

EMANUEL LACIĆ

Operations Area Manager

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EXPERIENCE

Know-Center GmbH

Operations Area Manager

January 2021 – Current

Graz, Austria

Leading the research area Social Computing with a strong focus on applied recommender systems and social network analysis.

Senior Researcher & Recommender Systems Architect

September 2016 – December 2020

Graz, Austria

Management, lead development and consulting on industry projects in the domain of recommendation systems.

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Visiting Scholar

January 2018 – July 2018

Los Angeles, USA

Research on the utilization of Deep Learning methods for session-based recommendation.

Graz University of Technology

University/Project Assistant

October 2013 – August 2016

Graz, Austria

Knowledge extraction, construction and utilization of social network data with the objective to deliver relevant information to businesses and users. EU funded project Learning Layers, supported by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Program.

1&1 Internet AG

Junior Software Developer

January 2013 – September 2013

Karlsruhe, Germany

Ruby development on internal central administration and monitoring solution used by the Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) and IT Operations (ITO) departments. Project development through Scrum.

FZI Forschungszentrum Informatik

Java Developer

May 2012 – November 2012

Karlsruhe, Germany

Developing for the Mirror project (co-funded by European Commission IST 7th Framework Program).

Infobip

Software Engineer

May 2011 – January 2012

Zagreb, Croatia

Design, development and maintenance of enterprise applications in the field of mobile cloud services (SMS, HLR, USSD, etc.).

EDUCATION

Graz University of Technology

PhD in Computer Science

2013 – Current

Graz, Austria

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

M.Sc. in Software Engineering and Information Systems

2010 – 2012

Zagreb, Croatia

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

B.Sc. in Software Engineering and Information Systems

2007 – 2010

Zagreb, Croatia

RECENT SERVICES

Modeling Social Media Workshop

Reviewer

January 2019

MDPI's Information OA Journal

Reviewer

January 2019

Neural recommendation track of the ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management

Track Chair

October 2018

Turin, Italy

Recommender Systems and Social Network Analysis Workshop

Organizer & Workshop Chair

October 2017

Graz, Austria

International Symposium on Open Collaboration

Reviewer

May 2017

Recommender Systems and Big Data Analytics Workshop

Organizer & Workshop Chair

October 2016

Graz, Austria


RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Lacic, E., Reiter-Haas, M., Kowald, D., Dareddy, M., Cho, J., & Lex, E. **Using Autoencoders for Session-based Job Recommendations.** In User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction (UMUAI) Journal. Springer 2020
2. Duricic, T., Hussain, H., Lacic, E., Kowald, D., Helic, D., & Lex, E. **Empirical Comparison of Graph Embeddings for Trust-Based Collaborative Filtering.** In Proceedings of the 25th International Symposium on Intelligent Systems (ISMIS'2020). Springer
3. Lacic, E., Reiter-Haas, M., Duricic, M., Slawicek, V. & Lex, E. **Should we Embed? A Study on the Online Performance of Utilizing Embeddings for Real-Time Job Recommendations.** In Proceedings of the 13th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'2019). ACM
4. Lacic, E., Kowald, D. & Lex, E. **Neighborhood Troubles: On the Value of User Pre-Filtering To Speed Up and Enhance Recommendations.** In International Workshop on Entity Retrieval (EYRE'2018) Workshop co-located with CIKM'2018
5. Kowald, D., Lacic, E., Theiler, D. & Lex, E. **AFEL-REC: A Recommender System for Providing Learning Resource Recommendations in Social Learning Environments.** In Social Interaction-Based Recommender Systems (SIR'2018) Workshop co-located with CIKM'2018
6. Duricic, T., Lacic, E., Kowald, D. & Lex, E. **Trust-Based Collaborative Filtering: Tackling the Cold Start Problem Using Regular Equivalence.** In Proceedings of the 12th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'2018). ACM
7. Lacic, E., Traub, M., Duricic, T., Haslauer, E. & Lex, E. **Gone in 30 days! Predictions for car import planning.** In it - Information Technology Journal, 2018, 60(4), pp. 219-228.
8. Lacic, E., Kowald, D., Reiter-Haas, M., Slawicek, V. & Lex, E. **Beyond Accuracy Optimization: On the Value of Item Embeddings for Student Job Recommendation.** In the International Workshop on Multi-dimensional Information Fusion for User Modeling and Personalization co-located with WSDM'2018
9. Lacic, E. **Real-Time Recommendations in a Multi-Domain Environment.** ACM SIGWEB Newsletter (Autumn 2017).
10. Reiter-Haas, M., Slawicek, V. & Lacic, E. **Studo Jobs: Enriching Data With Predicted Job Labels.** In Workshop on Recommender Systems and Social Network Analysis co-located with i-KNOW'2017
11. Lacic, E., Kowald, D. & Lex, E. **Tailoring Recommendations for a Multi-Domain Environment.** In Workshop on Intelligent Recommender Systems by Knowledge Transfer & Learning co-located with the 11th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'2017)
12. Traub, M., Lacic, E., Kowald, D., Kahr, M. & Lex, E. **Need Help? Recommending Social Care Institutions.** In Workshop on Recommender Systems and Big Data Analytics co-located with i-KNOW'2016
13. Lacic, E. **Real-Time Recommendations in a Multi-Domain Environment.** In Extended Proceedings of the 27th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT'2016)
14. Lacic, E., Kowald, D., & Lex, E. **High Enough?: Explaining and Predicting Traveler Satisfaction Using Airline Reviews.** In Proceedings of the 27th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT'2016)
15. Traub, M., Kowald, D., Lacic, E., Schoen, P., Supp, G., & Lex, E. **Smart booking without looking: providing hotel recommendations in the TripRebel portal.** ,p. 50. ACM. (best demo honourable mention) In Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Knowledge Technologies and Data-driven Business (i-KNOW'2015)

LANGUAGES

Croatian (Native) English (C1)
German (C1) Russian (A1)

CERTIFICATION

 **Agile Software Engineering (ASE)**
Agile software development process and Scrum at Andrena Objects AG. Karlsruhe, Germany. August, 2012


SUPERVISED THESES

Fadljevic, L. (2017) Analysis and Prediction of Movie Preferences. **Master Thesis.** University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (cooperation with the Know-Center in Graz, Austria).


Duricic, T. (2015) Real-time recommendations based on social trust. **Master Thesis.** University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (cooperation with the Know-Center in Graz, Austria).


AWARDS AND GRANTS


 **2018 Marshall Plan Fellowship**
Visiting Scholar Fellowship to conduct individual in-depth research on the topic of session-based recommendation at University of California, Los Angeles.

 **2016 Travel Grant**
For the 27th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (Hypertext'16) in Halifax, Canada.

€ **2015 Project Grant**
For Data Market Austria (DMA), IKT der Zukunft, 286k€ for the Know-Center as technology contributor for the recommender system-based brokerage platform.

 **2015 Best Demo Honourable Mention**
At the 15th International Conference on Knowledge Technologies and Data-Driven Business (i-KNOW'15) in Graz, Austria.

 **2014 Best Poster Award**
At the 25th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (Hypertext'14) in Santiago, Chile.

 **2012 Erasmus Scholarship**
For the final Master year at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe, Germany.