

Nil-Jana Akpinar

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POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Amazon Web Services

Postdoctoral Scientist, Responsible AI

Pittsburgh, PA

Sept 2023 -

LinkedIn Corporation

Artificial Intelligence Machine Learning Engineering Intern, Responsible AI

Sunnyvale, CA

May 2021 - Aug 2021

LinkedIn Corporation

Fairness and Privacy Research Engineering Intern, Anti-Abuse

Sunnyvale, CA

May 2020 - Aug 2020

University of Freiburg

Research Assistant, Information Systems Research Department

Germany

Apr 2016 - July 2018

Concordia University

Visiting Researcher

Montréal, Canada

Sept 2016 - Nov 2016

EDUCATION

PhD in Statistics and Machine Learning (joint), Carnegie Mellon University

Aug 2018 - Aug 2023

MS in Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University

Aug 2018 - May 2020

MS in Mathematics, University of Freiburg (Germany)

Oct 2015 - July 2018

BS in Economics, University of Freiburg (Germany)

Oct 2013 - Sept 2017

BS in Mathematics, University of Freiburg (Germany)

Oct 2012 - Sept 2015

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, Lipton, Z., Chouldechova, A. (2023) *The Impact of Differential Feature Underreporting on Algorithmic Fairness*. Under review.
- **Akpinar, N.-J.***, Leqi, L.*, Hadfield-Menell, D. and Lipton, Z. (2022) *Counterfactual Metrics for Auditing Black-Box Recommender Systems for Ethical Concerns*. Workshop on Responsible Decision Making in Dynamic Environments. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2022). Working paper.
- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, Nagireddy, M., Stapelton, L., Cheng, H.-F., Zhu, H., Wu, S. and Heidari, H. (2022) *A Sandbox Tool to Bias(Stress)-Test Fairness Algorithms*. Poster at the Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2022). Full paper under review, preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.10233>.
- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, DiCiccio, C., Nandy, P. and Basu, K. (2022) *Long-Term Dynamics of Fairness Intervention in Connection Recommender Systems*. AAAI / ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2022).
- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, De-Arteaga, M. and Chouldechova, A. (2021) *The effect of differential victim crime reporting on predictive policing systems*. Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2021).
- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, Ramdas, A. and Acar, U. (2020) *Analyzing Student Strategies In Blended Courses Using Clickstream Data*. Thirteenth International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM 2020).
- **Akpinar, N.-J.**, Kratzwald, B. and Feuerriegel, S. (2020). *Sample Complexity Bounds for Recurrent Neural Networks with Application to Combinatorial Graph Problems*. Thirty-Fourth Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2020) (Student Abstract).

* denotes equal contribution

SELECTED AWARDS

- Amazon Graduate Research Fellowship (2021)
- AAAI best three minute student presentation award (2020)
- Full study scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation (2013 - 2018)