Maria-Teresa De Rosa Palmini

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PROFILE

PhD researcher at the University of Zurich, working on evaluation benchmarking and explainability for multimodal AI models. Her research investigates how generative systems learn, represent, and reproduce cultural and societal knowledge, as well as how users interpret and interact with AI-generated content. By integrating methods from machine learning, digital humanities, and human–AI interaction, her work aims to support the development of AI systems that are more transparent, interpretable, and aligned with human values.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AI Ethics · Multimodal Models · Model Evaluation & Explainability · Human–AI Interaction · Bias and Fairness

EDUCATION

PhD Student in Digital Society Initiative
University of Zurich (UZH), Zurich, Switzerland   Feb 2024 – Present
Advisor: Dr. Eva Cetinić.
Project: The Canon of Latent Spaces: How Large AI Models Encode Art and Culture (SNSF Ambizione Grant).

Master of Arts (M.A.), Speech and Language Processing
University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany   Sep 2021 – Sep 2023
Major: Natural Language Processing & Artificial Intelligence.
Overall GPA: 1.3/1 (First-Class Honours).

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), English Language and Literature
National Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Athens, Greece   Sep 2017 – Jun 2021
Major: Theoretical & Applied Linguistics.
Overall GPA: 8.71/10 (First-Class Honours).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Community Manager, Digital Humanities Group
University of Zurich (UZH), Zurich, Switzerland   Jan 2025 – Present
Responsibilities include organizing workshops, lectures, and research events, strengthening collaboration across the Digital Humanities community.

Linguistic Data Analyst
Intento, Inc. — Remote   Sep 2023 – Jan 2024
AI Curation Team. Analyzed and prepared linguistic datasets for MT quality improvement, contributed to model evaluation, fine-tuning, and LQA-driven performance optimization.

Graduate Teaching Assistant
University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany   Sep 2022 – Mar 2023
Tutor for *Machine Language Processing*, introducing core NLP concepts to Master's students.

Graduate Research Assistant
University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany   Feb 2022 – Sep 2023
Project: CUEPAQ — Visual Analytics and Linguistics for Capturing, Understanding, and Explaining Personalized Argument Quality.
Conducted research on the impact of semantic, stylistic, and linguistic features on argument quality.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Organizer, *From Hype to Reality: AI in the Study of Art and Culture* Symposium
Digital Society Initiative, University of Zurich   Nov 2025
Responsibilities included program curation, speaker coordination, scheduling, event communication, and website maintenance.

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

2025

The Persistence of Cultural Memory: Investigating Multimodal Iconicity in Diffusion Models (2025).
Maria-Teresa De Rosa Palmini, Eva Cetinić.
Under review at CVPR 2026.

Synthetic History: Evaluating Visual Representation of the Past in Diffusion Models (2025).
Maria-Teresa De Rosa Palmini, Eva Cetinić.
Under review at ICLR 2026.

Exploring Language Patterns of Prompts in Text-to-Image Generation and Their Impact on Visual Diversity (2025).
Maria-Teresa De Rosa Palmini, Eva Cetinić.
Accepted at FAccT 2025.

2024

Civiverse: A Dataset for Analyzing User Engagement with Open-Source Text-to-Image Models (2024).
Maria-Teresa De Rosa Palmini, Laura Wagner, Eva Cetinić.
Accepted at ECCV 2024, CEGIS, oral.

TALKS

Exploring Language Patterns of Prompts in Text-to-Image Generation and Their Impact on Visual Diversity.
Talk given at FAccT 2025.

Synthetic History: Evaluating Visual Representation of the Past in Diffusion Models.
Talk given at the DHCH 2025 Biases in Computer Technology and AI Workshop.

Civiverse: A Dataset for Analyzing User Engagement with Open-Source Text-to-Image Models.
Talk given at the ECCV 2024 Critical Evaluation of Generative Models and their Impact on Society (CEGIS) Workshop.

Surface Aesthetics: The Secret Formula of Prompting.
Talk given at the Hidden Layers AI & Design 2024 Conference, organized by the Köln International School of Design (KISD). (Available online.)

GRADUATE SUMMER SCHOOLS

Safe & Trusted AI Summer School.
Imperial College London, London, UK   2025

Artificial Intelligence & Creativity Summer School.
University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy   2024

LANGUAGE SKILLS & CERTIFICATES

English (C2): Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE).
French (C1): Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF C1).
Spanish (B2): Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE B2).
German (B1): Currently improving.
Greek: Native.
Italian: Native.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python (Advanced), R (Intermediate).

Machine Learning Libraries: PyTorch, Transformers, Scikit-Learn.

Other Tools: Git, Linux, Jupyter, Hugging Face, Weights & Biases.

VOLUNTEERING WORK

Teaching English to Refugees — Curing the Limbo Initiative.
Athens, Greece   Jun 2021 – Sep 2021

Youth Leader — City Bound Europe Programme.
Berlin, Germany   Aug 2019

Global Volunteer — AIESEC International Exchange.
Krakow, Poland   Jun 2018 – Aug 2018