

# Thomas Kleine Buening

7 Parks Road, Oxford, United Kingdom

🏠 [thomasklb.github.io](https://thomasklb.github.io) | 🎓 Google Scholar

## Education

### University of Oslo

PhD in Computer Science

Oslo, Norway

Jan 2021 - Feb 2024

- Topics: Reinforcement Learning
- Advised by Christos Dimitrakakis
- Supported by the Norwegian Research Council
- Thesis: Learning in the Presence of Cooperative, Adversarial and Strategic Agents

### University of Münster

MSc in Mathematics

Münster, Germany

Oct 2018 - Sept 2020

- Grade: 1.0 (equiv. GPA: 4.0/4.0) with Distinction
- Topics: Probability Theory, Stochastic Processes, Stochastic Calculus
- Thesis: Branching in Random Environment and Linear Fractional Distributions

### University of Münster

BSc in Mathematics

Münster, Germany

Oct 2014 - Sept 2017

- Grade: 1.9 (equiv. GPA: 3.1/4.0)
- Minor in Computer Science
- Thesis: Optimal Stopping in Discrete Time

## Research Experience

### The Alan Turing Institute

Postdoctoral Research Associate

London, United Kingdom

Mar 2024 - current

- Advised by Marta Kwiatkowska and Lukasz Szpruch
- Topics: Reinforcement Learning, Algorithmic Game Theory

### University of Oxford

Postdoctoral Associate Member

Oxford, United Kingdom

Mar 2024 - current

- College: Trinity College (MCR)
- Topics: Reinforcement Learning, Algorithmic Game Theory

### University of British Columbia

Visiting Student in the Probability Group

Vancouver, Canada

Jun 2019 - Dec 2019

- Hosted by Edwin Perkins
- GPA: 94/100
- Topics: Stochastic Calculus

## Publications

Strategic Linear Contextual Bandits

**Thomas Kleine Buening**, Aadirupa Saha, Christos Dimitrakakis, Haifeng Xu  
*Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2024, [\[pdf\]](#)

Environment Design for Inverse Reinforcement Learning

**Thomas Kleine Buening\***, Villin Victor\*, Christos Dimitrakakis  
*International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, [Oral Presentation](#), 2024, [\[pdf\]](#)

Bandits Meet Mechanism Design to Combat Clickbait in Online Recommendation

**Thomas Kleine Buening**, Aadirupa Saha, Christos Dimitrakakis, Haifeng Xu  
*International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, [Spotlight Presentation](#), 2024, [\[pdf\]](#)

ANACONDA: An Improved Dynamic Regret Algorithm for Adaptive Non-Stationary Dueling Bandits

**Thomas Kleine Buening**, Aadirupa Saha  
*International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2023, [\[pdf\]](#)

Minimax-Bayes Reinforcement Learning

**Thomas Kleine Buening\***, Christos Dimitrakakis\*, Hannes Eriksson\*, Divya Grover\*, Emilio Jorge\*  
*International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2023, [\[pdf\]](#)

Interactive Inverse Reinforcement Learning for Cooperative Games  
**Thomas Kleine Buening**, Anne-Marie George, Christos Dimitrakakis  
*International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2022, [\[pdf\]](#)  
**Best Paper Award at the Cooperative AI Workshop at NeurIPS 2021**

On Meritocracy in Optimal Set Selection  
**Thomas Kleine Buening**, Meirav Segal, Debabrota Basu, Anne-Marie George, Christos Dimitrakakis  
*Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO)*, 2022, [\[pdf\]](#)  
**Best Student Paper Award**

## Teaching Experience

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### University of Oslo

Teaching Assistant

- TA for “Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making under Uncertainty” (undergrad/grad)

Oslo, Norway

Aug 2022 - Jul 2023

### University of Münster

Teaching Assistant

- TA for “Introduction to Probability Theory” (undergrad)
- TA for “Probability Theory I” (undergrad)
- TA for “Mathematical Statistics” (undergrad)

Münster, Germany

Oct 2018 - Sept 2020

### Qingdao University of Science and Technology

Teaching Assistant at the German-Chinese Campus

- TA for “Ordinary Differential Equations” (undergrad)

Qingdao, China

Mar 2018 - Jul 2018

## Other Work Experience

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### Deloitte Consulting

Intern

- ML and AI for business applications (forecasting, trend analysis, ...)
- Prototyping of crowd-sourcing platform

Hamburg, Germany

Oct 2017 - Feb 2018

### zeb information technology

Student Assistant and Intern

- Automated data quality tests
- Model validation

Münster, Germany

Jan 2016 - Sep 2017

## Academic Service and Outreach

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**Workshop** Models of Human Feedback for AI Alignment (ICML 2024), Main Organizer & Moderator

**Workshop** Beyond the Symbols vs. Signals Debate, 2024 (The Royal Society), Rapporteur

**Reviewing** ICML 2022-2024, NeurIPS 2022-2024, ICLR 2023-2025, AISTATS 2023

## Awards

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2022 **Best Paper Award with Student Presenter**, EAAMO 2022

2021 **Best Paper Award**, Cooperative AI Workshop at NeurIPS 2021

2019 **DAAD Scholarship**, Visiting Student Scholarship

Washington DC

Virtual

Vancouver

## Invited Talks

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2024 **Strategic Interactive Decision-Making**, CS Department, University of Chicago

2024 **Interactive Inverse Reinforcement Learning**, ML Seminar, Charles University

2024 **Minimax-Bayes Reinforcement Learning**, QAVAS, University of Oxford

Chicago

Prague

Oxford

## Programming

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Python (NumPy, Scikit-learn, PyTorch), SQL

## Languages

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**German** (Native)   **English** (Fluent)   **Chinese (Mandarin)** (Conversational)