

Steve Azzolin

☎ (+39) 346-2216654 | ✉ steve.azzolin@unitn.it | 🏠 steveazzolin.github.io | 📄 [steveazzolin](#) | 🔗 [steve-azzolin](#) | 🐦 [@steveazzolin](#)

Education

University of Trento

ELLIS PH.D. STUDENT

- Supervisors: Bruno Lepri & Andrea Passerini
- ELLIS partner: Pietro Liò (University of Cambridge)

Trento, IT

Nov. 2023 - Curr

University of Cambridge

RESEARCH VISITING STUDENT

- MSc Thesis: Global Explainability of GNNs via Learned Logic Formulas

Cambridge, UK

June. 2022 - Sept. 2022

University of Trento

M.S. IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

- Final score: 110/110 cum laude

Trento, Italy

Sept. 2020 - March. 2023

University of Trento

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Final score: 110/110 cum laude
- Thesis: Unsupervised learning for customer segmentation and its interpretability

Trento, Italy

Sept. 2017 - Jul. 2020

Research Experience

TU Wien Machine Learning Unit

RESEARCH VISITING STUDENT

- Investigating formal properties of graph explanations

Vienna, Austria

Oct. 2025 - Dec. 2025

Structured Machine Learning Lab

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Benchmarked and surveyed SOTA tools for GNN Explainability

Trento, Italy

May 2023 - Oct. 2023

Signals & Interactive Systems Lab

RESEARCH INTERN

- Tested, developed, and analyzed Deep Sentiment Analyzer for Italian corpora
- Improved the state-of-the-art for the Italian language from 0.64 to 0.69 of F1 score

Trento, Italy

Feb. 2020 - Jan. 2022

Blue Reply

MACHINE LEARNING INTERN

- Applied and optimized unsupervised ML techniques for customer segmentation

Padova, Italy

Feb. 2020 - Jun. 2020

Publications

- [Azzolin S.](#), Malhotra S., Passerini A., Teso S. Beyond Topological Self-Explainable GNNs: A Formal Explainability Perspective". ICML 2025
- [Azzolin S.](#), Longa A., Teso S., Passerini A. "Reconsidering Faithfulness in Regular, Self-Explainable and Domain Invariant GNNs". ICLR 2025
- Longa A., [Azzolin S.](#), Santin G., Cencetti G., Liò P., Lepri B., Passerini A. "Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: A Comparative Study". ACM Computing Surveys 2024
- Zaghen O., Longa A., [Azzolin S.](#), Telyatnikov L., Passerini A., Liò P. "Sheaf Diffusion Goes Nonlinear: Enhancing GNNs with Adaptive Sheaf Laplacians". GRaM Workshop @ ICML 2024
- M. Jaeger, A. Longa, [S. Azzolin](#), O. Schulte, A. Passerini "A Simple Latent Variable Model for Graph Learning and Inference". LOG 2023
- [Azzolin S.](#), Longa A., Barbiero P., Liò P., Passerini A. "Global Explainability of GNNs via Logic Combination of Learned Concepts". ICLR 2023
- Roccabruna G., [Azzolin S.](#), Riccardi G. "Multi-source Multi-domain Sentiment Analysis with BERT-based Models". LREC 2022 (Equal contribution)
- Mousavi S., Roccabruna G., Tammewar A., [Azzolin S.](#), Giuseppe Riccardi "Can Emotion Carriers Explain Automatic Sentiment Prediction? A Study on Personal Narratives". WASSA @ ACL 2022

Talks & Tutorials

Trustworthy and Collaborative Artificial Intelligence Workshop 2025

- Oral presentation of *Reconsidering Faithfulness in Regular, Self-Explainable and Domain Invariant GNNs*

Pisa, Italia

10 June. 2025

Alan Turing Institute

- Hands-on Tutorial on Explainability for GNNs

Virtual

16 Nov. 2023

- Presented the paper *Global Explainability of GNNs via Logic Combination of Learned Concepts*

24 Nov. 2022

Academic Service

Organiser: LoG Conference 2024 & 2025 (Local meetup chair),

Reviewer: LOG2025, ICLR2025, ACM CSUR, NeurIPS2025, Actionable Interp.@ICML2025, TNNLS, ICLR 2024, LoG 2024, UniReps@NeurIPS 2023, COLING 2022

Networks

LOG Local Meetup

ORGANIZER

Nov. 2023

- Organized the first Italian local meetup of the LOG conference, providing an environment for researchers in this field to foster networking.

Lead the Future

MENTEE & REVIEWER

Sep. 2021 - Curr.

- LeadTheFuture is a leading mentorship non-profit organization for students in STEM, with an acceptance rate below 20, empowering top-performing students to achieve their goals and contribute to their communities

Extracurricular Training

Generative Modeling Summer School

ATTENDEE

July. 2024

Cambridge ELLIS Machine Learning Summer School

ATTENDEE

July. 2022

Eastern European Machine Learning Summer School

ATTENDEE

July. 2022

Serbian Machine Learning Workshop

ATTENDEE

May. 2022

CMMRS 2021

ATTENDEE

Aug. 2021

Competitions & Awards

COMPETITIONS

2019	Finalist , Soccer Data Challenge	Trento, Italy
2017	First Place , Memorie Migranti Video Making National Contest	Gualdo Tadino, Italy
2015	Finalist , Robocup Junior Italia	Milan, Italy

AWARDS

2025	Awarded , NeurIPS 2025 Top Reviewer	
2023	Awarded , 6 Months Research Scholarship at the University of Trento	Trento, Italy
2017-2019	Awarded , Opera Universitaria Annual Scholarship	Trento, Italy
2017	Awarded , Scholarship for Academic Merits	Colceresa, Italy