

## Marian-Andrei RIZOIU

**address:** CB11.06.101, UTS, 15 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007  
**email:** [marian-andrei@rizoiu.eu](mailto:marian-andrei@rizoiu.eu)  
**telephone:** +61 (0)435 247 215  
**website:** <http://www.rizoiu.eu/>



# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Employment history

- 01/2019 – **Lecturer**, Faculty of Engineering and IT, University of Technology in Sydney  
current: *Research:* information diffusion models, online popularity prediction models, stochastic processes  
*Supervision:* 1 postdoc, 4 PhD students, 3 Masters/Honours students/Research Assistants.
- 2016 – 2019 **Research Fellow, Lecturer**, Eng. and Comp. Science, Australian National University  
*Research:* information diffusion models, online popularity prediction models, stochastic point processes, machine learning and social media analysis.  
*Teaching:* Document Analysis, Advanced Databases and Data Mining (Bachelors/Masters).  
*Leadership:* course convener for the Document Analysis course, co-PI for two research grants,  
*Supervision:* 4 PhD students (2 as main supervisor), 3 Masters/Honours students.
- 2014 – 2016 **Research Scientist**, Optimisation Research Group, National ICT Australia (NICTA)  
*Research:* online privacy, big social data analytics, data mining.  
*Leadership:* engage with Data61's Ribbit  
*Supervision:* 2 PhD students, 1 Masters/Honours student.
- 2013 – 2014 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, ERIC laboratory, Lumière University Lyon, France.  
*Research:* ontology construction from text, knowledge graphs evolution for brand management.  
*Teaching:* Machine Learning, Software Development Methodologies, Data Mining, Object Oriented Programming, Unix Operating Systems, Calculus software (course convener)  
*Supervision:* 4 Honours theses, 9 industrial internships.  
*Leadership:* developed the Machine Learning course.

## Education background

- 2009 – 2013 **PhD in Computer Science**, Lumière University Lyon, France.  
(June 24<sup>th</sup> 2013) “Semi-supervised structuring of complex data”, supervision S. Lallich and J. Velcin.
- 2008 – 2009 **Masters Degree in Data Mining and Knowledge Engineering**,  
(double diploma) Polytechnic School, Nantes University, France.
- 2004 – 2009 **Engineer Degree in Systems and Computer Engineering**  
School of Computer Science, Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania.

## Grants, Projects and Consulting – AU\$0.6M in secured funding

- 2020: Facebook Research grants, “**Using computational modelling of user behaviour and machine learning to counter the diffusion of hate speech across social media**”, US\$60k, Chief Investigator. Use ethnographic methods to identify and monitor a number of persona associated with hate speech diffusion targeting vulnerable populations.
- 2019 – 2020: National Security College's Green policy grants, “**Tracking Disinformation Campaigns Across Terrains: Implications for Policy**”, AU\$50K, Chief Investigator. Quantify the scale of the problem of disinformation in order to co-design responses with policy partners.
- 2019 – 2020: UTS FEIT Cross-Faculty Scheme, “**SocialSense: Making sense of the opinions and interactions of online users**”, AU\$20K, Chief Investigator. Study the diffusion and polarization of opinions online, mixing an ethnographic approach with computational modelling of behaviour.
- 2019: Data61 Challenge model grants, “**Adaptive skills taxonomy to enable labour market agility**”, AU\$350K, Chief Investigator. Understand the change of demand and supply of skills in a timely and efficient manner in order to provide information to inform employment decisions.
- 2019: Industrial consulting with a merger/acquisition. AU\$10.5k, Chief Investigator.
- 2018: ANU Social Science Cross-College Grants, “**Advanced tools and methods for analysing the role and influence of bots in social media**”, AU\$50K, Chief Investigator The impact of automation in

the form of socialbots on deliberative democracy – how socialbots hijack the public discourse.

- 2018 ANU Social Science Cross-College Grants, **“Identify Hate Speech and Predict Mass Atrocities”**, AU\$30K, Chief Investigator. Can “hate speech” be reliably measured to predict political violence?
- 2015 – 2018 US Air Force Research Office, **“The Anatomy of Social Media Popularity”**, key personnel. Develop theoretical models for predicting the popularity of online content.
- 2012 – 2014 French National Research Agency, **“Images on the Web”**, key personnel. Analyse the image life cycles of politicians and companies through online media; apply natural language processing for ontology construction.

## Honours, awards, prizes and service

- Service** Served in the Expert Round table for the Defamation Law Reform, for the attorney general’s office.
- PC member** WWW’19, AAAI’19, ICWSM’19, WWW’20, AAAI’20.
- Reviewing** Journal of Machine Learning Research, Journal IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, Computational Intelligence, Transactions on Information Systems, Journal Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data; conferences WWW, ICWSM, NIPS, AAAI.
- Research visits** March 2019: One month research visit in Saint Etienne at the French CNRS laboratory Hubert Curien, collaborating with Prof. Christine Largeron on information diffusion in online communities.
- Conference organisation** **10/2012:** Discovery Science 2012 and Algorithm Learning Technology 2012, Lyon.  
**09/2011:** Web Intelligence 2011 and Intelligent Agent Technology 2011, Lyon.
- Awards, material and travel grants** **Awards:** ERASMUS International student exchange award (2009), Best student paper award ICTAI, Athens, Greece (2012).  
**Travel Grants:** Rhône-Alpes local government (2013), ECR Travel Awards (2015, 2018).  
**Material Grant:** NVIDIA GPU Grant Program (2015).

## Interests & Skills

- Research**
- Stochastic behavioural modelling; online information diffusion; online popularity modelling.
  - Detecting disinformation campaigns and malicious activity, information warfare, online influence and disruptive socialbots in democratic processes.
  - Labour markets in automation age, measuring skill similarity, labour upskilling, job ads data.
- Technical skills**
- big data mining and analysis, machine learning, natural language processing, online social media analysis, statistical analysis, industrial project collaboration

## Recent invited talks

- 11/2019 **Information warfare: socialbots and Russian online trolls in the US elections.** Invited talk at the Defence Science and Technology (DST), Adelaide, Australia.
- 05/2019 **#DebateNight: Role of Twitter Socialbots During US Presidential Debate.** Invited talk at the Computer Society of the IEEE ACT Section, Canberra, Australia.
- 06/2018 **Hawkes Intensity Processes for modelling online popularity and virality.** Invited talk at Facebook Core Research, Palo Alto, California, USA.
- 06/2018 **User engagement with online video and the unpredictability of online popularity.** Invited talk at Netflix Research, San Jose, California, USA.
- 05/2018 **Scalable influence estimation from online information diffusions.** Research visit at the Max Plank Institute for Software Systems, Kaiserslautern, Germany.
- 06/2017 **Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity.** University of Sydney, Australia.
- 03/2016 **Evolution of Privacy Loss in Wikipedia.** Invited talk, March session of the Monthly Wikimedia Research Showcase, San Francisco, USA.

## Teaching, supervision & academic software

- Teaching &**
- 600+ hours of teaching experience at all levels in **Software Engineering, Data Science** and

## supervision

**Machine Learning<sup>1</sup>**, course coordinator (convenor).

- 45+ supervised students: 4 PhD students, 2 RA/postdoc, 1 visiting postgrad students, 5 Honours students, 4 summer scholar students, more than 30 coursework masters students;
- **research group:** 1 postdoc, 4 PhD students (main supervisor), 1 masters/Honours, 1 RA

## Open-source software development

- *HIPie* describes and predicts the online popularity of Youtube videos (2017) [Kong et al, WWW'18].  
Public live version: [www.hipie.ml](http://www.hipie.ml) Demo video: <https://youtu.be/x5xIf4vUSci>  
Source code: <https://github.com/computationalmedia/hipie>
- *CommentWatcher* analyses online discussion forums and their social networks of users (2014).  
Website: <http://rizoiu.eu/commentwatcher> Demo video: [http://rizoiu.eu/commentwatcher/Video\\_demonstration.html](http://rizoiu.eu/commentwatcher/Video_demonstration.html)

## Selected recent publications

**Publications summary:** 36 peer reviewed publications, 378 citations, H-index 10 (source: *Google Scholar* 03/2020)<sup>2</sup>.

Full publication list at <http://www.rizoiu.eu/#publications>

- [1] Kern, M. L., McCarthy, P. X., Chakrabarty, D., & **Rizoiu, M.-A.** (2019). *Social media-predicted personality traits and values can help match people to their ideal jobs*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), 201917942. (CoRE: A\*, H5: 227, LF: 9.674)
- [2] Kong, Q., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. (2020). *Modeling Information Cascades with Self-exciting Processes via Generalized Epidemic Models*. In ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM'20). Houston, Texas. (CoRE Rank: A\*, a.r.: 15%, h5: 51)
- [3] Wu, S., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. *Estimating Attention Flow in Online Video Networks*. In ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW'19), pp. 1-21. 2019.
- [4] Kim, D., Graham, T., Wan, Z., & **Rizoiu, M.-A.** Analysing user identity via time-sensitive semantic edit distance (t-SED): A case study of Russian trolls on Twitter. *Journal of Computational Social Science*. pp.1-21, 2019.
- [5] Zhang, R., Walder, C., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. *Efficient Non-parametric Bayesian Hawkes Processes*. In: International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI'19), Macao, China, 2019. (CoRE Rank: A\*, a.r.: 17%, h5: 61)
- [6] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Mishra, S., Kong, Q., Carman, M., & Xie, L. *SIR-Hawkes: Linking Epidemic Models and Hawkes Processes to Model Diffusions in Finite Populations*. In: Proceedings of International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '18), Lyon, France, pp. 1–9, 2018. (CoRE Rank: A\*, a.r.: 14%, h5: 77)
- [7] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Graham, T., Zhang, R., Zhang, Y., Ackland, R. J., & Xie, L., *#DebateNight: The Role and Influence of Socialbots on Twitter During the 1st U.S. Presidential Debate*. In International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM'18), pp. 1–10, 2018. (a.r.: 16%, h5: 52)
- [8] Wu, S., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. (2017). *Measuring Video Engagement: An Empirical Study on YouTube*. In Proceedings of the International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '18), pp. 1–9, 2018. (a.r.: 16%, h5: 52)
- [9] Mishra, S., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. *Modeling Popularity in Asynchronous Social Media Streams with Recurrent Neural Networks*. In International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM'18), pp. 1–10, 2018. (a.r.: 16%, h5: 52)
- [10] Kong, Q., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Wu, S., & Xie, L. (2018). *Will This Video Go Viral? Explaining and Predicting the Popularity of Youtube Videos*. In: Proceedings of International Conference on World Wide Web Companion (WWW '18), Lyon, France, pp. 1–4, 2018. (CoRE Rank: A\*, h5: 77)
- [11] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Lee, Y., Mishra, S., & Xie, L. *A Tutorial on Hawkes Processes for Events in Social Media*. In “Research Frontiers of Multimedia”, S.-F. Chang (Ed.), (2017), pp. 1–26, ACM Books.
- [12] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L. *Online Popularity under Promotion: Viral Potential, Forecasting, and the Economics of Time*. In: Proceedings of International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '17), Montreal, Canada, pp. 1–10, 2017. (a.r.: 14%, h5: 59)
- [13] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Xie, L., Sanner, S., Cebrian, M., Yu, H., & Van Hentenryck, P., *Expecting to be HIP: Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity*. In: Proceedings of International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '17), Perth, Australia, pp. 735-744, 2017. (CoRE Rank: A\*, a.r.: 17%, h5: 74)
- [14] Mishra, S., **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, & Xie, L., *Feature Driven and Point Process Approaches for Popularity Prediction*. In: Proceedings of International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM '16), Indianapolis, USA, p. 1069–1078, 2016. (CoRE Rank: A, a.r.: 17%, h5: 42)
- [15] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Xie, L., Caetano, T., & Cebrian, M., *Evolution of Privacy Loss in Wikipedia*. In: Proc. International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM '16), San Francisco, USA, pp. 215-224, February 2016. (CoRE Rank: A\*, a.r.: 18%, h5: 58)
- [16] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, Velcin, J., Bonnevey, S., & Lallich, S. *ClusPath: A Temporal-driven Clustering to Infer Typical Evolution Paths*. Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery (DAMI), 30(5), pp. 1324-1349, (2016). (ERA Rank: A, h5: 33)
- [17] **Rizoiu, M.-A.**, *Semi-Supervised Structuring of Complex Data*. In: Doctoral Consortium of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Joint Conference On Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI '13). Beijing, China. AAAI Press. 2013. (CoRE Rank: A\*, h5: 55)
- [18] Musat, C., Velcin J., Trausan-Matu, S., & **Rizoiu M.-A.** *Improving Topic Evaluation Using Conceptual Knowledge*. In: 22<sup>nd</sup> International Joint Conference On Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI '11). Barcelona, Spain. pp. 1866-1871, AAAI Press. July, 2011. (CoRE Rank: A\*, h5: 55)

<sup>1</sup> See full teaching & supervision experience at [http://www.rizoiu.eu/documents/RIZOIU\\_teaching-statement.pdf](http://www.rizoiu.eu/documents/RIZOIU_teaching-statement.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Metrics key. **ERA/CoRE:** Australian Publication Ranking; **a.r.:** acceptance rate for conferences; **h5:** the h5 metric of the venue (source Google Scholar).