

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"

Research interests

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

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](#)

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.

Professional Development

- Jan 2022 **TU Berlin Winter University** – TU Berlin, Online
 Course “*Introduction to Artificial Intelligence*”
- Dec 2021 **Professional Development Courses** – ITMO University, Saint Petersburg, Russia
 Course “*Commercialization of Smart Digital Objects*”
- Oct 2021 **Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation** – Online
 Course “*Stress Management*”
- Oct 2021 **Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation** – Online
 Course “*Conflict Management*”
- Sep 2021 **Tomsk State University, The Vladimir Potanin Foundation** – Online
 Course “*Design Thinking*”
- Jul 2021 **The Vladimir Potanin Foundation Summer School** – Online
 Tracks “*Pro-Bono*”, “*Agile*”, “*Networking*”
- Apr 2021 **DeepLearning.AI** – Coursera, Online
 Course “*Natural Language Processing with Attention Models*”
- Mar 2021 **University of California, Santa Cruz** – Coursera, Online
 Course “*Bayesian Statistics: From Concept to Data Analysis*”
- Jan 2021 **Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Huawei** – Stepik, Online
 Course “*Huawei: Natural Language Processing*”

- Aug 2020 **Summer School of Machine Learning (SMILES)** – Skoltech, Online
- Jul 2020 **IBM** – Coursera, Online
Course “*IBM: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)*”
- Sep 2019 **Fall School for Formal Syntax and Formal Semantics (3-FS)** – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Honors and scholarships

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

Publications

- May, 2022 **A Quick Guide to Low-Resource NLP**
Firsanova, V.
[MLOps Community](#). May, 2022, online.
- 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.

Conferences

- 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

Industry experience

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

Talks and tutorials

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](#)

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	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.

Technical skills

Programming and markup languages

Proficient in: Python, 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)

Other interests

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