

# 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"

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## **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](http://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

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

## 5 Honors and scholarships

Dec, 2022	Literature <a href="#">Prize</a> Nominee <i>Author of a short novel</i>
Dec, 2022	Literature <a href="#">Open-Call</a> Participant <i>Author of short read stories</i>
Oct, 2021	Winner of the Vladimir Potanin Foundation Competition “ <a href="#">Practices of Personal Philanthropy and Altruism</a> ” (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 <a href="#">Vladimir Potanin Foundation Summer School Competition</a> (Vladimir Potanin Foundation) <i>The charity project “Accompanied Growing up for Mentally Disabled People” launched by an NGO.</i>
Feb, 2020	<a href="#">The Vladimir Potanin Foundation Scholarship</a> (Vladimir Potanin Foundation)
Dec, 2020	ODS Awards ( <a href="#">Open Data Science</a> ) <i>Winner in two nominations: Best Project, Best Organizer.</i>

## 6 Publications

May, 2023	<b>Application of Linguistic and Computational Technologies to the Development of a Mobile App for Developing Communication Skills in People with Autism Spectrum Disorders</b> 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	<b>Towards Building a Mobile App for People on the Spectrum</b> Firsanova, V. <i>WWW ’23 Companion: Companion Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2023.</i>
May, 2022	<b>A Quick Guide to Low-Resource NLP</b> 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

- 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.
- 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	<b>Corpora 2021 International Conference at St. Petersburg State University (Organizing Committee manager)</b> Translation, mailing, typesetting, editing, technical support.
Jan 2021 – Jul 2021	<b>Internet and Modern Society (IMS-2021) International Conference at ITMO University (Organizing Committee manager)</b> Translation.
Sep 2020 – Dec 2020	<b>OLYMP Union at ITMO University (Active member and NLP Discussion Club organizer)</b> 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.