

Silvia Casola

Contact:

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Personal details:

- Place of birth: Mazara del Vallo (TP), Italy
- Date of birth: 08 July 1993
- Citizenship: Italian
- Spoken Languages: Italian (Native), English (Proficient), Spanish (Conversant)

Updated: June 10, 2022

Research Interests

Natural Language Processing, Deep Learning, Machine Learning.

Research Profile

I am a Ph.D candidate in Natural Language Processing at University of Padua, owning a grant from Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Trento); my advisor is Alberto Lavelli (FBK). I am currently visiting the TALN group in UPF (Barcelona); I also continue collaborating with Huawei Research Ireland after a 6-month internship. I obtained a Laurea Magistrale (Master Degree) with honours in Computer Engineering (Data Science Curriculum) from Politecnico di Torino.

I currently work on Natural Language Processing, with a focus on summarization and simplification.

Education

- **University of Padua, Italy** *October 2019 – present*
Ph.D. in Brain, Mind and Computer Science
 - **Politecnico di Torino, Italy** *2016 – 2018*
Laurea Magistrale (2 years M.S. equivalent) in Computer Engineering (Data Science curriculum).
Thesis: *Reducing waiting times and crowding in hospital emergency departments using Machine Learning*.
Supervisors: Prof. Ricard Gavalda (UPC) and Prof. Silvia Chiusano (Politecnico di Torino)
Grade: *110/110 cum laude*
 - **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain** *September 2010 - July 2010*
Erasmus Program exchange - Artificial Intelligence and Innovation and Research in Informatics Masters
 - **Politecnico di Torino, Italy** *2013 - 2016*
Laurea (3 years B.S. equivalent) in Computer Engineering.
Grade: *102/110*
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Internships and Visiting Periods

- **Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain** *March 2022 – present*
Visiting Ph.D. Student
Currently visiting the TALN group, under the supervision of Prof. Saggion
 - **Huawei Research, Ireland (remote)** *July 2021 – present*
NLP Ph.D. Intern
I developed a module to correct misspelled queries in the AppGallery, which is currently being deployed.
Research wise, I am working on ensuring factuality and minimizing hallucination in a sequence to sequence system for text summarization.
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Academic Appointments & Service

- **PhD course student representative** *February 2022 - present*
- **Programming Teaching Assistant (Python)** *October 2020 - February 2021*
I gave classes, and assisted with exercises and homework grading (Programming course; first-year Math undergrads at University of Padua)

- **Research scholarship** *January 2019 - October 2019*
I was part of a team in Politecnico di Torino designing a recommendation system for health structures (CANP project)
 - **Computer Science Course Teaching Assistant (C)** *September 2017 - February 2018*
I assisted with exercises and other lab work (Computer Science course; first-year Engineering undergrads at Politecnico di Torino)
 - **Reviewer**
 - ESANN 2020
 - SMM4H 2020
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Schools and courses

- **Technische Universität München (TUM)**, Germany *August 2021*
1st Munich Legal Tech Summer School
 - **University of Grenoble and Naver Labs Europe**, Online *January 2021*
Advanced Language Processing winter School (ALPS)
 - **coursera.org, deeplearning.ai**
Deep Learning Specialization; held by Prof. Andrew Ng (Stanford University) - [Certificate](#)
Machine Learning Course; held by Prof. Andrew Ng (Stanford University)
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Invited talks

- **Natural Language Processing: an overview** Machine Learning Course, University of Padua (invited by Prof. F. Aiolli)
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Supervising activities

- **Graduate Student (internal supervisor)**
 - Lucia Larocca, 2019 (Politecnico di Torino Master thesis)
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Other

- **CD: 50/50, co-founder**
No-profit association for promoting gender equality and diversity in STEM.
Part of a team that organizes and instructs short courses on Python and data science for high schools.
 - **3 Minutes Thesis Competition (3MTC) contestant (2022)**
 - **Milan Critical Care Datathon 2020**
Organized by the European Society of Intensive Medicine
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Skills

Technical specialties: Software design and implementation, with(in) a team. Programming in Python, SQL, C. Basics in R, C++ and Java. Good knowledge of Machine Learning libraries (Numpy, Pandas, Scipy and Scikit-learn); Deep Learning frameworks (PyTorch) and NLP libraries (Hugging Face transformers, datasets).

Languages

Italian (native), English (full professional proficiency), Spanish (conversational proficiency)

List of Publications

- **Casola**, Lavelli (2022): Summarization, Simplification, and Generation: The Case of Patents. Expert Systems with Applications
- **Casola**, Lauriola, Lavelli (2022): Pre-Trained Transformers: An Empirical Comparison. Machine Learning with Applications
- **Casola**, Lavelli (2021): WITS: Wikipedia for Italian Text Summarization. Eighth Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics. CLiC-IT 2021
- Louvan, **Casola**, Magnini (2021): Investigating Continued pretraining for Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Spoken Language Understanding. Eighth Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics. CLiC-IT 2021
- **Casola**, Lavelli (2020): FBK@SMM4H2020: RoBERTa for detecting medications on Twitter. Proceedings of the Fifth Social Media Mining for Health Applications Workshop & Shared Task, co-hosted at COLING 2020
- Bassi, **Casola**, Mancinelli, Lai, Salcuni (2020): Internalizing-Externalizing Symptoms as Predictors of Problematic Smartphone Use among Adolescents: A Machine Learning approach. International Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology in Children and Adolescents. Poster Presentation - Competing as award for young researcher
- Bazzano, Montuschi, Lamberti, Paravati, **Casola**, Ceròn, Londoño, Tanese (2017): Mental Workload Assessment for UAV Traffic Control Using Consumer-Grade BCI Equipment. In: Intelligent Human Computer Interaction. IHCI 2017.