Rania Wazir

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WORK EXPERIENCE

15/01/2022 – CURRENT – Austria
CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF STARTUP LEIWAND.AI - TRUSTWORTHY AI FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

01/01/2017 – CURRENT
DATA SCIENTIST – RANIA WAZIR E.U.

Selected Projects:

-- **Trustworthy AI research:**
  ◦ Technical project lead for the FFG-funded project „**fAIr by design**", multi-disciplinary research focussed on developing a process model for non-discriminatory AI, 2021 - 2024
  ◦ Consortium lead for the EU Fundamental rights Agency (FRA) project
"Providing evidence on bias when using algorithms – simulation and testing of selected cases", (D-SE-20-T04-C01), 2021

-- **Natural Language Processing, and applications**:
  ◦ Project Lead, Sentiment analysis of social media content for the "Barometro dell'Odio" project; in collaboration with Thomas Treml, Daten Sensorium, Austria; Paola Pasca, University of Salento, Italy.
  ◦ Project Lead, Topic Modelling in support of the EUvsVirus Hackathon Civil Societies Group; a tool to help find synergies between hackathon projects based on the project descriptions on DevPost; in collaboration with a team of data4good volunteers.
  ◦
-- **Social Media Analysis**
  ◦ Collecting, analyzing, and visualizing offensive discourse on social media for Amnesty International Italy's "*Barometro dell'Odio*" projects
  ◦ European Parliamentary Elections: https://www.amnesty.it/cosa-facciamo/elezioni-europee/, published July 2019
  ◦ Gender discrimination online: https://www.amnesty.it/barometro-dellodio-sessismo-da-tastiera/, published June 2020
  ◦ COVID and the new poverty on social media, https://www.amnesty.it/barometro-dellodio-intolleranza-pandemica/, published April 2021
  ◦ Discussions of citizenship (Ius Soli) on social media, in progress
  ◦ Collecting, analyzing, and visualizing political discourse on social media, in collaboration with a group of Swiss, French, Italian, and German journalists (published on netzpolitik.org in Germany, and l'Espresso in Italy, in May 2018)

-- Mathematical optimization algorithms for the energy sector (Quaternity GmbH)

Vienna, Austria

15/01/2019 – CURRENT
MEMBER OF THE BOARD – VIENNA DATA SCIENCE GROUP

Coordinator of the VDSG's data4good Initiative (since 01/02/2018):
  ◦ Outreach to over 20 NGOs and social enterprises, looking to match data science and AI solutions to their needs
  ◦ Co-organizer, data4good Hackathon, April 27-28, 2019
  ◦ Project Lead: Social Media Monitoring for the Austrian Parliamentary Elections 2019, in collaboration with wahlbeobachtung.org
  ◦ educational outreach, to inform about the benefits and pitfalls of Machine Learning algorithms

Vienna, Austria

15/03/2019 – CURRENT – Vienna, Austria
MEMBER OF THE AUSTRIAN STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON AI (AG 001.42) – AUSTRIAN STANDARDS

- *Austrian Delegate to CEN/CLC JTC 21 "Artificial Intelligence",* since May 2021

AI standardization in a European context. As member of the Ad-hoc group on language processing, provide expert input for the development of European standards in the field of NLP.

- *Vice Chairperson of the Austrian Standards Committee on AI*, since March 2021
- *Austrian Delegate to the ISO Working Group on Trustworthiness*, since May 2020

Explore issues related to trustworthiness in a multi-disciplinary forum, with members from various nations. Provide expert input for the development of standards and technical reports relating to Trustworthy AI (eg. fairness, bias, robustness)

01/01/2020 – CURRENT – Vienna, Austria
OTHER DATA SCIENCE ACTIVISM

- **Women in Data Science Vienna Ambassador 2020 and 2021**

- Co-organizer of the Women in Data Science Conference Vienna, taking place October 3, 2020 (https://www.vdsg.at/widsvienna);
- Co-organizer of the Women in Data Science Conference CEE, taking place March 8, 2021

WiDS Vienna is part of a global series of Workshops coordinated by Stanford University (https://www.widsconference.org/)

- **EUvsVirus Hackathon (04/2020 - 05/2020)**

As part of Civil Societies Organising Committee, helped involve NGOs and academic institutions in the hackathon projects (https://www.euvsvirus.org/)

- **PRIME Movers One Day Conference (09/03/2020)**

Expert participant for the Digitalisation track. Guided student participant group's ideas for tackling problems caused by digitalisation, as well as using digitalisation to solve issues of gender equality, and food waste. (https://www.oneday.at/)

01/08/2001 – 31/12/2016
PRIOR POSITIONS

- Adjunct Professor of Mathematics, **Webster Vienna Private University**, 09/2012 - 12/2016
- Product Manager for ID, **Austria Card**, 01/10/2006 – 30/04/2007
- Project Management, **Austria Card**, 01/05/2005 – 30/09/2006
- Postdoc Researcher in Algebraic Geometry, **University of Turin**, 01/09/2002 – 30/04/2005
- Postdoc at the Laboratory for Engineering Man/Machine Systems, **Brown University**, 01/08/2001 – 31/01/2002

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/09/1996 – 31/05/2001 – Providence, United States
PH.D – Department of Mathematics, Brown University

Mathematics (Arithmetic Geometry)
Advisor: Professor J.H.Silverman

M.Sc Advisor: Professor M. Rosen
Field(s) of study
- Mathematics

01/09/1991 – 30/06/1995 – Stanford, United States
B.SC (WITH HONORS AND DISTINCTION) – Stanford University

Mathematics
Honors Thesis in Statistics.
Advisor: Professor A. Adhikari

● WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, TRAININGS

Selected Events

- **ADV – Second Austrian Data Governance Conference**, 05.04.2019 (https://www.adv.at/eventrueckblick/data-governance-2019/)
- **ADV – Fourth Austrian Data Governance Conference**, 22.04.2021 (https://www.adv.at/eventrueckblick/data-governance-konferenz-2021/)
- **Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science** (BCSSS), *Workshop on Health and ICT*, 05.06.2019
- **Wirtschaftsagentur Wien,** "*Digital Technology meets Social Innovation*", 04.06.2019 (https://viennabusinessagency.at/events/business-treff-socialtech-data4good-893/)
- **Bratislava Workshop on Election Observation and the Social Media**, 19.09.2019
- **Netzpolitischer Abend** *"KI: Vorzüge und Nachteile"* am 06.06.2019, und "Social Media Monitoring" am 07.11.2019
- **Complexity Science Hub** *Workshop on Using Telecom Data for Social Good*, 10.12.2019
- **ASIGMO Data Science**, Intensive Course "*Trustworthy AI*", October 2020 and March 2022
- **Data Science Salon Webinar**: "*Impact of AI on freedom of expression in political competition*", 26.01.2021
- **IDLaw 2021 Panel Discussion**: *The DSA and the DMA – change everything to change nothing?*, 02.03.2021

● PUBLICATIONS

Recent Publications

- Handbuch Data Science: Mit Datenanalyse und Machine Learning Wert aus Daten generieren. With S. Papp, W. Weidinger, M. Meir-Huber, B.Ortner, and G. Langs. Hanser Verlag (2019)

- V. Hafez and R. Wazir, "*Open and Online: About Freedom in Digital Spaces*", https://medium.com/womeninai/open-and-online-about-freedom-in-digital-spaces-5d44b475a3fd (2021)

- A. Rabitsch, R. Wazir, and T. Treml, "AI and freedom of expression in political competition and elections", policy paper in the framework of the OSCE SAIFE initiative (2021)

- K. Huber-Heim and R. Wazir, Management for a better tomorrow - Sustainability leadership education in the machine age and implications for business school curricula and teaching *chapter in* **Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) – opportunities, threats, and the way forward.** Editors: Wolfgang Amann, Agata Stachowicz-Stanusch, Fauzia Jabeen and Radha Sharma; Information Age Publishing, to appear

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships

- Vienna Data Science Group
- Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science, Fellow
- Austrian Standards Committee for AI
- Delegate to the ISO Working Groups on Foundations (WG 1) and on Trustworthiness (WG 3)
- Delegate to CEN/CLC JTC 21 and member of the Ad-hoc Group on Human Language Processing
- Women in AI, Women in AI Austria
- R-Ladies Vienna
- EU AI Alliance

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ENGLISH**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
GERMAN	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
ITALIAN	C2	C1	C1	C1	B2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

JOB-RELATED SKILLS

Job-related skills

- Programming (R and R Shiny, Python)