

Victoria (Viktoriia*) Firsanova

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Saint Petersburg, Russia (born in Tula, Tula Oblast, Russia)

*In papers and everywhere else, I spell my name as "Victoria", but in official documents it is spelled as "Viktoriia"

Contents

- 1 Research interests**
- 2 Projects**
- 3 Education**
- 4 Professional Development**
- 5 Honors and scholarships**
- 6 Publications**
- 7 Conferences**
- 8 Industry Experience**
- 9 Talks and Tutorials**
- 10 Mentorship and Service**
- 11 Technical Skills**
- 12 Other Interests**

1 Research interests

Conversational Artificial Intelligence, Machine Translation, Natural Language Understanding, Natural Language Generation, Transfer Learning

2 Projects

- 2020 – Present **Autism Spectrum Disorder Question Answering (ASD-QA)**
The dataset for Closed-domain Question Answering in Russian include question-answer pairs about Autism Spectrum Disorder and inclusive education. The dataset can be used to build dialogue systems such as chatbots and extractive question answering models.
 Project web site: asd-qa.org
- 2022 – Present **Empathic Machine Processors for Inclusion (EMPI)**
The development of a mobile app for supporting the inclusion of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.
 Source code, layouts, supporting material: [GitHub](#)
- 2023 – Present **The Black Box podcast**
Podcast about Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing and series of popular science lectures in Russian.
 Public page: [VK](#)

3 Education

- 2022 – Present **Saint Petersburg State University** – Saint Petersburg, Russia
 PhD in Philology; Theoretical, Applied and Comparative linguistics
 Dissertation: *Neural Transfer Learning for Natural Language Processing in for Tasks in Social Sector*
 Dissertation Advisor: Mitrofanova O. A., PhD, Associate Professor.
- 2020 – 2022 **Saint Petersburg State University** – Saint Petersburg, Russia
 MA in Philology: Computer and Applied Linguistics
 Concentrations: Machine Learning, Linguistics
 Thesis: *Approaches to Building a Dialogue System on Autism Spectrum Disorder with Transformer Architecture*
 Thesis Advisor: Mitrenina O. V., PhD, Associate Professor.
- 2016 – 2020 **Higher School of Economics** – Saint Petersburg, Russia
 BA in Philology
 Concentrations: Linguistics
 Thesis: *Classification of Messages of Drug Addicts in Social Networks Using Neural Networks*
 Thesis Advisor: Mitrenina O. V., PhD, Associate Professor.

4 Professional Development

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| Apr 2023 | Coursera Project Network – Coursera, Online Course “ <i>Get Started with Figma</i> ” |
| Jan 2022 | TU Berlin Winter University – TU Berlin, Online Course “ <i>Introduction to Artificial Intelligence</i> ” |
| Dec 2021 | Professional Development Courses – ITMO University, Saint Petersburg, Russia Course “ <i>Commercialization of Smart Digital Objects</i> ” |
| Oct 2021 | Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation – Online Course “ <i>Stress Management</i> ” |
| Oct 2021 | Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation – Online Course “ <i>Conflict Management</i> ” |
| Sep 2021 | Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation – Online Course “ <i>Design Thinking</i> ” |
| Jul 2021 | The Vladimir Potanin Foundation Summer School – Online Tracks “ <i>Pro-Bono</i> ”, “ <i>Agile</i> ”, “ <i>Networking</i> ” |
| Apr 2021 | DeepLearning.AI – Coursera, Online Course “ <i>Natural Language Processing with Attention Models</i> ” |
| Mar 2021 | University of California, Santa Cruz – Coursera, Online Course “ <i>Bayesian Statistics: From Concept to Data Analysis</i> ” |
| Jan 2021 | Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Huawei – Stepik, Online Course “ <i>Huawei: Natural Language Processing</i> ” |
| Aug 2020 | Summer School of Machine Learning (SMILES) – Skoltech, Online |
| Jul 2020 | IBM – Coursera, Online Course “ <i>IBM: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)</i> ” |
| Sep 2019 | Fall School for Formal Syntax and Formal Semantics (3-FS) – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia |

5 Honors and scholarships

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| Dec, 2022 | Literature Prize Nominee <i>Author of a short novel</i> |
| Dec, 2022 | Literature Open-Call Participant <i>Author of short read stories</i> |
| Oct, 2021 | Winner of the Vladimir Potanin Foundation Competition “ Practices of Personal Philanthropy and Altruism ” (Vladimir Potanin Foundation) <i>The project “The Development of the Informational Chat-bot about Autism Spectrum Disorder” was supported by funding provided by the Competition Organizers.</i> |
| Aug, 2021 | Winner of the Vladimir Potanin Foundation Summer School Competition Vladimir Potanin Foundation Summer School Competition (Vladimir Potanin Foundation) <i>The charity project “Accompanied Growing up for Mentally Disabled People” launched by an NGO.</i> |
| Feb, 2020 | The Vladimir Potanin Foundation Scholarship (Vladimir Potanin Foundation) |
| Dec, 2020 | ODS Awards (Open Data Science) <i>Winner in two nominations: Best Project, Best Organizer.</i> |

6 Publications

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| May, 2023 | Application of Linguistic and Computational Technologies to the Development of a Mobile App for Developing Communication Skills in People with Autism Spectrum Disorders Firsanova, V. <i>Private institution educational organization of higher education Medical University “Reaviz”, Bulletin of the Medical Institute “REAVIZ” (REHABILITATION, DOCTOR AND HEALTH).</i> |
| April, 2023 | Towards Building a Mobile App for People on the Spectrum Firsanova, V. <i>WWW ’23 Companion: Companion Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2023.</i> |
| May, 2022 | A Quick Guide to Low-Resource NLP Firsanova, V. <i>MLOps Community. May, 2022, online.</i> |

- Feb, 2022 **Question Answering Systems and Inclusion: Pros and Cons**
 Firsanova, V.
Internet and Modern Society 2021: Proceedings of the International Conference "Internet and Modern Society" (IMS-2021), St. Petersburg, Russia 23-26 June 2021. (CEUR Workshop Proceedings; Vol. 3090). RWTH Aachen University. <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3090/>.
- Jan, 2022 **Transformer Models for Question Answering on Autism Spectrum Disorder QA Dataset**
 Firsanova, V.
In D. A. Alexandrov, A. V. Chugunov, Y. Kabanov, O. Koltsova, I. Musabirov, S. Pashakhin, A. V. Boukhanovsky, & A. V. Chugunov (Red.), Digital Transformation and Global Society - 6th International Conference, DTGS 2021, Revised Selected Papers: 6th International Conference, DTGS 2021, St. Petersburg, Russia, June 23–25, 2021 (pp. 122-133). (Communications in Computer and Information Science; Vol 1503 CCIS). Springer Nature. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-93715-7_9.
- Dec, 2021 **Two Approaches to Building Dialogue Systems for People on the Spectrum**
 Firsanova, V.
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2021. Data-Centric AI Workshop.
- Dec, 2021 **The Advantages of Human Evaluation of Sociomedical Question Answering Systems**
 Firsanova, V.
International Journal of Open Information Technologies, 9(12), 53-59.
- Jun, 2021 **The Description of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Question Answering Dataset**
 Firsanova, V.
Dialogue 2021 Student Session.
- Jan, 2021 **Supporting the Inclusion of People with Asperger Syndrome: Building a Customizable Chatbot with Transfer Learning**
 Firsanova, V.
AINL: Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Conference. Workshop on Human-AI Interaction. 7.-9.10.2020, online.
- Jan, 2021 **Automatic Recognition of Messages from Virtual Communities of Drug Addicts**
 Firsanova, V.
Journal of applied linguistics and lexicography, 2 (1), 16-27.

- Jul, 2020 **The Functioning of Drug Addict's Jargon in Social Networks**
 Firsanova, V.
[*Studia Slavica XVIII. — 04.07.2020. — P. 152—164. ISSN 2674-2160.*](#)
- Jul, 2020 **The Classification of Drug Addicts' Messages in Social Networks with Neural Networks**
 Firsanova, V.
[*Dialogue 2020 Student Session.*](#)

7 Conferences

- May 2023 **Scientific Spring 2023**
[*Information and Computer Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Processing in Medicine*](#)
Application of Linguistic and Computational Technologies to the Development of a Mobile App for Developing Communication Skills in People with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- May 2023 **ACM Web Conference**
[*PhD Symposium*](#)
Towards Building a Mobile App for People on the Spectrum
- Apr 2023 **AINL: Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Conference**
[*Main track*](#)
What Do Text-to-Image Models Know about the Languages of the World?
- Mar 2023 **51st L.A. Verbitskaya International Scientific Philological Conference (IPC 2023)**
[*Applied and computational linguistics*](#)
The Development of a Chatbot about Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Mar 2023 **OpenTalks.AI 2023**
[*Poster Presentation*](#)
The Development of an AI-Powered Chatbot for Inclusive Education
- Dec 2021 **Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems**
[*Data-Centric AI Workshop*](#)
Two Approaches to Building Dialogue Systems for People on the Spectrum

- Jul 2021 **TRITON 2021: Forum for recent advances in technologies for translation and interpreting and more**
[Brainstorming Session](#)
Karelian Machine Translation
- Jun 2021 **Internet and Modern Society - IMS**
[International Workshop "Computational Linguistics"](#)
Question Answering Systems and Inclusion: Pros and Cons
- Jun 2021 **6th International Conference Digital Transformation & Global Society (DTGS 2021)**
[Communications in Computer and Information Science](#)
Transformer Models for Question Answering on Autism Spectrum Disorder QA Dataset
- Jun 2021 **Dialogue International Conference on Computational Linguistics and Intellectual Technologies**
[Student session](#)
Autism Spectrum Disorder Question Answering Dataset
- Oct 2020 **AINL: Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Conference 2020**
[Human-AI Interaction Workshop](#)
Supporting the Inclusion of People with Asperger Syndrome: Building a Customizable Chatbot with Transfer Learning
- Jun 2020 **Dialogue International Conference on Computational Linguistics and Intellectual Technologies**
[Student session](#)
The classification of drug addicts' messages in social networks with neural networks
- Feb 2019 **XX International Conference of Young Slavists**
[Language. Text. Society](#)
The Functioning of Drug Addict's Slang in Social Networks

8 Industry Experience

- Autumn 2021 **Speech Technology Center (Internship)** – Saint Petersburg, Russia
 Project Management Department, Dialogue System Integration

9 Talks and Tutorials

- May 2023 Empathic Machine Processors for Inclusion
Aggregate Intellect Journal Club, [publication](#)
- Apr 2023 Why a Philologist Needs Neural Networks?
Saint Petersburg State University, International Conference of Philology Students, Plenary Session, [program](#)
- Apr 2023 EMPI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Normal'noe Mesto (Charity Organization), Saint Petersburg, Russia, [program](#)
- Aug 2022 My First Crowdsourcing
Lecture on Information Technology, OLYMP Union, ITMO University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, [available on YouTube](#)
- Oct 2021 Transformers
Seminar on Computational Linguistics, Saint Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, [available on YouTube](#)
- Jun 2021 Evolution of Chat-bots
Lecture on Computational Linguistics, OLYMP Union, ITMO University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, [available on YouTube](#)

10 Mentorship and Service

- Nov 2022 – Dec 2022 **Corpora 2023 International Conference at St. Petersburg State University (Organizing Committee manager)**
Translation, mailing, typesetting, editing, technical support.
- Apr 2022 **XXV Open Conference for Philology Students at St. Petersburg State University (Co-organizer of the section "Psycholinguistics")**
Conference holding, review and selection of applications.
- Feb 2022 – Jun 2022 **Non-governmental organization for children and parents of children with mental disability, Irkutsk, Russia ([Website Developer](#))**
Website development.

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| Sep 2021 – Jun 2022 | Non-governmental organization of care for people with mental disability, Irkutsk, Russia (Project Manager) Development and maintenance of a project to update the organization's website. |
| Jan 2021 – Jul 2021 | Corpora 2021 International Conference at St. Petersburg State University (Organizing Committee manager) Translation, mailing, typesetting, editing, technical support. |
| Jan 2021 – Jul 2021 | Internet and Modern Society (IMS-2021) International Conference at ITMO University (Organizing Committee manager) Translation. |
| Sep 2020 – Dec 2020 | OLYMP Union at ITMO University (Active member and NLP Discussion Club organizer) Creator and organizer of a student discussion club. |

11 Technical Skills

Programming and markup languages

Proficient in: Python, R, HTML, CSS, XML

Familiar with: JavaScript

Software

LaTeX, Git, Jupiter

Languages

English (IELTS Certificate 7.5 C1 Advanced), German (Upper-Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate), French (Intermediate), Italian (Elementary), Russian (Native)

12 Other Interests

Ancient languages, computer vision, charity, ecology, fine arts.