

Yanou Ramon

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I'm a PhD researcher in Explainable Artificial Intelligence. I develop algorithms to explain prediction models and individual predictions from Big Data and look how explanations help validate and improve AI systems.

I'm passionate about predictive analytics to study human behavior, with the goal of improving decision-making in organizations. Besides research, I want to democratize AI and love to learn about all things related to technology that positively impact the quality of people's lives around the globe.

Languages	Dutch (native) • English • French
Programming & technical skills	Python • R • Matlab • Relational databases (SQL) • Cloud computing (AWS)
Data analysis	Predictive modeling: Data exploration & visualization • Data preprocessing • (Supervised) Machine Learning • Model interpretability Statistical methods: Experimental design • Inferential statistics

EDUCATION

Nov '21 – April '22	Visiting Research Scholar (Staff Associate II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbia Business School (New York City) • Advisor: Prof. Sandra Matz Built and interpreted prediction models that act as tools to diagnose people's personality and mental health using their financial transactions histories
Oct '18 – present	Ph.D. Fellowship in Explainable Artificial Intelligence – Research Foundation Flanders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Antwerp • Advisor: Prof. David Martens Designed algorithms to explain predictions of models using behavioral data Implemented explainer objects in Python (available on GitHub)
Oct '16 – June '18	M.Sc. in Business Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Antwerp • Great distinction (80/100) Fall semester '17 (exchange): Toulouse School of Management July '16: Summer school Washington DC
Oct '13 – June '16	B.Sc. in Business Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Antwerp • Great distinction (78/100)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Oct '19 – present	Co-organizer summer school "American Business Environment" in Washington
Oct '18 – present	Teaching Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Mining • Ethics in Data Science • Data Engineering Designed Python tutorials and organized Data Science Challenge

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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| Oct '20 | Winner of Best Paper Award and a €1,000 Prize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doctoral day at the Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Antwerp ▪ Title: "Increasing global understanding of prediction models on behavior data" |
| May '18 | Next Generation Women Leaders Event of McKinsey & Company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of 200 participants selected worldwide to join a three-day event in Paris filled with inspirational talks on leadership, case studies, and networking |
| Nov '17 – present | Member of Beta Gamma Sigma Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Honor of academic excellence for business students |
| Oct '16 – May '18 | Junior Management Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of 25 students selected by the Dean based on academic achievements ▪ Enhanced soft skills and developed professional goals in a series of workshops |
| Dec '16 | Finalist Data Science Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed a credit scoring tool in Matlab for professional loans at AXA insurance |

ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

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| WiDS Ambassador | Women in Data Science Ambassador 2022 (Stanford University) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Role responsibilities include planning a local WiDS event in Belgium |
| Program committee | Workshop on Advances in Interpretable ML and AI (CIKM online), Oct '20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invited talk: "Comparison of algorithms for explaining models on behavior data" |

PUBLICATIONS

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| Publications | <p>Yanou Ramon, Sandra Matz, R.A. Farrokhnia, David Martens. Explainable AI for psychological profiling from behavioral data: An application to Big Five personality predictions from financial transaction records. <i>Information</i>, 12(12), 518, 2021. Available online.</p> <p>Yanou Ramon, David Martens, Theodoros Evgeniou, Stiene Praet. Can metafeatures help improve explanations of prediction models when using behavioral and textual data? <i>Machine Learning</i>, 2021. Available online.</p> <p>Yanou Ramon, David Martens, Foster Provost, Theodoros Evgeniou. A comparison of instance-level explanation algorithms for behavioral and textual data: SEDC, LIME-C and SHAP-C. <i>Advances in Data Analysis and Classification</i>, 2020. Available online.</p> <p>Sofie De Cnudde, Yanou Ramon, David Martens, Foster Provost. Deep Learning on Big, Sparse, Behavioral Data. <i>Big Data</i>, 7(4), p.286-307, 2019. Available online.</p> |
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REFERENCES

Prof. David Martens

University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Department of Engineering Management

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Relationship: Doctoral advisor

Prof. Theodoros Evgeniou

INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France

Department of Decision Sciences and Technology Management

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Relationship: Collaborator and PhD Committee member

Prof. Sandra Matz

Columbia Business School, New York City, US

Department of Management

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Relationship: Collaborator and PhD Committee member

Prof. Robert Farrokhnia

Columbia Business & Engineering Schools, New York City, US

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Relationship: Collaborator

Prof. Foster Provost

NYU Stern School of Business, New York City, US

Department of Technology, Operations & Statistics

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Relationship: Collaborator and PhD Committee member

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Hobbies

Field hockey ('10 - '12: national hockey team), tennis, yoga, winter sports

Ambitions

Advocate more data-driven decision-making in business and society
Inspire more women to pursue a career in STEM