

Paolo Gajo

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PhD student in NLP at the University of Bologna. Current PhD work involves researching graph neural networks and large language models, and their use for semantic dependency parsing, information extraction, and natural language understanding of graph-structured texts. My thesis is on the application of these techniques for the automatic adaptation of culinary recipes, based on user dietary constraints.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Paolo Gajo**, Domenic Rosati, Hassan Sajjad, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. Dependency Parsing is More Parameter-Efficient with Normalization. In *Proceedings of the 39th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2025)*, 2025.
- **Paolo Gajo** and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. Natural vs Programming Language in LLM Knowledge Graph Construction. *Information Processing & Management*, 62(5):104195, 2025.
- **Paolo Gajo**, Daniele Polizzi, Adriano Ferraresi, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. LEARN: on the feasibility of Learner Error AutoRegressive Neural annotation. In *CLiC-it 2025: 11th Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics*, 2025.
- **Paolo Gajo** and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. On Cross-Language Entity Label Projection and Recognition. In *CLiC-it 2024: 10th Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics*, 2024.
- **Paolo Gajo**, Luca Giordano, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. UniBO at CheckThat! 2024: Multi-lingual and Multi-label Persuasion Technique Detection in News with Data Augmentation and Sequence-Token Classifiers. In *Working Notes of CLEF 2024 - Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum*, CLEF 2024, pages 426–434, Grenoble, France, 2024.
- **Paolo Gajo**, Arianna Muti, Katerina Korre, Silvia Bernardini, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. On the Identification and Forecasting of Hate Speech in Inceldom. In Ruslan Mitkov and Galia Angelova, editors, *Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing*, pages 373–384, Varna, Bulgaria, September 2023. INCOMA Ltd., Shoumen, Bulgaria.
- **Paolo Gajo**, Silvia Bernardini, Adriano Ferraresi, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. Hate Speech Detection in an Italian Incel Forum Using Bilingual Data for Pre-Training and Fine-Tuning. In Federico Boschetti and Nicole Novielli Gianluca E. Leboni, Bernardo Magnini, editors, *CLiC-it 2023: 9th Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics*, volume 3596, Venice, Italy, 2023. CEUR-WS, CEUR-WS.
- Katerina Korre, John Pavlopoulos, **Paolo Gajo**, and Alberto Barrón-Cedeño. Hate Speech According to the Law: An Analysis for Effective Detection. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.06144*, 2024.

PROJECTS

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|---|------|
| Local Dish Semantic Recommendation System | 2025 |
| • Built a local dish recommendation system, semantic-querying a novel dataset of GialloZafferano recipes, annotated with geospatial information. Code: GitHub | |
| GIARA: Gastronomy and AI for a welcoming Romagna Region | 2024 |
| • Collaborated on the development of a text localization system for texts characterized by a high density of terms with highly contextual regional and cultural value (realia). Website: Unibo.it | |
| Automatic Subtitle Segmenter | 2023 |
| • Developed a seq2seq model that automatically segments subtitles by fine-tuning on a dataset of subtitles personally built from scratch. Code: GitHub | |

SKILLS

Programming	Python, Bash
Infrastructure	On-prem HPC (Slurm), AWS (EC2, S3)
Libraries	PyTorch, NumPy, Transformers, Pandas, Sci-Kit Learn, SpaCy, Selenium, BeautifulSoup, NetworkX
Software	Git, VS Code, LaTeX, Overleaf, Excel, Label Studio
Text processing	RegEx, Sketch Engine, AntConc, BootCaT
Translation	Trados, MemoQ, MateCat, MultiTerm, Subtitle Edit, Aegisub

EDUCATION

Dalhousie University

Halifax, Canada

Visiting @ [Hypermatrix](#)

Sep 2024 – Sep 2025

- Researching graph neural networks and text-to-graph models. Supervisor: [Prof. Hassan Sajjad](#).
- Courses attended: CSCI 3151 - Foundations of Machine Learning, CSCI 6908 - NLP with Deep Learning, CSCI 6516 - Deep Learning, CSCI 6904 - Deep Reinforcement Learning.

University of Bologna

Forlì, Italy

PhD in Natural Language Processing

2023 – Present

- 3-Year PhD on NLP for the study of gastronomy using graphs neural networks and large language models. Supervisor: [Prof. Alberto Barrón-Cedeño](#).

University of Bologna

Forlì, Italy

MA in Specialized Translation (110/110 Summa Cum Laude)

2021 – 2023

- 2-Year degree on translation technologies and translation in English, Spanish, and Italian.
- Thesis: *This Is My Cope: Identification and Forecasting of Hate Speech in Inceldom*. Code: [GitHub](#)

Ca' Foscari University

Treviso, Italy

BA in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation (110/110 Summa Cum Laude)

2018 – 2021

- 3-Year degree focusing on translation and interpreting in English, Spanish, and Italian.
- Thesis: *Practical Application of Subtitling Guidelines - Intralingual and Interlingual Subtitling of the Short Film "Group B"*

INVITED TALKS

Osaka University

Osaka, Japan

Seminar

September 2025

- Topic: Dependency parsing on procedural texts.

Expo 2025

Osaka, Japan

Short presentation

September 2025

- Three-minute pitch on culinary recipe understanding and adaptation, followed by a panel discussion.

Dalhousie University

Halifax, Canada

Lecture

March 2025

- Lecture on Geometric Deep Learning for the CSCI 6908 - NLP with Deep Learning course.

Cardiff University

Cardiff, Wales

Poster presentation

July 2024

- Topic: Data augmentation via MT and label projection in the culinary domain.

University of Bari Aldo Moro

Bari, Italy

Poster presentation

June 2024

- Topic: Data augmentation via MT for the improvement of NER models in the culinary domain.

TEACHING

Deep Learning Reading Group

- Organizing meetings and presenting chapters from the book [“Understanding Deep Learning”](#).

2025

SUPERVISION

MA Thesis in MT for English-Swahili

- Co-supervising an MA thesis on the development of an EN-SW MT model for medical texts.

2025

REVIEWING

ACL Rolling Review (ARR)

2024 – Present

WORK EXPERIENCE

Transperfect

Remote

Freelance Translator

2016 – Present

- Translation of Blizzard Entertainment eSports articles, subtitling of Amazon AWS company videos, subtitling for the deaf and hard-of-hearing of over 30 Nickelodeon TV series. Mobile and desktop video game translations, feature-length film subtitling, subtitles for Netflix documentaries.

Parole O Stili

Forlì, Italy

Translator

Jun 2022 – Jan 2023

- Translation and localization of training material for schools and businesses concerning non-hostile and inclusive language.

LANGUAGES

Italian: Native

English: C2 (CEFR)

Spanish: C2 (CEFR)