

# Svitlana Vakulenko

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PhD student in TU Wien  
Project staff member in the Institute for Information Business  
Vienna University of Economics and Business  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conversational Search, Exploratory Search, Question Answering

## EDUCATION

<b>Vienna University of Technology</b>	<b>October 2015 – October 2019</b>
PhD in Computer Science (advisors: Prof. Axel Polleres, Prof. Maarten de Rijke)	
<b>University of Tartu</b>	<b>September 2009 – June 2011</b>
MSc in Software Engineering (advisor: Prof. Marlon Dumas)	
<b>Kyiv National Economic University</b>	<b>September 2005 – June 2009</b>
BSc in Business Informatics	

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

<b>Apple Inc.</b>	<b>June 2019 – September 2019</b>
Research intern in the Siri Understanding team	
<b>Vienna University of Economics and Business</b>	<b>January 2017 – November 2019</b>
Project staff member in the Institute for Information Business	
<b>MODUL University</b>	<b>September 2014 – December 2016</b>
Researcher in the Department of New Media Technology	
<b>University of Liechtenstein</b>	<b>September 2013 – August 2014</b>
Research Assistant in the Institute of Information Systems	
<b>Karlsruhe Institute of Technology</b>	<b>November 2011 – March 2012</b>
Research Associate in the Institute of Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods	

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

AT FFG <b>CommuniData</b> <a href="http://communidata.at">communidata.at</a>	<b>January 2017 – April 2019</b>
Deliverable 3.1 Dataset Discovery Plugin	
EU Horizon 2020 <b>InVID</b> <a href="http://invid-project.eu">invid-project.eu</a>	<b>May 2016 – December 2016</b>
Deliverable 2.1 Social Media Filtering and Extraction	

EU FP7 **PHEME** [pHEME.eu](http://pHEME.eu)

August 2014 – December 2016

Deliverable 3.2 Algorithms for Implicit Information Diffusion Networks Across Media

EU FP7 **LiquidPublication** [liquidpub.org](http://liquidpub.org)

September 2010 – May 2011

Predicting conference ranking from bibliometric indicators

#### RESEARCH VISITS

**Stanford University**

June 2018

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Axel Polleres

**Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro**

April 2018 – May 2018

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kate Revoredo

**University of Amsterdam**

July 2017 – September 2017

Prof. Dr. Evangelos Kanoulas

#### REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

I have published 15 peer-reviewed papers, with 81 citations, and an h-index of 6 (Google Scholar, May 2019)

1. Sophia Keyner, Vadim Savenkov and **Svitlana Vakulenko**. Open Data Chatbot. Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (ESWC). 2019.
2. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Kate Revoredo, Claudio Di Ciccio and Maarten de Rijke. QRFA: A Data-Driven Model of Information Seeking Dialogues. Proceedings of the 41st European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR). 2019. *Best paper (User track)*.
3. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Maarten de Rijke, Michael Cochez, Vadim Savenkov and Axel Polleres. Measuring Semantic Coherence of a Conversation. Proceedings of the 17th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC). 2018. *Spotlight paper*.
4. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Ilya Markov and Maarten de Rijke. Conversational Exploratory Search via Interactive Storytelling. Proceedings of the Workshop on Search-Oriented Conversational AI (SCAI@ICTIR). 2017.
5. **Svitlana Vakulenko** and Vadim Savenkov. TableQA: Question Answering on Tabular Data. Proceedings of SEMANTiCS Conference. 2017. *Best poster and demo nominee*.
6. Sebastian Neumaier, Vadim Savenkov and **Svitlana Vakulenko**. Talking Open Data. Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (ESWC), pp. 132-136. 2017.
7. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Lyndon Nixon, and Mihai Lupu. Character-based Neural Embeddings for Tweet Clustering. Proceedings of the Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Social Media (SocialNLP@EACL). 2017.
8. Albert Weichselbraun, Stefan Gindl, Fabian Fischer, **Svitlana Vakulenko**, and Arno Scharl. Aspect-based extraction and analysis of affective knowledge from social media streams. In IEEE Intelligent Systems, pp. 80-88. 2017.
9. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Albert Weichselbraun, and Arno Scharl. Detection of valid sentiment-target pairs in online product reviews and news media articles. Proceedings of the IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence (WI), pp. 97-104. 2016.
10. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Max Göbel, Arno Scharl and Lyndon Nixon. Know which Way the Wind Blows: Visualising the Propagation of News on the Web. Proceedings of the Workshop on Recent Trends in News Information Retrieval (NewsIR@ECIR), pp. 60-62. 2016.
11. Gregory Katsios, **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Anastasia Krithara and Georgios Paliouras. Towards Open Domain Event Extraction from Twitter: REVEALing Entity Relations. Proceedings of the Workshop on Detection, Representation, and Exploitation of Events in the Semantic Web (DERIVE@ESWC).

- 2015.
12. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Oliver Müller, Jan vom Brocke. Enriching iTunes App Store Categories via Topic Modeling. Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS). 2014.
  13. Nadine Reuter, **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Jan vom Brocke, Stefan Debortoli, Oliver Müller. Identifying the Role of Information Systems in Achieving Energy-Related Environmental Sustainability using Text Mining. Proceedings of the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). 2014.
  14. Andrea Herbst, Alexander Simons, Jan vom Brocke, Oliver Müller, Stefan Debortoli, **Svitlana Vakulenko**. Identifying and characterizing topics in enterprise content management: a latent semantic analysis of vendor case studies. Proceedings of the 22nd European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), pp. 1-15. 2014.
  15. Peep Küngas, Siim Karus, **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Marlon Dumas, Cristhian Parra, Fabio Casati. Reverse-engineering conference rankings: what does it take to make a reputable conference? Scientometrics, pp. 651-665. 2013.
  16. **Svitlana Vakulenko**. Extraction of Process Models from Business Process Descriptions. Master thesis. University of Tartu. 2011. (Supervised by Marlon Dumas)

#### TEACHING

- Lecturer of the “Principles of Software Programming” BSc program-curriculum course, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Winter Semester 2017
- Lecturer of the “Introduction to Programming” MSc extra-curriculum course, University of Liechtenstein, Summer Semester 2014

#### SUPERVISION

##### 2019

- Sophia Keyner BSc, Open Data Chatbot
- Petar Petrov MSc, Social Media News Chatbot: Event Detection
- Yoan Bachev MSc, Social Media News Chatbot: Job Search
- Matthew Minson MSc, Deep Learning Models for Question Answering

##### 2018

- Paul Rudolf Zahrl BSc, Real-time Job Recommendations from Twitter
- Christiane Rank BSc, Social Media and the Future of News: Empirical Study
- Isabel Schwaninger MSc, Detecting Social Unrest on Chinese Microblogs
- Eric Bruch MSc, Open Data Gamification: Quizz Generator

##### 2017

- Alexander Meisl BSc, Open Data for Social Science: Red Cross Use Case
- Donatella Novakovic BSc, Semantic Literature Review on Rumour Detection
- Amar Tauqeer MSc, Visualizing Geo-located Open Data

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

##### 2019

- Participant in the Dagstuhl Seminar on Conversational Search 10-15 November, Wadern, Germany.
- Program Committee member at the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics - Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT 2019).

- Reviewer for the Automated Knowledge Base Construction (AKBC 2019) conference, International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS 2019), Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS) Journal, Knowledge and Information Systems (KAIS) Journal.

#### 2018

- Scientific Committee member at the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2018)
- Jury member at Open Minds Award
- Reviewer for the Semantic Web Journal (SWJ), Knowledge and Information Systems (KAIS) Journal

#### 2017

- Co-organizer of Django Girls Vienna workshop
- Jury member at Open Minds Award
- Reviewer for the Journal of Computer Science and Technology (JCST)

#### 2016

- Reviewer for the International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2016), ACM Web Science (WebSci 2016), Medal 2016

#### 2015

- Reviewer for the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2015), International Conference on Wirtschaftsinformatik (WI 2015)

#### 2014

- Reviewer for the Multikonferenz Wirtschaftsinformatik (MKWI 2014)

#### TALKS

<b>Measuring Semantic Coherence of a Conversation</b>	6 June 2018
Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research (BMIR), USA	
<b>Conversation Mining: Process Mining for Conversational Data</b>	24 April 2018
Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), Brazil	
<b>Semantic Coherence for Conversational Browsing of a Knowledge Graph</b>	31 January 2018
University of Bonn, Germany	
<b>CommuniData: project report</b>	1 December 2017
GovCamp Vienna, Vienna, Austria	
<b>Conversational Exploratory Search via Interactive Storytelling</b>	5 September 2017
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands	
<b>Memory Networks for Question Answering on Tabular Data</b>	7 June 2017
Grammarly Meetup, Kyiv, Ukraine	

#### SUMMER SCHOOLS

<b>IRSS</b> , Athens, Greece	<b>July 2014</b>
International Research-Centered Summer School in Cognitive Systems	

and Interactive Robotics, Data and Content Analysis

**BaSoTI**, Kaunas, Lithuania

**August 2010**

International school focused on advances in telecommunication  
and information technologies

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Student grant for attending European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR). 2019
- Travel grant from the Austrian Research Association funding the research visit at Stanford. 2018
- Travel grant for attending the Workshop on Search-Oriented Conversational AI (SCAI). 2017
- Stipend for attending the IS Womens Network Workshop: “Advancing Women In IS”. 2014
- Scholarship for attending the Research-Centered Summer School at NCSR Demokritos. 2014
- Scholarship for attending the Graduate School of Computer Science at Saarland University. 2012
- Scholarship from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting my Master’s studies. 2010-2011
- Scholarship for attending Baltic Summer School at Kaunas University of Technology. 2010
- EU Eastern Partnership scholarship from the Open Estonia Foundation. 2010
- Scholarship from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting my Master’s studies. 2009-2010

#### OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

Most of my research projects, as well as studying and teaching materials are open-source. I authored 63 public software repositories on Github ([github.com/svakulenk0](https://github.com/svakulenk0)) and made 2,019 contributions in the last year (March 2019)

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming languages: Python, JavaScript, Java  
Machine learning: Tensorflow, Keras  
Databases: SQL, NoSQL, SPARQL  
Other: Git, LaTeX

#### LANGUAGES

Russian and Ukrainian (Native), English (Professional), German (Advanced), Spanish (Basic)

#### REFERENCES

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