unaligned Data**, *M. Aliannejadi, M. Kiaeeha, S. Khadivi and S. Shiry Ghidary*, Australasian Language Technology Workshop (ALTW), 2014, Melbourne, Australia, pages 98-103

## --- Honors and Awards

- 2022 WSDM 2022 Best Paper Runner-up Award
- 2022 ECIR 2022 Best Reviewer Award
- 2016 Ranked **first** in the Contextual Suggestion Track: Phase 1, TREC 2016
- 2016 Ranked **third** in the Contextual Suggestion Track: Phase 2, TREC 2016
- 2015 Ranked **first** in the Contextual Suggestion Track: Batch Experiments, TREC 2015

## Grants

- 2023 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) **Grant** to support research on the project Personality and Conversational Information Seeking (**PACINO**) for four years. The project supports four Ph.D. students jointly at Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Switzerland (2 PhD students) and the University of Amsterdam (1 Ph.D. Student), with one Ph.D. student being jointly supervised by the two universities.
- 2022 Microsoft Research **Grant** to support the IGLU Contest – 35,552 EUR
- 2022 Amazon Science **Grant** to support the IGLU Contest – 5,000 USD
- 2021 Google **Grant** to support the XMRec WSDM Cup – 2,000 USD
- 2021 Spotify **Grant** to support the XMRec WSDM Cup – 1,500 USD
- 2021 Google Research **Grant** to support the IGLU Contest at NeurIPS 2021 – 5,000 USD



- 2021 Microsoft Research **Grant** to support the IGLU Contest at NeurIPS 2021 – 30,000 USD Microsoft Azure Credit
- 2021 AI Research Institute **Grant** to support the IGLU Contest at NeurIPS 2021 – 10,000 USD
- 2020 Amazon Research **Grant** to support the XMRec Workshop, co-organized with RecSys 2021 – 1,500 USD
- 2020 Microsoft Research **Grant** to support the SCAI Challenge, co-organized with EMNLP 2020 – 1,500 USD
- 2020 Google **Grant** to support the SCAI Challenge, co-organized with EMNLP 2020 – 2,000 USD
- 2020 Amazon Science **Grant** to support the SCAI Challenge, co-organized with EMNLP 2020 – 1,500 USD
- 2017 COST KEYSTONE Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) **Grant** for visiting IRIT, Toulouse, France

## Experience

### Mentoring and Supervision

- Daily supervised and mentored 9 PhD students at UvA and USI.
  - Wide range of topics such as conversational search and mental disorder analysis.
  - Co-supervised 10 master's and bachelor's students for their thesis and summer internships.
- 2024-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on bias and fairness for conversational systems*, Student: Maryam Mousavian, University of Amsterdam and Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland
- 2023-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on emotion-aware conversational search*, Student: Simion Lupart, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2023-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on conversational search*, Student: Zahra Abbasiantaeb, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2022-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on initiative prediction*, Student: Chuan Meng, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2022-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on evaluation of dialogue systems*, Student: Clemencia Siro, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2021-present **Co-supervision**, *Co-supervision on cross-lingual question answering*, Student: Negin Ghasemi, Radboud University, Netherlands
- 2021-present **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on cross-market product recommendation*, Student: Samarth Bhargav, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2020-2021 **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision for part of Jie's PhD thesis on the effect of asking clarifying questions in conversational search*, Student: Jie Zou, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2019-2020 **Daily Supervision**, *Daily supervision on asking clarifying questions for conversational search*, Student: Antonios Minas Krasakis, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

- 2020-present **Daily Supervisions**, *Daily supervision on response ranking and user simulation in IR*, Student: Ivan Sekulic, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland
- 2020-present **Mentoring**, *Collaboration on fair learning to rank*, Student: Fatemeh Sarvi, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2019-2021 **Mentoring**, *Collaboration on mental disorder analysis on social media*, Student: Esteban A. Ríssola, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland
- 2018-2019 **Co-Supervision**, *Master's thesis and research co-supervision on the topic of venue recommendation*, Student: Hossein A. Rahmani, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran
- 2018-2019 **Co-Supervision**, *Master's thesis and research co-supervision on the topic of contextual mobile information retrieval*, Student: Luca Costa, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

### Teaching

- 11/2023-12/2023 **Co-coordinator**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Human-in-the-loop Machine Learning Course
- 09/2023-10/2023 **Coordinator**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Search Engines Course
- 09/2022-10/2022 **Coordinator**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Search Engines Course
- 03/2021-05/2021 **Co-coordinator**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Toegepaste Machine Learning Course
- 10/2021-11/2021 **Lecturer & Project Supervisor**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
IR2 Course
- 10/2021-10/2021 **Lecturer**, *Radboud University*, Nijmegen, Netherlands  
SIKS Course on IR
- 10/2021-10/2021 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
IR0 Course
- 10/2021-10/2021 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Applied Machine Learning Course
- 09/2021-10/2021 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Intelligent Interactive Systems Course
- 03/2021-05/2021 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Applied Machine Learning Course
- 09/2020-10/2020 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
IR2 Course
- 09/2020-11/2020 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
IR2 Course (project-base)
- 01/2020-03/2020 **Lecturer**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Topics covered:
  - Conversational Search and Recommendation
  - Mixed-Initiative Conversational Search
  - Crowdsourcing for IR

09/2015- **Teaching Assistant**, *Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)*, Lugano, Switzerland

10/2019 Teaching assistant for the following courses:

- Information Retrieval
- Databases
- User Experience Design
- Human-Computer Interaction Atelier
- Data Management

09/2010- **Teaching Assistant**, *Hamedan University of Technology*, Hamedan, Iran

09/2012 Teaching assistant for the following courses:

- Advanced Programming: C++ Language
- Data Structures
- Introduction to Algorithms
- Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata
- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

### Professional

03/2014- **.NET Developer**, *Batis Idea Processors Ltd.*, Tehran, Iran

02/2015 Developed C# .NET component for sending and receiving email and fax, which was a part of a big project.

08/2009- **Software Designer and Developer**, *Hushmandsazan Bisim Gharb*, Hamedan, Iran

08/2012 Working with a team of Electrical Engineers, I did all the software design and development process to get a large Windows application integrated with the hardware designed for it.

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## Academic Services

- Active reviewer of 10 major journals of the field.
- Served as a PC member in 12 major conferences.
- Co-organized three workshops on recommender systems and conversational search.
- Co-organizing four shared tasks on recommender systems and conversational search.
- Proposed and presented two courses in two summer schools.
- Contributed to three events as a local organizer, as well as student grant and publicity chairs.

### Peer Review

2018-present **Journal Reviewer**

- ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS)
- IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)
- Information Processing and Management (IP&M)
- ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR)
- IEEE Transactions on Big Data (TBDSI)
- International Journal of Data Science and Analytics (JDAS)
- Expert Systems (EXSY)
- Expert Systems with Applications (ESWA)
- Pattern Analysis and Applications (PAAA)
- Royal Society Open Science (RSOS)

2018-present **PC/SPC Member**

- SIGIR 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- ACL 2021
- EMNLP 2021, 2022
- WSDM 2021, 2022, 2023
- CIKM 2020, 2021
- TheWebConference 2020, 2021
- ECIR 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- EACL 2021
- CAIR 2020
- RuSSIR 2020

#### Organization

- 2023-2024 **LLM4Eval Workshop Co-organizer**, *Workshop on Large Language Models for Evaluation in IR*, Co-organizing the workshop, co-located at SIGIR 2024
- 2023-2024 **ECIR Tutorial Chair**, *European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR)*, Tutorial co-chair
- 2022-2024 **TREC iKAT Main Organizer**, *Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)*, Co-organizing the TREC track on interactive knowledge assistance track
- 2022-2023 **ICTIR Program Chair**, *International Conference on Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR)*, Program co-chair
- 2022-2023 **CLEF Lab Chair**, *Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum (CLEF)*, Labs co-chair
- 2021-2022 **TREC CAsT Co-organizer**, *Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)*, Co-organizing the TREC track on conversational assistants, and the main organizer of the mixed-initiative conversations sub-task.
- 2021-2022 **TREC CAsT Co-organizer**, *Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)*, Co-organizing the TREC track on conversational assistants, and the main organizer of the mixed-initiative conversations sub-task.
- 2021 **XMRec WSDM Cup Organizer**, *ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM)*, Main organizer a shared task on cross-market product recommendation.
- 2021 **XMRec Workshop Organizer**, *ACM Conference Series on Recommender Systems (RecSys)*, Main organizer of the workshop focusing on the latest research and open issues on cross-market item recommendation.
- 2021 **IGLU Contest Co-organizer**, *Thirty-fifth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Organizing a shared task focusing on interactive grounded language understanding in a collaborative environment.
- 2020 **MICROS Workshop Co-organizer**, *43rd European Conference on Information Retrieval*, Organizing workshop focusing on the latest research and open issues on mixed-initiative conversational search.
- 2020 **Course on Conversational Search**, *The 2020 Russian Summer School in Information Retrieval (RuSSIR)*

- 2020 **SCAI Challenge Chair and Co-organizer**, *The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, Proposed, defined, and collected related data to organize the challenge as part of the SCAI Workshop.
- 2019 **Student Grant Co-chair**, *The 10<sup>th</sup> CLEF Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland
- 2018-2019 **Local Co-organizer**, *The 10<sup>th</sup> CLEF Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland
- 2019 **Introduction to Recommender Systems**, *One-Week Course*, Document Representation Summer School, La Rochelle, France
- 2017-2019 **ACM SIGIR Student Liaison**, *Representing Europe and Africa*
- 2017 **Publicity Chair**, *The 8<sup>th</sup> Italian Information Retrieval Workshop (IIR)*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland
- 2015 **Co-organizer**, *DBTA Workshop on Life Logging and Long-Term Digital Preservation*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

## Invited Talks

### Seminars

- 2024 **Data Augmentation and User Simulation using Large Language Models**, *Invited Talk*, Sorbonne University, Paris, France
- 2023 **Data Augmentation and User Simulation using Large Language Models**, *Invited Talk*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA
- 2023 **Mixed-Initiative Conversational Search**, *Tutorial*, ASIRF, Dagstuhl, Germany
- 2022 **Conversational Information Seeking: Theory and Evaluation**, *Tutorial*, CHIIR, Regensburg, Germany
- 2021 **Analyzing Mixed Initiatives and Search Strategies during Conversational Search**, *Invited Talk*, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA
- 2021 **Simulating User Interactions for Mixed-Initiative Conversational Search**, *Invited Talk*, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK
- 2020 **User-Centered System Design in Information Retrieval**, *Invited Talk*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA
- 2020 **Mixed-Initiative Conversational Systems: Clarifying Questions**, *Invited Talk*, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- 2019 **Towards Unified Mobile Search**, *Invited Webinar*, University Of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran
- 2019 **Towards Unified Mobile Search**, *Invited Talk*, L3S Research Center, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany
- 2019 **Exploring Combination of Multimodal Relevance Scores for Contextual Suggestion**, *Invited Talk*, GESIS, Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Unter Sachsenhausen, Cologne, Germany
- 2018 **Target Apps Selection for Unified Mobile Search**, *Invited Talk*, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

2018 **Personalized Context-Aware Venue Suggestion**, *Invited Talk*, University of Udine, Udine, Italy

2017 **Personalized Keyword Boosting for POI Recommendation**, *Invited Talk*, Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse (IRIT), Toulouse, France

#### Lectures

2021 **Introduction to Conversational Search**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2021 **Mixed-Initiative Conversational Search**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2021 **Conversational Search and Mixed Initiatives**, *Invited Lecture*, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

2020 **Representing Textual Data for Machine Learning**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2020 **Crowdsourcing for Conversational Search Systems**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2020 **Asking Clarifying Questions in Conversational Search Systems**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2020 **Introduction to Conversational Search Systems**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2019 **Context-awareness in Venue Recommendation**, *Invited Lecture*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

2018 **Crowdsourcing for Information Retrieval**, *Invited Lecture*, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA

2015 **Document Indexing and Retrieval Using Lucene**, *Invited Lecture*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

2015 **Introduction to Lucene**, *Invited Lecture*, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

2010 **Introduction to Algorithms: Complexity**, *Invited Lecture*, Hamedan University of Technology, Hamedan, Iran

2010 **Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata: Context-free Languages**, *Invited Lecture*, Hamedan University of Technology, Hamedan, Iran

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## Programming Skills

### Tools

PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Slurm, Seaborn, NLTK, Galago, RankLib, Terrier, Lucene, WEKA

### Languages

Expert Python, C, C++, C#

Intermediate MATLAB, Java, PHP, MySQL, SQL Server

Basic UML, HTML, Javascript, Objective-C, Shell Script

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## Languages

Persian: Native; English: Fluent; Italian: Intermediate level

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## Other Activities

2017-present Amateur photographer and sports journalist.

2017-2018 Basic Mathematics Tutoring

2015 Co-organizer of USI Board Games Events series, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Lugano, Switzerland

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## References

Available upon request.