

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gerasimos (Jerry) SPANAKIS

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Sex Male | Date of birth 27/12/1983 | Nationality Greek

WORK EXPERIENCE

December 2016 - ongoing

Assistant Professor in Machine Learning/Natural Language Processing

Department of Advanced Computing Sciences, Maastricht Law and Tech Lab, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

- Teaching courses on: Data Analysis, Natural Language Processing
- Supervisor of BSc/MSc theses and internships (97 completed) and PHD Advisor.
- **Researcher** currently focused in the area of Social Computing, including **computational social media modelling**, dialogue systems (conversational agents) and **information retrieval, topic detection and tracking from text data and pattern discovery from multimodal data sources**.
- **Member of the Maastricht Law and Tech Lab**. The Lab has as objective to conduct academic and **practical research on** selected research themes (e.g., digital forensics, compliance) and **on selected topics (e.g., consumer protection and detection of product safety issues, drones, privacy)**, based on different data sets (e.g., legislation, case law, social media data), **by means of a variety of methods (e.g., legal analysis, natural language processing, machine learning, network analysis)**.
- **Technical expert for E-enforcement Academy project II (EU CPC Network) (2021-2024)**, acting as tutor and expert participating in the development and implementation of tasks related to tutorials, master classes, webinars, etc. to improve the ability of authorities in the Consumer Protection Cooperation Network (CPC) to conduct online investigations, thus, developing their market surveillance capacities. Topics of focus include algorithms, tool script and internet investigations, computational research with the aim of a better detection of potential product safety issues.
- **Winner of the 2023 Silver Award for Product Safety** for leading the research paper: **“What’s wrong with this product?”: Detection of product safety issues based on information consumers share online**”. The Award encourages and honours innovative business initiatives and research that enhance consumer safety beyond legal requirements

[Business or sector](#) University Education / Research

May 2014 – November 2016

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Department of Advanced Computing Sciences, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

- Research project: ThinkSlim! (machine learning in predicting eating behaviour).

[Business or sector](#) University Education / Research

April 2016 – June 2016

Visiting Researcher

Department of Computing Sciences, University of Alberta

- Recommender Systems for Higher Education

[Business or sector](#) University Education / Research

October 2013 – February 2014

Adjunct Lecturer

Technical University of Crete, Greece

- Teaching course in Business Intelligence and Knowledge Management

Business or sector University Education / Research

October 2013 – February 2014

Scientific Associate

Technological Institute of Crete, Greece

- Teaching courses on Introduction to Programming, and Multimedia Applications

Business or sector University Education / Research

December 2012 – August 2013

Software Engineer/Analyst

Centre of Information Technology Support of the Hellenic Army (KEPYES)

- Analyst

Business or sector IT

October 2007 – July 2012

Lab Instructor

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens

- Lab instructor for courses Neural Networks and Programming Techniques

Business or sector University Education / Research

April 2004 – December 2008

Partner-Administrator of Computing Centre

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technical University of Athens

- Administrator of Computing Centre

Business or sector University Education / Research

April 2007 – July 2012

PhD Candidate

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens

- Thesis subject: Intelligent techniques in text semantic analysis and search.

Business or sector University Education / Research

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

October 2007 – July 2012

MSc in Civil Engineering

School of Civil Engineering, National Technical University of Athens

October 2001 – October 2006

MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Greek

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
	University of Michigan Proficiency in English (C2)				
Dutch	B1	B1	B1	B1I	B1

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

- Communication skills**
- good communication skills gained through his experience as professor and researcher working in international settings.
 - experience in science communication for non-experts (e.g. talks for the general public) and unpacking complex technical knowledge to non-technical audiences.
- Organisational / managerial skills**
- good managerial skills having 5 years of experience as member of the I-Board of Maastricht University, responsible for building a governance model for the research domain and making decisions for critical infrastructure for research.
 - supervisor of 7 PhD candidates and PI for a European Project Consortium where UM has the role of scientific and technical coordinator
- Job-related skills**
- Excellent knowledge of internet investigation and analysis tools and its applicability to perform market surveillance processes gained through his experience as researcher and technical expert in the topic.
 - Capacity to develop and implement training in the areas of algorithms, tool script and internet investigations, computational research.
- Computer skills**
- Programming languages (Python, Java, C, C++, SQL)
 - Software Proficiency (Microsoft Office Suite...)
 - Operating Systems (Windows, macOS, Linux/UNIX)
 - Web Development (HTML/CSS, Javascript, Front-end and Back-end frameworks)
 - Version control (Git, SVN)
 - Data Analysis and Machine Learning (Tableau, Power BI, R, KNIME, Tensorflow, Keras, PyTorch)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Publications (selection)**
- Catalina Goanta, Nikolaos Aletras, Ilias Chalkidis, Sofia Ranchordas, Gerasimos Spanakis. **“Regulation and NLP (RegNLP): Taming Large Language Models.”** Accepted at EMNLP 2023
 - Vageesh Saxena, Benjamin Bashpole, Gijs Van Dijck, Gerasimos Spanakis. “IDTraffickers: An Authorship Attribution Dataset to link and connect Potential Human-Trafficking Operations on Text Escort Advertisements.” Accepted at EMNLP 2023
 - Fabio Barbero, Sander op den Camp, Kristian van Kuijk, Carlos Soto Garcia-Delgado, Gerasimos Spanakis, Adriana Iamnitchi. “Multi-Modal Embeddings for Isolating Cross-Platform Coordinated Information Campaigns on Social Media.” Proceedings of the 5th Symposium on Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media (MISDOOM 2003)
 - Thales Bertaglia, Stefan Huber, Catalina Goanta, Gerasimos Spanakis, Adriana Iamnitchi. “Closing the Loop: Testing ChatGPT to Generate Model Explanations to Improve Human Labelling of Sponsored Content on Social Media.” Explainable Artificial Intelligence. xAI 2023. Communications in Computer and Information Science, vol 1902, pp. 198-213, Springer
 - Justus-Jonas Erker, Stefan Schaffer, Gerasimos Spanakis. “Imagination is All You Need! Curved Contrastive Learning for Abstract Sequence Modeling Utilized on Long Short-Term Dialogue Planning.” (accepted at ACL2023, Findings)
 - Vageesh Saxena, Neils Rethmeier, Gijs Van Dijck, Gerasimos Spanakis. VendorLink: An NLP approach for Identifying & Linking Vendor Migrants & Potential Aliases on Darknet Markets. (accepted at ACL2023)
 - Max Fuchs, Amit Jadhav, Advaita Jaishankar, Caroline Cauffman, Gerasimos Spanakis. **“What’s wrong with this product?” – Detection of product safety issues based on information consumers share online.** In Nineteenth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law (ICAIL 2023), June 19–23, 2023, Braga, Portugal. ACM, New York, NY, USA)
 - Antoine Louis, Gijs van Dijck, Gerasimos Spanakis. Finding the Law: Enhancing Statutory Article Retrieval via Graph Neural Networks. In *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (pp. 2753-2768).
 - Antoine Louis, Gerasimos Spanakis. A Statutory Article Retrieval Dataset in French. In *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)* (pp. 6789-6803).
 - Catalina Goanta, Gerasimos Spanakis. **The commercial unfairness of recommender**

systems on social media. In Artificial Intelligence and the Media. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

- Kolev Vladislav, Gerhard Weiss, Gerasimos Spanakis: FOREAL: RoBERTa Model for Fake News Detection based on Emotions. In Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence – Volume 2, ISBN 978-989-758-547-0, ISSN 2184-433X, pages 429-440, 2022
- Walter Simoncini, Gerasimos Spanakis: SeqAttack: On Adversarial Attacks for Named Entity Recognition. The 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2021, demo track)
- Rodrigo Alejandro Chávez Mulsa, Gerasimos Spanakis: Evaluating Bias In Dutch Word Embeddings. 2nd Workshop on Gender Bias in Natural Language Processing (GeBNLP 2020)
- Thalea Schlender, Gerasimos Spanakis: 'Thy algorithm shalt not bear false witness': An Evaluation of Multiclass Debiasing Methods on Word Embeddings. BNAIC/BENELEARN 2020, CCIS 1398, pp. 141-156

Current Projects

- VOXReality (2 PhD candidates on Neural Machine Translation)
- Digital Legal Studies (3 PhD candidates on Machine Learning applied to legal topics: information retrieval, consumer protection, cybercrime)
- Young Talent in NWO Gravitation programme 'New Science of Mental Disorders', Budget: 255K for DKE, 1 PhD candidate in explainable predictions for EMA data) www.nsmdeu
- Lead expert on the e-enforcement academy of EC: Improving the ability of authorities in the Consumer Protection Cooperation Network (CPC) to conduct online investigations
- Lead expert on a case study "Child Influencers in the Netherlands: Practices and problems" – study conducted for the Center for Criminality Prevention and Safety (<https://hetccv.nl/>)

Honours and awards

- **2022:** VOXReality: NLP applications in XR/VR environments (Budget: 703K for UM)
- **2021:** LAWNOTATION (PDI-SSH): Developing a platform to systematically analyze legal documents (Total budget: 598K)
- **2020:** Web Monetization and Social Media, funded by Mozilla Foundation (Budget: 50K for UM)"
- **2019:** Young Talent in NWO Gravitation programme 'New Science of Mental Disorders' Budget: 255K for DACS, 1 PhD candidate supervised)
- **2019:** EIT/EIT Health Innovation Activity: "ThinkSlim for Kids" (Budget: 113K euro for UM/DACS)
- **2019:** "Dark Web Data Markets", funded by UM, Budget: 7.75K for 1 year, Involvement: Law & Tech Lab (UM)
- **2018:** "Safety, Awareness For Empowerment", funded by UM (Diversity and Inclusivity Grant), Budget: 10K for 1 year, Involvement: UNU-MERIT, UCM