

Tania R. Allard

RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEER · DATA SCIENTIST

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Profile

Formerly Tania Sanchez Monroy. Eligible to work in the UK.

A passionate innovator with experience in bringing new technology to bear on complex research and data science challenges. Passionate about open source, open science, data infrastructure and tools, reproducibility and ethics in data intensive applications. Strong communicator and experienced community builder.

Education

The University of Manchester

Manchester, UK

PHD IN MATERIALS SCIENCE / COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING

Jan 2013 - Dec 2016

Thesis: Modelling and characterisation of compliant and hydrated materials. Supervised by Prof. Brian Derby

- Developed algorithms and data analysis pipelines to model the behaviour of biological tissues in Python and R. Such algorithms reduced the computational time by 70% as well as the associated errors by 30% compared to the state of the art.
- Developed a sophisticated data acquisition and preservation strategy for real life data sets between 2 and 25GB size. These were posteriorly analysed using complex data analysis pipelines and classification algorithms in Python and R (numpy, pandas, scikit-learn, tidyverse).
- Interpreted complex simulation data using statistical methods implemented in R.
- Worked in a cross-disciplinary team to develop a unique multi-scale simulation technique and implemented the methodology to explain complex biological phenomena using own generated computational scripts and packages written in Python, FORTRAN, MATLAB and C++.

UNAM

Mexico City, Mexico

BENG IN MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING

Aug 2016 - May 2011

Topics covered include: multivariate calculus, statistics, linear algebra, robotics, automation and control, design, mechanics of solids, fluids mechanics, electronics. Major: computational modelling and medical devices

Relevant Experience

Hello Soda

Manchester, UK

DATA/RESEARCH ENGINEER

June 2018-present

- Planned, implemented and supervised the further improvements of a more robust data platform that allows for continuous delivery, monitoring, and logging of machine learning and natural language processing models (over 60 models with incoming data from customers in Europe, Asia, USA, and Latin America).
- Developed internal policies regarding data and software best practices, documentation, and model deployment. Managed junior members of the team: day to day tasks monitoring, personal development and led discussions on the future of the company technology.
- Introduced fortnightly documentation sprints and show and tells for the tech team (data, infrastructure, engineering).
- Developed tools and infrastructure to scale, support and improve the data team tasks, from data extraction, to model development, training, and optimisation, to taking models into production.
- Leveraged the use of tools such as Elasticsearch, Airflow, Pachyderm, Docker, Rstudio, Jupyter, cloud solutions, and Kubernetes within the development areas of the business.
- Drove the adoption of tools and processes to improve our data models reproducibility, provenance (lineage), and sustainability.

Freelance / consultant

Manchester, UK

DATA AND REPRODUCIBILITY CONSULTANT

Nov 2016 - present

- Consulted start-ups and researchers on reproducible data analysis workflows, open data, data modelling, and aided them to develop strategies to satisfy their data engineering needs. Reducing in most of the cases the computational times and optimised their data intensive workflows.
- Created and presented executive dashboards to show data insights using R Shiny apps, Plotly, and d3.js
- Implementation and scaling of data pipelines, from ETL to model deployment, monitoring and task scheduling.

The University of Sheffield

Sheffield, UK

RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEER / MACHINE LEARNING TEAM MEMBER

Nov 2016 - June 2018

- Main contributor to the European funded projects OpenDreamkit as well as to a number of open source projects, such as project Jupyter, GPy for Gaussian Processes, RopenSci, among others.
- Used RESTful web design using Flask, Jinja2, JQuery, JS and Django for the development of multiple web apps.
- Developed numerous data analysis pipelines, from wrangling to prediction and results dissemination, for research projects in Linguistics (Natural Language Processing), Bioinformatics (Classification and regression), Materials science (regression), and Geography (geolocation data analysis) using R and Python.
- Implemented the use of third parties API's and web scraping to collect raw data for posterior analysis and modelling.
- Trained and supervised junior colleagues and students, with a particular focus on reproducible workflows, software development best practices, High-Performance Computing, and open source projects.
- Worked in policy creation at both, a national and international level as member of the UK Research Software Engineering and NUMFocus Diversity and Inclusion in Scientific Computing committees.
- Developed interactive dashboards and data visualizations using d3.js, Shiny, Bokeh, and Plotly to disseminate project findings.
- Developed tools to support reproducible research and literate programming.

NHS, Manchester business school

Manchester, UK

CONSULTANCY FELLOW

February - October 2016

- Liaised with multiple stakeholders, from high-level directors to patients within the NHS to identify organisational needs.
- Led data collection initiative and performed the statistical analysis of the collected data. This allowed to assess the efficacy of the Healthier Together programme and predict both desired and undesired outcomes of resources reallocation.
- Developed a framework for specialist hospitals within the Greater Manchester area to improve the sharing of institutional knowledge, improving efficiency of communication, and eliminating 50% of unnecessary meetings.

University of Southern California, MEMS

California, USA

ENGINEERING INTERN

2011

- Performed real-time data collection and analysis for implantable drug delivery devices. The implemented models allowed for 20% increase in dose tracking and fault detection accuracy.
- Architected and implemented analytics and visualization components for a device data analysis platform to predict potential hardware failures.

Skills

Experienced open source developer/maintainer with a specialization in scientific computing, including visualization, data analysis, and applied machine learning.

Programming languages	Python, R, C/C++, MATLAB, Fortran, shell (bash) , Julia
Web technologies	HTML, css/sass, Flask, jQuery, Jinja, Django, JavaScript
Data science and data analysis	R (and tidyverse), Sickit-learn (Python), SciPy, Pandas, Numpy, SQL, Spark
Dev Ops & data engineering	Docker, Kubernetes, Elasticsearch, Kibana, Airflow, Pachyderm
Software engineering	git, Heroku, CI/CD, testing, API development
Productivity tools	LaTeX, Jupyter notebooks , R markdown
Machine learning	Linear/logistic regression, Clustering, k-NN, Random Forests, PCA, NLP, Decision trees
Visualisation and reporting	D3.js, Bokeh, Seaborn / Matplotlib, Plotly, Shiny, ggplot, Dash, vega-lite
Cloud solutions	Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services
CAD/ CAM/ FEA	Abaqus, Ansys, CATIA, SolidWorks
Engineering / mathematical software	LabView, SIMULINK, MATLAB (incl. optimisation toolbox), Mathematica
Languages	Spanish (mother), English (proficient), French (intermediate)

Professional activities

Elected trustee , Python UK Association	2018
PyLadies NorthWest UK founder , UK	2018
Blogger , The Python Software Foundation	2018
PyCon Charlas chair , PyCon US	2018
Assessment group member , DISC NUMFOCUS	2018
Mentor , Hackmed and HackSheffield	2018
Maintainer , Software Carpentry Python Ecology Lesson	2018
ELife ambassador , ELife Innovation	2018
Open source / working in the open mentor , Mozilla Open Leaders	2018
Core committee member: Surveys and community , RForwards	2017-18
Diversity chair , Juliacon	2017-18
Reviewer , ReScience	2017-18
Reviewer and editor , Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS)	2017-18
Elected member , UK Research software engineering committee	2017-18
Data scholar , Data study workshop: Alan Turing Institute	2017
Diversity and equality chair, Talks co-chair , 2nd Research Software Engineering Conference	2017
Diversity and equality committee member , Computer Science, University of Sheffield	2016-18
Lead Python Instructor: Manchester and Sheffield , Code First Girls	2017-18
Talks co-chair , 2nd Research Software Engineering Conference	2017
Supporting organiser , Nanoprinting conference	2016
Cultural affair officer , Manchester Mexican Society	2015
Cultural affairs officer , Mexican Society in the UK	2014
Volunteer , Manchester Girl Geeks, The British Science Association, Coding Dojo	2013-17

Talks and workshops

Feb 2018	Her + data , The importance of community in the use of data	Manchester, UK
Oct 2017	Manchester R user group , What has reproducibility ever done for us?	Manchester, UK
Sep 2017	RSE conference , Workshop: Reproducible data analysis using Jupyter notebooks	Manchester, UK
Jun 2017	Machine Learning retreat , Reproducible ML workflows	Sheffield, UK
Apr 2017	Nanobruceken , Characterisation of thin hydrated films	Germany
Dec 2015	MRS Fall , Viscoelastic and poroelastic characterisation and modelling of thin films	Boston, USA
Jun 2015	Biomaterials showcase , Modelling the mechanical properties of compliant and hydrated films	Manchester, UK
Apr 2015	Nanobruceken , Modelling the viscoelastic properties of PDMS	Germany
Jan 2015	Winter School, UNAM Engineering faculty , Nanomecanica de materiales biológicos (invited talk)	Mexico
Jun 2013	Wrightington Gold Medal , Optimised pre-operative planning for elbow arthrolysis	Wigan, UK

Honors & Awards

John Pinner Award for exceptional community service , UKPA	2018
Diversity scholarship: speakers , PyCon US	2018
Outstanding mentor , University of Sheffield	2017-2018
SSI Fellow , Software Sustainability Institute	2017
Diversity scholarship , Diversity in Scientific Computing, NUMFocus	2017
Recognition award: staff , University of Sheffield	2017
1st prize: student talk , Hysitron meeting	2017
2nd place: Social venture , Venture further business competition	2016
1st place , venture further business competition	2015
1st place: postgraduate presentation , Writington gold medal	2013
CONACYT/Manchester scholar , University of Manchester	2013-16
Academic excellence scholarship , SEP	2013-2016
USC Viterbi: Engineering scholarship , University of Southern California	2011
Academic excellence scholarship , UNAM-SEP	2008-11

Mentoring

University of Sheffield

PHD STUDENTS MENTOR

- Provided mentorship and guidance for PhD students completing their graduate studies.
- Was awarded the distinction of outstanding mentor: (<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/rs/ecr/mentoring/dotm>).

Sheffield, UK

September 2017 - present

Mozilla Open Leaders Mentor

MOZILLA FOUNDATION

- Invited to act as a mentor during Round 5 of Mozilla's Open Leadership Training.
- Meeting with assigned project lead to provide insight and support with their OSS projects.
- Gained valuable coaching skills and connections across the Mozilla and open source community.

USA, UK

February 2017 - present

Technical mentor

HACKMED AND HACKSHEFFIELD

- Acted as technical mentor during the events, providing guidance and expertise to the teams competing.
- Was involved in the organisation, advertising, and logistics of the events.

Sheffield, UK
January 2017 - present

Teaching and lesson development

Maintainer of the Software Carpentry Python ecology lesson, Software Carpentry

Contributor to the Python and Instructor training lessons, Software Carpentry

Taught multiple carpentries and instructor trainings, Software Carpentry

Lead Instructor and curriculum developer Advanced Python, CodeFirst:Girls

Reproducible science and data management, Out of Our Minds: Leverhulme Trust Fellowship

Reproducible science, University of Sheffield: PhD students development

Web data in Python, Research Methods Institute, University of Sheffield

Python, Git and R for linguists, School of humanities, University of Sheffield

Computational nanomechanics: winter school, Faculty of Engineering, UNAM

Teaching assistant: School of materials, University of Manchester

Additional projects

Open NASA

NASA DATANAUT

- Organised community events focused on the analysis and visualization of Open NASA data sets.
- Worked on the identification and development of effective visualization tools for multiple dictionaries.
- Currently working on the development of Python libraries to access some NASA APIs.

USA / UK
Sept 2017 - present

Mozilla Foundation

MOZILLA OPEN LEADERS: CODING FOUNDATION

- Founder of Coding Foundation, a programme aimed to support and encourage the inclusion and retention of women and members of the LGBTQ community in computer science and tech related undergraduate courses all around the world.
- Selected for Round 4 of Mozilla's Open Leadership program where I received training and developed skills in open leadership, project management, building communities, open communications and running awesome events.
- The project is in current development as part of a wider strategy within Yorkshire to increase fair representation in undergraduate courses.

USA, UK
Sept 2017 - present