

# MORITZ SIMON VANDENHIRTZ

PhD Student focusing on Generative AI & Interpretability  
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## EDUCATION

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ETH ZURICH ..... ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

**2022 – 2026     PhD Student in Machine Learning**

Research Focus: Generative AI, Interpretable ML, Computer Vision

Supervisors: Prof. Julia E. Vogt, Prof. Bjoern H. Menze

Affiliation: Institute of Machine Learning, ETH Zurich, Associated PhD Student at ETH AI Center

**2022             Master of Science in Statistics**

GPA: 5.98/6 (Class Rank 1)

Thesis: Interpretable Approach to Discover and Remove Hidden Biases in Medical Datasets

Supervisor: Prof. Julia E. Vogt

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH ..... ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

**2020             Bachelor of Arts in Business and Economics**

GPA: 5.84/6 (Class Rank 2)

Thesis: Additive, High Dimensional Models for Predicting Stock Returns

Supervisor: Prof. Michael Wolf

## HONORS & AWARDS

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**2024             [Oral and 6 Posters at ICML Workshops](#)**

**2023             [Spotlight Poster at NeurIPS](#)**

**2022             [Willi Studer Prize by ETH Zurich for the best master's degree in Statistics \(D-MATH\)](#)**

**2021             [Swiss Study Foundation \(2021-2023\)](#)**

**2020             Summa cum Laude distinction by University of Zurich for B.A. in Business and Economics**

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Computer Vision, Deep Learning, Foundation Models, Generative AI, Image Processing, Multimodality, NLP  
Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow, R, Git, LaTeX, Microsoft Office, Slurm, MATLAB, SQL

## PUBLICATIONS

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**2024             Stochastic Concept Bottleneck Models**

**Vandenhirtz\*, M.**, Laguna\*, S., Marcinkevics, R., & Vogt, J. E.

*Neural Information Processing Systems (2024)*

**2024             Beyond Concept Bottleneck Models: How to Make Black Boxes Intervenable?**

Laguna\*, S., Marcinkevics\*, R., **Vandenhirtz, M.**, & Vogt, J. E.

*Neural Information Processing Systems (2024)*

**2023             [Tree Variational Autoencoders](#)**

Manduchi\*, L., **Vandenhirtz\*, M.**, Ryser, A., & Vogt, J. E.

**Spotlight** at *Neural Information Processing Systems (2023)*

**2023             [This Reads Like That: Deep Learning for Interpretable Natural Language Processing](#)**

Fanconi\*, C., **Vandenhirtz\*, M.**, Husmann, S., & Vogt, J. E.

*Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (2023)*

**2022             [Two Decades of Active Surveillance for Prostate Cancer in a Single-Center Cohort: Favorable Outcomes after Transurethral Resection of the Prostate](#)**

Hagmann, Sarah, **et al.**

*Cancers 14.2 (2022)*

## WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024**      [scTree: Discovering Cellular Hierarchies in the Presence of Batch Effects in scRNA-seq Data](#)  
**Vandenhirtz\*, M.**, Barkmann\*, F., Manduchi, L., Boeva, V., & Vogt, J. E.  
**Oral** at *Efficient Foundation Models for Biological Discovery Workshop at ICML (2024)*
- 2024**      [Structured Generations: Using Hierarchical Clusters to Guide Diffusion Models](#)  
Gonçalves, J., Manduchi, L., **Vandenhirtz, M.**, & Vogt, J. E.  
*Structured Probabilistic Inference & Generative Modeling Workshop at ICML (2024)*
- 2023**      [Signal Is Harder To Learn Than Bias: Debiasing with Focal Loss](#)  
**Vandenhirtz, M.**, Manduchi, L., Marcinkevičs, R., & Vogt, J. E.  
**Spotlight** at *Domain Generalization Workshop at ICLR (2023)*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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ALLIANZ SUISSE ..... ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

- 2019**      **Data Science and Central Controlling Intern**  
Learnings: forecasting, implementation of new statistical methods,  
communication of statistical results, critical thinking, problem-solving

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### PEER REVIEWING

- 2024**      Neural Information Processing Systems  
**2024**      Models of Human Feedback for AI Alignment Workshop at ICML  
**2023**      Deep Generative Models for Health Workshop at NeurIPS

### THESES SUPERVISION

- 2024\***      Bernold, N. “Generative B-Cos Networks” (\*current)  
**2024\***      Hoffmann, W. “Post-Hoc Stochastic Concept Bottleneck Models” (\*current)  
**2024\***      Ebeling, N. “Time and Spectral Diffusion Models for Cardiac Time-Series” (\*current)  
**2024\***      Makonnen, M. “Measuring Leakage in Concept Bottleneck Models” (\*current)  
**2024**      Carballo, A. “Interpretable Capabilities of Concept-Enhanced Diffusion and Prototype Networks”  
**2024**      Dekas, D. “Clinical Evaluation of Antibiotic Reducing ML Method”  
**2024**      Gonçalves, J. [“Enhancing TreeVAE with Diffusion Models”](#)  
**2023**      Scherrer, D. [“DREAM: Detecting and Reducing Excessive Antibiotic Medication using ML”](#)

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2024**      Advanced Machine Learning (252-0535-00)  
**2023 – 2024**      Machine Learning for Healthcare (261-5120-00)  
**2023**      Foundations of Computer Science (252-0852-00)  
**2019 – 2022**      Statistics (03SM22AOEC10)  
**2019 – 2022**      Introductory Econometrics (BOEC0004)

## LANGUAGES

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German (native), English (Cambridge C2 Proficiency Level), French (B1)

## HOBBIES

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Renting billboards; playing games (top 1% in chess, hearthstone, rocket league, s4 league), guitar, salsa, handball

## REFERENCES

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References are available upon request