

Sara Hamidi

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EDUCATION

M.S. Computational Social Science | University of California, San Diego

June 2025c

Relevant Coursework:

- *Machine Learning for Social Scientists*
- *Statistical computing and Inference*
- *Deep Learning*

B.S. Informatics | University of Washington - Seattle

Sep. 2020 - June 2024

Data Science, Human Rights

Relevant Coursework:

- *Databases and Data Modeling*
- *Explorations in Human-Centered Design*
- *Data Structures and Algorithms*
- *Information Systems Analysis and Design*

Awards and Distinctions:

- *Dean's List September 2020-June 2024*
- *Graduated Cum Laude from the University of Washington iSchool*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: *Java, Python, R, HTML/CSS, SQL, JavaScript*

Operating Systems: *Windows, iOS, MacOS*

Platforms: *Tableau, Figma, Azure DevOps, QGIS*

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Product Taxonomist Intern | Semantic Web Company | Vienna, Austria

June 2022 -

July 2022

- Used PoolParty product and semantic AI technology to produce comprehensive taxonomy and ontology for Microsoft products and services, improving search functionality and user navigability
- Conducted research on over 50 Microsoft products, platforms, and services informing taxonomy
- Produced user personas to better identify user needs, frustrations, and system requirements
- Extracted, cleaned, and organized data following standard NISO guidelines for managing taxonomies, before importing into PoolParty product to further refine product descriptions
- Implemented extensive ontology identifying meaningful relationships between Microsoft products & relevant subjects, roles, and skills
- Constructed custom schemas based on taxonomical & ontological relationships, optimizing search results and making user navigation more efficient

Digital Content Creator | GeekGirlsCareers | Seattle, WA

Oct. 2020 – June 2021

- Pitched and produced weekly content for the GeekGirlsCareers blog, targeting female-identifying students interested in careers in tech to empower womxn and help bridge the gender gap in tech
- Researched trends, interviewed industry experts, and worked with CEO to ensure timely, impactful, and relevant blog content

PROJECTS

DeepNominate: | *DeepVerse Lab, UC San Diego*

Aug. 2024 – June 2025

- Developing a novel method for ideal-point estimation that integrates non-tabular data (e.g., text, images) with tabular data (e.g., roll calls) using deep neural networks
- Utilizing normalizing flow models to map high-dimensional data into a predefined k-dimensional Gaussian distribution, optimizing for political analysis.
- Demonstrating the method's effectiveness by applying it to social media and roll call data, advancing ideal-point estimation with multimodal data insights for political analysis.

Trip Planning for All | *Taskar Center for Accessible Technology*

Oct. 2023 – June 2024

- Developing a data collection tool allowing transit agencies to collect their own user data instead of relying on timely, and costly outsourcing efforts
- Using QGIS, Java, and JavaScript embedding tool with interactive mapping to support trip planning applications
- Interviewing stakeholders such as transit service providers gaining better insights into user needs

Happy Paws | *University of Washington, iSchool Capstone Project*

Jan. 2024 – June 2024

- Developing a website catering towards Gen Z, promoting the development of healthy habits, self-reflective journaling, and mood tracking
- Conducted market and user research to adequately inform problem context
- Conducted user testing and concept validation in search of improvements
- Used HTML, CSS, Javascript, React, Firebase, and Node.js in creating features such as diary entries, daily mood check-in, and a store.

REFERENCES

Věra Sokolová

Dean of Humanities at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Email: vera.sokolova@fhs.cuni.cz

Umberto Mignozzetti

Professor of Political Science at UC San Diego

Email: umbertomig@ucsd.edu