

# Sara Venturini

## Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum

Network Science Institute, Northeastern University

177 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115, USA

☎ +1 (617) 202-1052

✉ s.venturini@northeastern.edu

💻 saraventurini.github.io

born on 1st August 1996

### Career Objective

Since January 2025, I have been a Postdoctoral Associate at the **Network Science Institute**. Prior to this, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the **MIT Senseable City Lab**. I earned a **Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics** in 2023 from the University of Padova. I like to combine my background in computational and applied mathematics with my passion for complex networks into real-world social science applications. My focus areas are **network science, computational social science, the science of science, machine learning, and optimization methods**.

### Education

- Jan 2025 – **Network Science Institute, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**  
Ongoing **Laboratory for the Modeling of Biological and Socio-technical Systems (MoBS Lab)**  
Postdoctoral Associate,  
Mentor: Alessandro Vespignani.
- Jan 2024 – **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA**  
Jan 2025 **Senseable City Laboratory (SCL)**  
Postdoctoral Fellow in complex dataset analysis,  
Mentors: Carlo Ratti, Paolo Santi.
- Nov 2023 – **University of Padova, Padova, Italy**  
Dec 2023 **Research Fellow**,  
Analysis of bibliometric data and development of models in the field of the science of science.
- Oct 2020 – **University of Padova, Padova, Italy**  
Dec 2023 **Ph.D. student in Computational Mathematics**,  
Title: Complex networks: community detection and graph semi-supervised learning on higher-order networks, with an application to the science of science,  
Advisors: Prof. Francesco Rinaldi (University of Padova),  
Prof. Francesco Tudisco (The University of Edinburgh, Gran Sasso Science Institute).  
Date: 21 December 2023
- Feb 2022 – **Indiana University Network Science Institute (IUNI), Bloomington, Indiana, USA**  
July 2022 **Visiting Researcher - AccelNet-MultiNet fellow**,  
Research on networks applied to the science of science field, in collaboration with Prof. Santo Fortunato.
- Oct 2018 – **University of Padova, Padova, Italy**  
July 2020 **Master Degree in Mathematics**,  
Application path: operations research and optimization  
Final score: 110/110 cum laude,  
MSc thesis:  
Title: Methods for community detection in multi-layer networks  
Advisor: Prof. Francesco Rinaldi (University of Padova)  
Co-Advisor: Prof. Francesco Tudisco (Gran Sasso Science Institute).
- Oct 2015 – **University of Padova, Padova, Italy**  
Sept 2018 **Bachelor Degree in Mathematics**,  
Final score: 102/110,  
Bachelor thesis:  
Title: Mathematical Programming Models for Air Traffic Management in the European Context  
Advisor: Prof. Luigi De Giovanni (University of Padova).

### Grants and Fellowships

- July 2023 **ICML grant for registration and accommodation**,  
which covers free conference registration and free 5 nights stay to attend the Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2023 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

- July 2021 – **AccelNet-MultiNet fellowship travel award (\$10,500).**
- July 2022 which assumes a five-month visit (from February 2022 to June 2022) to Indiana University, in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, collaborating with Prof. Santo Fortunato.
- Oct 2020 – **PhD fellowship from the University of Padova.**
- Sept 2023

## List of Publications

- [1] Matteo Bergamaschi, Sara Venturini, Francesco Tudisco, Francesco Rinaldi, **An efficient network-aware direct search method for influence maximization**. Journal of Complex Networks, 13(6), 12 2025. ISSN 2051-1329. doi: 10.1093/comnet/cnaf042. URL <https://doi.org/10.1093/comnet/cnaf042>.
- [2] Emanuele Zangrando, Sara Venturini, Francesco Rinaldi, Francesco Tudisco, **dEBORA: Efficient Bilevel Optimization-based low-Rank Adaptation**, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025, URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=5M0ic2RxQZ>.
- [3] Sara Venturini, Marianna De Santis, Jordan Frecon-Deloir, Martin Schmidt, Francesco Rinaldi<sup>†</sup>, Saverio Salzo<sup>†</sup> **Relax and penalize: a new bi-level approach to mixed-binary hyperparameter optimization**, Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR) 2025, URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=A1R1cQ93Cb>.
- [4] Satyaki Sikdar<sup>†</sup>, Sara Venturini<sup>†</sup>, Marie-Laure Charpignon, Sagar Kumar, Francesco Rinaldi, Francesco Tudisco, Santo Fortunato, Maiamuna S. Majumder, **What we should learn from pandemic publishing**, Nature Human Behaviour, pages 1-4, 2024. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01969-7>.
- [5] Sara Venturini\*, Satyaki Sikdar\*, Francesco Rinaldi, Francesco Tudisco, Santo Fortunato, **Collaboration and topic switches in science.**, Scientific Reports 14, 2024. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-51606-6>.
- [6] Sara Venturini, Andrea Cristofari, Francesco Rinaldi, and Francesco Tudisco. **Learning the right layers a data-driven layer-aggregation strategy for semi-supervised learning on multilayer graphs**. In International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), pages 35006–35023. PMLR, PMLR, 2023. doi: <https://proceedings.mlr.press/v202/venturini23a.html>.
- [7] Sara Venturini, Andrea Cristofari, Francesco Rinaldi, and Francesco Tudisco. **Laplacian-based semi-supervised learning in multilayer hypergraphs by coordinate descent**. EURO Journal on Computational Optimization, page 100079, 2023. ISSN 2192-4406. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejco.2023.100079>.
- [8] Sara Venturini, Andrea Cristofari<sup>†</sup>, Francesco Rinaldi<sup>†</sup>, and Francesco Tudisco<sup>†</sup>. **A variance-aware multiobjective louvain-like method for community detection in multiplex networks**. Journal of Complex Networks, 10(6), 11 2022. ISSN 2051-1329. doi: 10.1093/comnet/cnac048. URL <https://doi.org/10.1093/comnet/cnac048>.

## List of Works Under Review, Preprints

- [9] Sara Venturini, Satyaki Sikdar, Martina Mazzarello, Francesco Rinaldi, Francesco Tudisco, Paolo Santi, Santo Fortunato, Carlo Ratti, **The Effects of Remote Working on Scientific Collaboration and Impact**, arXiv preprint: 2511.18481, shortly under review.
- [10] Anthony Palmieri, Francesco Rinaldi, Saverio Salzo, Sara Venturini, **Iteration complexity of Frank-Wolfe and its variants**, shortly on ArXiv, under review at ICML2026.

\* These authors contributed equally to this work.

† These authors contributed equally to this work and are listed alphabetically by last name.

## Invited Talks

- July 2024 **Network Science Institute, Northeastern University**, Boston, MA, USA,  
Title: "Optimization Methods for Community Detection and Graph Semi-Supervised Learning in Multiplex Networks, and Analysis of Scholarly Collaborations".
- May 2024 **SIAM Conference on Applied Linear Algebra**, Paris, France,  
Title: "Learning the right layers of a multilayer network in semi-supervised learning",  
Mini-symposium "The linear algebra of multilayer networks" (unable to attend - substitute presenter Francesco Tudisco).
- November 2023 **Workshop: Future directions in Multilayer Network Science**, Zaragoza, Spain,  
Title: "Collaboration and Topic Switches in Science".
- August 2023 **EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization**, Budapest, Hungary,  
Title: "Learning the right layers: a zeroth-order bi-level optimization strategy for semi-supervised learning on multilayer graphs".
- January 2023 **Graduate Seminar, Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita"**, University of Padova, Padova, Italy,  
Title: "Complex Networks: a highly interdisciplinary field. Tools and Applications".
- October 2022 **AccelNet-MultiNet Webinar Series**,  
Title: "A Variance-aware Multiobjective Louvain-like Method for Community Detection in Multiplex Networks".

- August 2022 **International Conference on Optimization and Decision Science 2022**, Firenze, Italy,  
Title: "Semi-supervised learning in multilayer hypergraphs".
- July 2022 **Workshop: Future directions in Multilayer Network Science**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA,  
Title: "Social Contagion in Collaboration Networks".
- October 2021 **INFORMS 2021**, Anaheim California, USA,  
Title: "Methods for Community Detection in Multilayer Networks" (flexible conference - virtual attendee).
- July 2021 **NETWORKS 2021**, IU Network Science Institute, Bloomington, USA,  
Title: "Methods for Semi-Supervised Community Detection in Science of Science multilayer hypergraphs",  
AccelNet-MultiNet Satellite (virtual conference).

## Contributed Talks

- June 2024 **Network Science Conference (NetSci) 2024**, Québec City, Canada,  
Title: "The Effect of Colocation on Paper Coauthorships during COVID-19" (presenter: SV).
- July 2023 **International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2023**, Copenhagen, Denmark,  
Title: "Social contagion in science" (Plenary talk - accepted 16 over 918 submissions) (presenter: Satyaki Sikdar)  
Title: "The COVID-19 research outbreak: how the pandemic culminated in a surge of new researchers" (presenter: Satyaki Sikdar).
- July 2023 **Network Science Conference (NetSci) 2023**, Vienna, Austria,  
Title: "Learning the right layers: a data-driven layer-aggregation strategy for semi-supervised learning on multilayer graphs" (presenter: SV).  
Title: "Social contagion in science" (presenter: Satyaki Sikdar).
- June 2023 **International Conference on the Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI) 2023**, Evanston, Illinois, USA,  
Title: "Social contagion in science" (presenter: Satyaki Sikdar).  
Title: "The COVID-19 research outbreak: how the pandemic culminated in a surge of new researchers" (presenter: Sagar Kumar).
- February 2021 **5th AIRO Young Workshop 2021**, Naples, Italy,  
Title: "Methods for Community Detection in Multilayer Networks" (virtual conference).

## Posters

- July 2024 **International Conference on the Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI)**, Washington DC, USA,  
Title: "How the COVID-19 pandemic affected science: collaboration and impact" (presenter: Satyaki Sikdar).
- July 2023 **International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2023**, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA,  
Title: "Learning the right layer: a data-driven layer-aggregation strategy for semi-supervised learning on multilayer graphs".

## Other Activities

- Nov. 2025 - **2025-2026 US CDC FluSight forecast challenge**,  
Ongoing Participation in the US CDC FluSight collaborative challenge through weekly submission of influenza hospitalization forecasts generated by the *GLEAM Flu Reinforcement Learning forecasting model*.
- March 2025 **Collabathon: coarse-grained network models**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA,  
3-days collaboration with early researchers, with the aim of analyzing, implement and compare coarse-grained network models.
- November 2023 **Workshop: Future directions in Multilayer Network Science**, Zaragoza, Spain,  
Discussion, with many of the experts in the field of multilayer networks, on the future directions of the field.
- November 2023 **Collabathon: coarse-grained network models**, Jaca, Spain,  
2-days collaboration with early researchers, with the aim of analyzing, implement and compare coarse-grained network models.
- June 2023 **Mediterranean School of Complex Networks 2023**, Catania, Italy.
- July 2022 **Collabathon: Rewired Networks**, Portland, Maine, USA,  
3-days collaboration with early researchers, with the aim of analyzing, implement and comparing techniques to rewire networks. The result will be a Python library.
- July 2022 **Workshop: Future directions in Multilayer Network Science**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA,  
Discussion, with many of the experts in the field of multilayer networks, on the future directions of the field.
- August 2021 **EUROPT summer school 2021**, (virtual school).
- February 2021 **AIRO PhD school 2021**, (virtual school).

## Research Mentoring and Co-Supervision

- Jan 2023 - **Master's thesis co-supervision - University of Padova, Padova, Italy,**  
Dec 2023 Angelica Crepaldi, *Louvain-like methods for community detection in multilayer hypergraphs.* Master Thesis in Mathematics, with Prof. Francesco Rinaldi, [https://thesis.unipd.it/retrieve/1697377f-3ae2-4387-8b7e-8481141befa4/Crepaldi\\_Angelica.pdf](https://thesis.unipd.it/retrieve/1697377f-3ae2-4387-8b7e-8481141befa4/Crepaldi_Angelica.pdf)  
Matteo Bergamaschi, *Direct Search Methods for Influence Maximization problems.* Master Thesis in Data Science, with Prof. Francesco Rinaldi, [https://thesis.unipd.it/retrieve/a5037596-bcc5-45d6-abe4-6ee9820a77ea/Matteo\\_Bergamaschi\\_Master\\_Thesis.pdf](https://thesis.unipd.it/retrieve/a5037596-bcc5-45d6-abe4-6ee9820a77ea/Matteo_Bergamaschi_Master_Thesis.pdf).

## Teaching Experiences

- April 2025 **Guest talk - Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA,**  
Invited talk in the network science course taught by Prof. Satyaki Sikdar.  
Title: "A Glimpse Beyond Pairwise Interactions" (virtual).
- June 2024 **Teaching assistant - Network Science Society (online) ,**  
Assistant in the practical sessions of the network science online course taught by Santo Fortunato.
- Oct 2022 – **Teaching assistant - Agronomy Department, University of Padova, Padova, Italy,**  
June 2023 Didactic support for the course of Mathematics of the Department of Territory and Agro-Forestry Systems.
- May 2021 – **Teaching assistant - Agronomy Department, University of Padova, Padova, Italy,**  
Sept 2021 Didactic support and preparation of exercises for all the courses of Mathematics of the Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural Resources, Animals and Environment.
- Mar 2020 – **Teaching assistant – Science Department, University of Padova, Padova, Italy,**  
June 2020 Didactic support and preparation of exercises for the course of Mathematics 2 of the Degree in Materials Sciences.

## Services

- Oct. 2024 – **Reviewer,**  
Ongoing Science Advanced, Complex Networks Conferences, IEEE BigData, Computers & Operations Research, EPJ Data Science.
- June 2026 **NetSci2026 Poster and Lightning talks Committee.**
- June 2024 **NetSci2024 Best Posters Awards Committee.**

## Other Experience

- Sept 2010 – **Bussolengo Music Band, Bussolengo (Verona), Italy,**  
Dec 2019 Participation in amateur concerts and competitions – Trumpet.
- August 2015 **EXPO Milano, Milan, Italy,**  
Volunteer: info-point, guide to Palazzo Italia, flow management.

## Language Proficiencies

- Italian** Mother tongue  
**English** Fluent

## Computer Skills

- Microsoft Office Excel (intermediate), PowerPoint (advanced) and Word (advanced)
- Programming languages **Python** (advanced), **SQL (BigQuery)** (advanced), **Matlab** (advanced), **Ampl** (advanced)
- Markup languages Latex (advanced)