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Short Bio

Sebastian Lapuschkin is the Head of the Explainable Artificial Intelligence research group at Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute (HHI) in Berlin.

He received his Ph.D. degree with distinction from the Berlin Institute of Technology in 2018 for his pioneering contributions to the field of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and interpretable machine learning. From 2007 to 2013 he studied computer science (B. Sc. and M. Sc.) at the Berlin Institute of Technology, with a focus on software engineering and machine learning.

Sebastian is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Hugo-Geiger-Prize for outstanding doctoral achievement and the 2020 Pattern Recognition Best Paper Award.

His work is focused on pushing the boundaries of XAI, e.g. for achieving human-understandable explanations, and towards the effective and efficient utilization of interpretable feedback for the improvement of machine learning systems and data.

Since 2024 he is co-organizing The World Conference on eXplainable Artificial Intelligence and serves as a Topic Editor on Opportunities and Challenges in Explainable Artificial Intelligence for the MDPI Open Access Journals.

Further research interests include efficient machine learning and data analysis, as well as data and algorithm visualization.

Professional Experience

Fraunhofer Heinrich-Hertz-Institute

Head of Explainable Artificial Intelligence

Research Group Leadership and direction of XAI research.

(current number of staff: 2 PostDocs, 18 PhD researchers, 30+ student research assistants & 3 Technical Staff).

Tenured Researcher

PostDoc research position in the Machine Learning Group at Fraunhofer HHI.

Research Associate

Founding member of the Machine Learning Group at Fraunhofer HHI.

Berlin Institute of Technology

Research Associate

Supervision by Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller and Prof. Dr. Alexander Binder.

Student Research- & Teaching Assistant

Research assistant to Prof. Dr. Alexander Binder at the machine learning group at TU Berlin.

Teaching assistant to Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller, Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Király, Dr. Irene Dowding (née Winkler) and Dr. Daniel Bartz.

Student Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistant to Prof. Dr. Marc Alexa, Prof. Dr. Odej Kao and Prof. Dr. Oliver Brock.

BERLIN, GERMANY

Jan '21 – today

Jan '19 – Dec '20

Oct '14 – Dec '18

BERLIN, GERMANY

Sep '13 – Sep '14

Oct '11 – Aug '13

Oct '09 – Sep '11

Education

Berlin Institute of Technology

PhD in Machine Learning (with distinction / “summa cum laude”)

Thesis: “Opening the machine learning black box with Layer-wise Relevance Propagation”

Supervision headed by Prof. Dr. Klaus-Robert Müller.

Master of Science in Computer Science

Focus on machine learning, computer vision and large scale data analysis.

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Focus on algorithms and software development

Deutschhaus-Gymnasium

Abitur (pre-university secondary education)

BERLIN, GERMANY

2013 – 2018

2010 – 2013

2007 – 2010

WÜRZBURG, GERMANY

1998 – 2007

Teaching

Teaching of and teaching support for 19 university courses since 2009.

Talks & Lectures

Over 31 invited talks and individual lectures held since 2017.
Excludes teaching activities and internal/confidential events.

Third-Party Funded Research Projects

7 third-party funded research projects acquired and managed since 2018

Awards

Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences Reproducibility Badge (2024)
Stanford Top 2% Scientist Worldwide (2021-2023)*
Best Short Paper Award (2023)
Pattern Recognition Best Paper Award and Pattern Recognition Medal (2020)
Hugo-Geiger-Prize (2019, 1st place)
Freunde des HHI (2019)
ERCIM (2019, finalist)
Best Paper Award (2016)

Patents

Analyzing an Inference of a Machine Learning Predictor
Method and System for Simulating an Optical Image of a Photonic and/or Electronic Device
Pruning and/or Quantizing Machine Learning Predictors
Relevance Score Assignment for Artificial Neural Networks

Publications

Summary of Scientific Impact

	All	Since 2019
# Publications	75	55
# Citations	17244	15100
h-index	33	31
i10-index	50	48

per Google Scholar, retrieved on January 7th, 2025.

26 Journal Papers in eg. Nature Machine Intelligence, Nature Communications, Information Fusion, Pattern Recognition, Scientific Reports, Journal of Machine Learning Research and others.
38 Conference Papers in Proc. of eg. MICCAI, AAAI, CVPR, NeurIPS, ICIP, ICML, ICPR and others.
1 Books and 4 Book Chapters published.
6 Preprints published.