



March 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am glad to write this letter of recommendation for Dra. Francielle Vargas, who recently completed her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of São Paulo under my supervision. Throughout her doctoral studies, Francielle has consistently demonstrated exceptional intellectual curiosity, technical expertise, and a strong commitment to advancing the fields of Natural Language Processing (NLP), Explainability, and Responsible AI.

Her research, focused on socially responsible and explainable fact-checking and hate speech detection, has made significant contributions to both academia and industry. In her PhD thesis, she tackled the critical challenge of improving the transparency and fairness of AI systems, particularly in politically and socially sensitive contexts. She developed novel methodologies, including SELFAR (Sentence-Level Factual Reasoning for Explainable Fact-Checking), which have set new benchmark for model interpretability in Portuguese. Additionally, she created multiple high-impact datasets—such as HateBR, HateBRXplain, FactNews, and HausaHate—that have been widely adopted by the NLP community.

Francielle's work has not gone unnoticed. She has received several prestigious awards, including the Google Latin America Research Award (LARA), as well as Diversity and Inclusion Grants from EMNLP and NAACL. Her research excellence has also led to multiple invited talks at top institutions, including the University of Southern California (USC) and the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (GESIS), where she presented her findings on AI ethics, misinformation detection, and bias mitigation.

Beyond her technical achievements, Francielle is an outstanding collaborator and mentor. She has played a leading role in international research projects, co-organizing workshops such as DeepXplain @ IJCNN and WOAHA @ ACL, and serving as a reviewer for top-tier NLP conferences and journals. Her ability to work across disciplines and foster productive research environments makes her an invaluable member of any academic or research team.

I have no doubt that Francielle will continue to make groundbreaking contributions to the field of Trustworthy AI and NLP. She is a highly motivated and independent researcher with the rare ability to translate theoretical advancements into practical applications with societal impact. I give her my highest recommendation for any industry or research position she pursues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thiago Alexandre Salgueiro Pardo".

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