



## CONTACT INFORMATION

*Address:* Department of Informatics, University of Zurich  
 Binzmühlestrasse 14, CH-8050 Zurich, Switzerland. *Office:* BIN 2.D.03  
*Tel* +41 44 63 545 78  
*E-mail:* [panichella@ifi.uzh.ch](mailto:panichella@ifi.uzh.ch) (or alternatively [spanichella@gmail.com](mailto:spanichella@gmail.com))  
*Home Page:* [www.ifi.uzh.ch/seal/people/panichella](http://www.ifi.uzh.ch/seal/people/panichella)  
*Google Scholar Ref:*  
<https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=HiNuBFgAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>  
*Detailed CV:* <https://goo.gl/VUYUa1>

## EDUCATION

Sebastiano Panichella was born (19/12/1986) in Isernia (Italy), he received (cum laude) the Laurea in Computer Science from the University of Salerno (Italy) in December 2010 defending a thesis on IR-based Traceability Recovery. He received the PhD in Computer Science from the University of Sannio (Department of Engineering) defending, in **18 July 2014**, the thesis entitled “*Supporting Newcomers in Open Source Software Development Projects*”. During the PhD his work was supervised by **Prof. Massimiliano Di Penta** and **Prof. Gerardo Canfora**.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY &amp; RESEARCH GOALS AND INTERESTS

Currently he is a (Permanent) Senior Computer Science Researcher at Zurich University of Applied Science (ZHAW), from (**20-08-2018**). Previously he was postdoc at University of Zurich (01-11-2014 - 19-08-2018) working in the lab of Prof. Gall.

His main **research goal** is to conduct industrial research, involving both industrial and academic collaborations <sup>1</sup>, to sustain the Internet of Things (IoT) vision, where future smart cities will be characterized by millions of smart systems (e.g., cyber-physical systems) connected over the internet, controlled by complex embedded software implemented for the cloud.

His **research interests** are in the domain of Software Engineering (SE) and cloud computing (CC): DevOps (e.g., Continuous Delivery, Continuous integration), Machine learning applied to SE, Software maintenance and evolution (with particular focus on Cloud, mobile, and Cyber-physical applications), Mobile Computing. Moreover, he is promoting research on *Summarization Techniques for Code, Changes, and Testing*. He is a **member of IEEE/ACM**.

These research work involved relevant industrial companies (e.g., ING NEDERLAND, Sony Mobile Communication) and their extensions will involve further industrial organizations (e.g., Allianz, Facebook, Oracle Corporation, Google, etc.) and open source projects. He serves and has served as program committee member of various international conference (e.g., ICSE, SBST, ASE, ICPC, ICSME, SANER, MSR, SEAA) and as reviewer for various international journals (e.g., TSE, TOSEM, EMSE, JSS, IST, JSEP) in the fields of software engineering and evolutionary computation. He is currently Editorial Board Member of *Journal of Software: evolution and process* (JSEP) and Lead Guest editor of special issues at EMSE and IST journals.

## INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(Permanent) Senior Research Associate at ZHAW (from 20-08-2018) and head of the cloud native initiative <sup>1</sup>

## APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

## EU projects

- Sebastiano Panichella was partially funded with Gabriele Bavota, Gerardo Canfora, Massimiliano Di Penta, in the [EU FP7-ICT-2011-8 project Markos](#), contract no. 317743. Specifically, the MARKOS project aimed to realize the prototype of a service and an interactive application providing an integrated view on the Open Source projects available the on web, focusing on functional, structural and licenses aspects of software code.

## SNF projects

- Sebastiano Panichella obtained funding (as co-applicant) for the SURF-MobileAppsData SNF (No. 200021–166275) project. The goal of the SURF-MobileAppsData project is mining mobile apps data available in app stores to support software engineers in better supporting maintenance and evolution activities for these apps (**Total SNSF (CHF) 349,926**).  
 See page: <http://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/seal/people/panichella/SNF-Projects.html>

## SUPERVISION (OR CO-SUPERVISED) OF JUNIOR RESEARCHERS AT GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE LEVEL::

(Updated information on advised students can be found: <https://spanichella.github.io/#teaching>)

## Carol V. Alexandru, PhD student at University of Zurich.

*Papers accepted at GECCO 2016, FSE 2016, SANER 2017, ICPC 2017.*

## Giovanni Grano, PhD student at University of Zurich.

*Papers accepted at WAMA 2017, SANER 2018, MaLTesQuE 2018, JSEP 2019, TSE 2020.*

## Adelina Ciurumelea, PhD student at University of Zurich.

*Papers accepted at ICSE 2017, SANER 2017.*

## Carmine Vassallo, PhD student at University of Zurich.

*Papers accepted at ICSME 2017, SANER 2018, 2 EMSE 2019 and 2020.*

## Gerald Schermann, PhD student at University of Zurich.

*Paper accepted at ICPC 2015.*

<sup>1</sup><https://blog.zhaw.ch/splab/for-researchers/cloud-native-applications/>

**Andrea Di Sorbo, PhD student at University of Sannio.**

*Papers accepted at ICSME 2015, ASE 2015, ICSE 2016, FSE 2016.*

**MASTER STUDENTS SUPERVISED:**

- **Timofey Titov, Master student at UZH. Paper accepted at MaLTeSQuE 2018.**
- **Alessandro Rigamonti, Master student at UZH. - Carmine Vassallo, Master student at University of Sannio. Paper accepted at ICPC 2014.**
- **Te Tan, master student at UZH. Advised on a Work master project related to App Store Mining..**
- **Simon Taennler, master student at UZH.**

**BACHELOR STUDENTS SUPERVISED:**

- **Ivan Taraca, bachelor student at UZH.**
- **Alexander Hofmann, UZH. - Antonio Galluccio, Bachelor student at UZH.**
- **Lucas Pelloni, Bachelor student at UZH. Paper accepted at SANER 2018.**
- **Andreas Schaufelbhl, Bachelor student at UZH. Paper accepted at SANER 2017.**
- **Stefano Giannantonio, Bachelor student at University of Molise.**

**AWARDS**

**Award as Reviewer:** Distinguished Reviewer Award SATToSE 2017 and SANER 2018.

**Best paper award:** ICPC 2011, MaLTeSQuE 2018.

**Best tool award:** ICPC 2014, SANER 2018.

**Nominations for Best Paper:** (2) SANER 2018, SANER 2017, ICSME 2014, ICPC 2014, ICSM 2013, ICST 2013.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**University of Zurich:**

- Lecturer and co-lecturer for the Software Maintenance and Evolution course in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

*Learning Goals:* Learn theories, models, tools, and processes for the maintenance and evolution of large software systems.

**University of Sannio:**

- *Lab Instructor* (December 2013) for the Programming Techniques course of Professor Gerardo Canfora

*Learning Goals:* The Languages and Grammars, JavaCC parser.

- *Teaching Assistant* for the Software Engineering course of Prof. Massimiliano Di Penta:

*Learning Goals:* Recovering Traceability Links via Information Retrieval Methods

**MEMBERSHIPS IN PANELS, BOARDS, AND INDIVIDUAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEWING ACTIVITIES**

**Keynote Speaker of International Conferences and co-located events:**

- Speaker at the Workshop on Validation, Analysis and Evolution of Software Tests - VST 2018 (<http://vst2018.scch.at/#program>)

**Editor of special Issues at International Journals:**

- Editor of a the special Issue at EMSE entitled 'Software Engineering for Mobile Applications', July 2018.
- Editor of a the special Issue at IST entitled 'User Feedback and Software Quality in the Mobile Domain', June 2018.

**Organising research workshops:**

- *Co-organizer of the CHOOSE-forum 2017* (<http://www.choose.s-i.ch/events/forum2017/index.html>)

**Organising committee member of International Conferences:**

- *Program Program Committee member* of of SSBSE 2020, ICPC 2020 - NIER Track, ICST 2020, MSR 2020, SANER (MAIN, ERA, and TOOL Tracks), SBST 2020, SANER 2019, SBST 2018, MSR 2018, SANER 2018, ICSE SRC 2018, ASE 2017, ICSME Tool Demo Track 2017, SANER ERA TRACK 2017, ICPC ERA TRACK 2017, SEAA 2017, SATToSE 2017, ICSE 2016, MSR 2016 - Mining Challenge, ICPC 2016, SEAA2016, SEAA2015, ICPC 2015, ICPC 2014.

**Session Chair of International Conferences:**

- *of the 24th IEEE International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution, and Reengineering (SANER 2017), Austria.*

**Web Chair**

- *21st International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC 2013), San Francisco, California, USA.*

**Editorial Board Member of International Journals:**

- *Journal of Software: evolution and process.*

**Reviewer for the following International Journals:**

- *Empirical Software Engineering - Transactions on Software Engineering - Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology - Journal of Systems and Software - Information and Software Technology - Journal of Software: Evolution and Process - Science of Computer Programming - Journal of Computer Science and Technology - Communications of the ACM*

**Internships**

- *May-July 2013 was visiting researcher at the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada. Supervisor: Prof. Giuliano Antoniol*

**External Reviewer of Grant Applications**

- *External Reviewer of projects submitted in the Quebec-Flanders bilateral research cooperation program*

**Research Meetings**

- *Sebastiano Panichella was invited by the National Institute of Informatics (NII), Japan, to participate in NII Shonan Meeting entitled "Mobile App Store Analytics" (Japan).*
- *Sebastiano Panichella was invited by the Adesso company, Switzerland, to participate in "Adesso Quartalsmeeting" 2016 (Zurich).*

## MAJOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

His research is funded by one Swiss National Science Foundation Grants. He is author or co-author of 55 (considering also demos, datasets and poster) papers appeared in International Conferences and Journals. These research works involved studies with industrial and open projects and received best paper awards or best paper nominations (see his main collaborators at the following link: <https://spanichella.github.io/#bio>). He supervised (or co-supervised) 9 undergrad students, 7 MSc students and currently/recently 7 PhD students. He serves and has served as a program committee member of various international conference (e.g., ICSE, ASE, FSE, ICSME, etc.). For reason of space, his contributions in the above works are described in the research output list. Dr. Panichella was selected as one of the top-20 (second in Switzerland) Most Active Early Stage Researchers (results reported by the JSS journal) Worldwide in SE. He is Editorial Board Member of Journal of Software: evolution and process (JSEP). He is also Review Board member of the EMSE and TOSEM journals. He was chair of the First International Workshop Cloud-Native Applications Design and Experience (co-located with UCC and BDCAT): [cnax.servicelaboratory.ch](https://bit.ly/2tNtEhk). See the blogpost dedicated to the event: <https://bit.ly/2tNtEhk>

## Recent Achievements of Sebastiano Panichella:

- According to the [Results reported by the JSS journal] Sebastiano Panichella was selected, according to the results reported by the JSS journal <sup>2</sup>, as one of the **top-20 (second in Switzerland) Most Active Early Stage Researchers in Software Engineering (SE)**. We take this opportunity to thank the SNF for supporting the research in SE and mobile computing with the project SURF-MobileAppsData SNF project.
- The paper [Sebastiano Panichella, Andrea Di Sorbo, Emitza Guzman, Corrado Aaron Visaggio, Gerardo Canfora, Harald C. Gall: How can I improve my app? Classifying user reviews for software maintenance and evolution. ICSME 2015: 281-290], which originated the idea behind this SNF project, is one of the **most cited papers of ICMSE 2015** (as reported in Google scholar), with over 200 citations in around 4-5 years.
- The paper ICPC wrote during the bachelor studies of Dr. Panichella-[Giovanni Capobianco, Andrea De Lucia, Rocco Oliveto, Annibale Panichella, Sebastiano Panichella: On the role of the nouns in IR-based traceability recovery. ICPC 2009: 148-157] is **among the most influential papers of ICPC in the last decade [period 2009-2019]**.

**First SNF grant & Other Funding Activities.** During the postdoctoral experience, Sebastiano wrote and got accepted a first paper, that nowadays, has over 140 citations, which makes this paper, one of the most cited at the ICSME (RANK A) conference in 2015. On top of the idea behind this work, Sebastiano wrote (100% of) a proposal that was awarded (Sebastiano figured as co-applicant with Prof. Gall) by the Swiss National Science Foundation, i.e., the project SURF-MobileAppsData SNF - No. 200021-166275- (current results of the projects are available on-line<sup>5</sup>), which is funding his research collaboration with the UZH (since 2016), on mobile computing and mobile testing, and two PhD Students. Hence, to obtain more resources, Sebastiano submitted two proposals to H2020, currently under review. Currently, he is planning to write a SINERGIA proposal, and an ERC Starting grant on topics conceptually, related, but with broader impact than this project.

**New research topics introduced during the SNF grant.** During the last years he investigated further topics in SE and CC research fields. Specifically, after the PhD, He published further (28) papers and established the basis of new research lines, not present and the UZH at the time, which are strongly related to the goals of this proposal. Among them, we can mention for example, research work on mobile computing (ICSE 2016, ICSE 2017, FSE 2016, etc.), automated testing (ICSE 2017, SANER 2018, JSEP, MaLTesQuE 2018), advanced software maintenance and evolution problems where He successfully adopted Summarization Techniques, Machine Learning and Genetic Algorithms (e.g., ICSME 2015, ASE 2015, GECCO 2016). For instance, in the field of automated testing, he proposed the first work (ICSE 2016) that demonstrates that test case summaries have an high potential to boost developers productivity during bug fixing tasks. Such preliminarily results open the roads to the research ideas discussed in this project proposal.

**His ambition** as researcher is help students evolving research topics that are relevant also in industry, developing research prototypes and tools that will inspire state-of-practice in industrial environments. Developing research prototypes and tools that are used in practice by practitioners represents an important step toward this goal. As consequence, several tools, research prototypes (e.g., YODA, SURF, DECA, ARdoc), and datasets were produced in the last years, and are available in his home page [6](#). Hence, his research involved relevant industrial companies (e.g., ING Netherland, Sony Mobile Communication) and their extensions and my future work will involve further industrial (e.g., Allianz, Facebook, Oracle Corporation, Google, etc.) and research partners (as reported in the proposal) and open source projects<sup>3</sup>.

**RESEARCH PARTNERS & COLLABORATIONS established in the last years:** (collaborations summarized at <https://spanichella.github.io/#collaborations>)

**Established Research partners interested to collaborate to the proposed project and in general with Dr. Panichella:** University of Luxembourg, Dr. Bianculli and Dr. Pastore (Testing, Requirement engineering, and formal verification); (RT1- 3) Simula8, Department of Engineering, Dr. Shaukat (Cyber-Physical Systems of Systems); (RT2) Delft University of Technology, Dr. Zaidman (automated testing); (RT1) Tampere University of Technology, Prof. Davide Taibi (DevOps, cloud computing); Prof. Robles (Mining Software Repositories techniques). With most of the aforementioned (excluding Prof. Robles, that recently published with us a paper at Onward 2018) partners we submitted strategic EU proposals during 2019, to sustain the research goals of this SNF proposal and our collaborations. Moreover, with Prof. Scaramuzza (UZH) and Prof. Zhendong (ETH), we recently exploring the opportunity to submit in future a SNF SINERGIA proposal, on close related topics of this proposal. Finally, Dr. Haidar Osman (Swisscom) and Prof Yu Zhou (we recently published 2 papers together ICSE 2017, TSE 2019), will also support the project.

---

<sup>2</sup><https://bit.ly/2DdpQgJ>

<sup>3</sup><https://spanichella.github.io/#bio>

### **Established Research partners willing to act as co-advisors of the students of the submitted/accepted EU/SNF proposals:**

- Prof. Tonella (USI, Switzerland),
- Prof. Zaidman (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands)

In both cases, the eventual Ph.D. students will work at the ZHAW (Winterthur), under the direct supervision of Dr. Panichella, and will be co-advised by Prof. Tonella and Prof. Zaidman. Other potential co-advisors in Switzerland and abroad are from Simula, Department of Engineering, Dr. Shaukat; Prof Yu Zhou (we recently published 2 papers together ICSE 2017, TSE 2019). Research collaborations are planned also with Prof. Scaramuzza (UZH) and Prof. Zhendong (ETH).

### **Collaborations with the industrial partners (via the involvement in research papers and project proposals):**

- Siemens AG and Siemens Healthcare GmbH Germany 2019-05-Today
- Intelligentia S.r.l. Italy 2020-01-Today
- AICAS GmbH Germany 2020-01-Today
- Q-media s.r.o. Czech Republic 2020-01-Today
- Unparallel Innovation LDA Portugal 2019-01-Today
- The Open Group (Scott Hansen) Belgium 2019-01-Today
- Siemens (Rubner, Carolin) Germany 2019-01-Today
- GMV <https://www.gmv.com> Spain 2019-01-Today
- <https://www.intelligentia.eu> (Italy); 2019-01-Today
- SOHEILA DEGHANZADEH <https://www.denso.com/de/en/innovation/> 2019-01-Today
- Haidar Osman (Senior Data Scientist - Swisscom, Switzerland); 2018-Today - Red Hat Switzerland 2018-Today
- <https://vshn.ch/en/> Switzerland 2018-Today
- <https://ikubinfo.al/> Austria 2018-Today
- Daniele Romano (ING Netherlands); 2017-Today
- Junji Shimagaki (Sony Mobile Communications); 2016-Today

### **Established Internal ZHAW collaborations with the Robotics lab & Exploitation Plans:**

Internally at the ZHAW, Dr. Panichella will collaborate with Dr. Toffetti, from the robotics lab, which have robotics prototypes to experiment the techniques concerning Dr. Panichella research interests. ZHAW (Dr. Panichella) plans to exploit tools and technologies developed in his research projects, involving industrial organizations in Switzerland (e.g., Red Hat), including companies in which CPS are critical for their business. Dr. Panichella disseminates his projects results within software engineering, cloud computing, and robotics courses at the Bachelor/Master level, thus fostering technological transfer to future employees of enterprises in the territory. Finally, Dr. Panichella is committed to establish the open source tools developed within his projects, to promote the evolution of CPS ecosystems.

### **TEACHING (UZH and ZHAW) activities & Achievements:**

**University of Zurich:** Sebastiano is the lecturer for the Software Maintenance and Evolution course at the UZH (related to Maintenance and evolution of large, cloud-based software systems), period 2014-Present 10. During the course Sebastiano teaches to the students the foundations of software evolution and maintenance, by integrating recent research in both cloud computing and software engineering fields, thus transferring to students also this recent research outputs (in form of papers, datasets, tools and prototypes). This includes successful aged (i.e. legacy software) or cloud-based software systems, object-oriented reengineering, refactoring, change patterns, empirical analysis of software, classification/prediction models, software quality analysis.

### **Zurich University of Applied Science:**

- Co-lecturer for the CAS Information Engineering in 2018-Present Learning Goals: The main features of the Python programming language.
- Lab Instructor for the Programming course in Java in 2018-Present Learning Goals: The main features of the Java programming language.

**Teaching Achievements.** Dr. Panichella received positive lecture grades, improving them over the time, as commented by some students following his course at the UZH: - *"Dear Sebastiano, Thank you for the mail [...] I really appreciate that you were so supportive during my project ... I am super happy with the result, as it is actually a working system that I can use even outside of the mostly virtual space of a typical UZH project..."*. - *"Sebastiano promotes during the course critical thinking on the taught research topics ...."*

### **DATASET & TOOLS:**

A comprehensive and updated list of shared datasets/tools to the research community by Sebastiano is available at <https://spanichella.github.io>