

# Yanou Ramon

University of Antwerp – Faculty of Business & Economics  
Dpt. of Engineering Management  
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*My research interest is to use data mining to study and predict human behavior and preferences. I've been developing explanation methods to understand and improve AI systems on big behavior and text data.*

**Programming** Python, Matlab, R  
**Technical skills** Relational databases (SQL), Cloud computing (EC2)  
**Languages** Dutch (native), English, French

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## Education

- Oct '18 – present **Ph.D. Fellowship – Research Foundation Flanders**  
Applied Data Mining group, University of Antwerp, Belgium  
Supervisor: Prof. David Martens
- Designed explanation algorithms to better understand decisions of prediction models built from big behavior and text data
  - Implemented explainer objects in Python (open-source code on Github)
- Oct '16 – June '18 **M.Sc. in Business Engineering (Finance)**  
University of Antwerp, Belgium, great distinction (80/100)
- Major: European & International Business
  - Fall semester '17: Toulouse School of Management (France)
  - July '16: Summer school Washington DC (USA)
- Oct '13 – June '16 **B.Sc. in Business Engineering**  
University of Antwerp, Belgium, great distinction (78/100)

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## Work Experience

- Oct '19 – present **Organizer summer school “American Business” in Washington DC**
- Oct '18 – present **Teaching assistant Data Mining & Engineering**
- Designed tutorial sessions in Python and organized Data Science Challenge

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## Publications & Conferences

- Publications*
- Sofie De Cnudde, **Yanou Ramon**, David Martens, Foster Provost. Deep Learning on Big, Sparse, Behavioral Data. *Big Data*, 7(4), p.286-307, 2019. Available [online](#).
- 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. *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification*, 2020. Available [online](#).
- Yanou Ramon**, David Martens, Theodoros Evgeniou, Stiene Praet. Metafeatures-based Rule-Extraction for Classifiers on Behavioral and Textual Data, arXiv preprint:2003.04792, 2020.

**Conferences** **Yanou Ramon**, David Martens. Comparative study of instance-level explanations for big data. *EURO Conference*, Dublin, Ireland, June '19.

**Yanou Ramon**, David Martens. Instance-based explanations: motivation, overview, and the evidence counterfactual approach. European Conference on Data Analysis, Bayreuth, Germany, March '19.

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## Awards and Recognition

- Oct '20 **Winner of Best Paper Award and a €1,000 Prize**
- Doctoral Day, Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Antwerp
  - Selected out of 41 submitted papers
  - Title: *Increasing Global Understanding of Prediction Models on Behavior Data*
- May '18 **Next Generation Women Leaders Event by McKinsey & Company (Paris)**
- One of 200 participants selected worldwide to join a 3-day event filled with inspirational talks on leadership, solving case studies, and networking
- Nov '17 – present **Member of Beta Gamma Sigma Society – “Best in Business”**
- Honor of Academic excellence for top business students
- Oct '16 – May '18 **(Pre-)Junior Management Program**
- Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 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**
- Developed credit scoring tool in Matlab for professional loans of AXA insurance

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## Activities and Service

- Program Committee & Invited Speaker** Workshop on Advances in Interpretable ML and AI (CIKM online), Oct '20  
Title: *A Comparison of Counterfactual Algorithms for Explaining Prediction Models on Behavior and Textual Data*
- Invited Speaker** LenddoEFL Knowledge Sharing, New York City, Oct '19  
Title: *Counterfactual Explanations for Models on Behavior and Textual*
- Blogpost** KDnuggets, May '20  
Title: *Evidence Counterfactuals for Explaining Models on Big Data*

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## Personal Interests

- Hobbies** Field hockey ('10-'12: National team), running, yoga/pilates, ski/snowboard
- Ambitions** *Democratize* (ethical and fair) Artificial Intelligence  
*Advocate* for data-driven decision-making in companies and government  
*Inspire* more women to pursue a career in technology & engineering  
*Teach* children programming & problem-solving skills from an early age