

Svitlana Vakulenko

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Project staff member in the Institute for Information Business
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conversational Search, Exploratory Search, Question Answering

EDUCATION

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

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Vienna University of Economics and Business	January 2017 – present
Project staff member in the Institute for Information Business	
MODUL University	September 2014 – December 2016
Researcher in the Department of New Media Technology	
University of Liechtenstein	September 2013 – August 2014
Research Assistant in the Institute of Information Systems	
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	November 2011 – March 2012
Research Associate in the Institute of Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods	

RESEARCH VISITS

Stanford University	June 2018
Prof. Axel Polleres	
Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro	April 2018 – May 2018
Prof. Kate Revoredo	
University of Amsterdam	July 2017 – September 2017
Prof. Evangelos Kanoulas	

I have published 14 peer-reviewed papers, with 79 citations, and an h-index of 5 (Google Scholar, March 2019)

1. Sophia Keyner, Vadim Savenkov and **Svitlana Vakulenko**. Open Data Chatbot. (Submitted)
2. **Svitlana Vakulenko**, Kate Revoreda, 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.
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

- Principles of Software Programming, Vienna University of Economics and Business, WS 2017
- Introduction to Programming, University of Liechtenstein, SS 2014

SUPERVISION

2019

- Sophia Keyner BSc, Open Data Chatbot
- Petar Petrov MSc, Social Media News Chatbot
- Yoan Bachev MSc, Social Media News Chatbot
- 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

- 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, Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS) Journal and 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)

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. 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’s Eastern Partnership scholarship from the Open Estonia Foundation. 2010
- Scholarship from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting my Master’s studies. 2009-2010

TALKS

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

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) and made 2,019 contributions in the last year (March 2019)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming languages: Python, JavaScript, Java
Databases: SQL, NoSQL, SPARQL
Other: Git, LaTeX

LANGUAGES

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