

# Steve Azzolin

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## 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

### 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

### Cambridge Talks 2022

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

Virtual

24 Nov. 2022

# Academic Service

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**Organiser:** LoG Conference 2024 & 2025 (Local meetup chair),  
**Reviewer:** NeurIPS2025, Actionable Interp.@ICML2025, ICLR 2024, LoG 2024, UniReps@NeurIPS 2023, COLING 2022

# Networks

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## 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

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## 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

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## COMPETITIONS

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

## AWARDS

2023	<b>Awarded</b> , 6 months Research Scholarship at the University of Trento	Trento, Italy
2017-2019	<b>Awarded</b> , Opera Universitaria Annual Scholarship	Trento, Italy
2017	<b>Awarded</b> , Mason Vicentino Scholarship for Academic Merits	Colceresa, Italy