

Francesco Salvi

MSC STUDENT · COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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Education

EPFL

Lausanne, Switzerland

MSC IN COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Sept. 2021 - Mar. 2024

- **GPA: 5.80/6.** Keywords: **Computational Social Science, Natural Language Processing, Network Science** and Data Science.
- **Class delegate**, representing 40+ students to the Section, the Executive Board and the General Students Association.
- Student **Teaching Assistant** for "Applied Data Analysis" (Fall 2022) and "Machine Learning for behavioral data" (Spring 2022).

University of Bologna

Bologna, Italy

BSC IN PHYSICS

Sept. 2018 - July 2021

- Grade: **110/110 cum laude**. Final **GPA: 29.96/30, top 0.25% of all UniBo students**.
- UniBo grant for students with outstanding academic records, awarded to **< 0.5% of students** from the whole university.

Experience

DemoSquare

Lausanne, Switzerland

INTERN

Apr. 2024 - Present

- Developing predictive models for the legislative process within the European Parliament.

Fondazione Bruno Kessler

Trento, Italy

VISITING FELLOW

Sept. 2023 - Feb. 2024

- Developed a randomized controlled experiment (**JavaScript, React**) to study the persuasiveness of LLMs in online debates.
- Managed 1300+ participants on Prolific with a budget of over £4000.

EPFL | NLP Lab

Lausanne, Switzerland

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

June 2023 - Sept. 2023

- Trained medical LLMs for doctors at scale via **continued pretraining** and **supervised instruction-tuning** of LLaMA2-70B.
- Adapted efficient model-parallel (tensor, sequence, and pipeline) and multi-node infrastructure for distributed training on a large cluster.

Bain & Company | NPSx

Munich, Germany

ASSOCIATE INTERN, DATA SCIENCE

July 2022 - Sept. 2022

- Created **predictive models for NPS and CLV**, cornerstones of a product now sold to Fortune 500 companies.

Publications

- **Salvi F.**, Ribeiro M., Gallotti R., West R. *On the Conversational Persuasiveness of Large Language Models: A Randomized Controlled Trial*. Accepted to **IC2S2 2024** and **under review at Nature Human Behaviour**.
- EPFL LLM Team. *MEDITRON-70B: Scaling Medical Pretraining for Large Language Models*. **Under review at Nature**.
- Suresh A., **Salvi F.***, Radojevic L.*, Magron A, Kristof V., Grossglauser M. *Studying Lobby Influence in the European Parliament*. **NAACL 2024**

Projects

Topical classification of Wikipedia images

RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE [DATA SCIENCE LAB](#)

Feb. 2022 - Present

- Developing a hierarchical classifier for Wikipedia images, categorizing them only by their topic in a weak supervision framework.
- Year-long collaboration with [Wikimedia Research](#), soon to be wrapped up with a first-author publication (*in preparation*).

A data-driven Political Compass

APPLIED DATA ANALYSIS COURSE PROJECT

Sept. 2021 - Dec. 2021

- Analyzed a dataset of ~180 mln quotations with **Apache Spark** within Python.
- Leveraged **Topic Extraction** and **Sentiment Analysis** to infer a new Political Compass and curated a [data story](#) on US politics.

Extracurricular Activity

Lead The Future

MENTEE

Sept. 2020 - Present

- Selected to be part of LeadTheFuture, a **leading mentorship organization** for Italian students in STEM, with acceptance rate < 20%.
- Part of the team reviewing applications for the 2023-24 cycle.

Italian Association of Physics Students (AISF)

Bologna, Italy

PRESIDENT OF BOLOGNA LOCAL COMMITTEE

June 2019 - June 2020

- Elected **President of Bologna Local Committee** of AISF, an association gathering together more than 1400 Italian physics students.
- Organised conferences, scientific aperitifs, LaTeX courses, visits to research centres and social events with 50+ participants.