CONTACT

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CLEARANCE

NATIONAL NPPV 3 WITH SC
Active until April 2032

SKILLS

Programming
Python C++

Libraries & Frameworks
PyTorch HuggingFace BERT
NLTK Gensim SpaCy
Word2Vec VADER NumPy
Matplotlib Plotly Pandas
Selenium BeautifulSoup
HTMLRequests JSON

Databases
PostgreSQL MongoDB

NLP & ML Models
Prompt Engineering BERT
LLM/NLP/ML DistilGPT-2
RoBERTa Word2Vec Top2Vec
Random Forest SVM
Linear Regression RNN

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Analytical & Communication
Visual Storytelling
Analytical Thinking
Public Speaking Report Writing

Leadership & Management
Team/Project Management
Requirement Specification
Problem Solving

ANTONIS PAPASAVVA

PhD | Data Scientist | NLP Researcher | NPVV SC

Machine learning researcher with expertise in NLP, discourse analysis, and large-scale data collection. Experienced in leading ML and Data Science projects end-to-end, from dataset creation to model deployment. Published in top-tier conferences (AAAI ICWSM, ACM WWW), with work featured in NYT and WIRED.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (AI and Online Fraud)　　**Nov 23 – Sep 25**
University College London, London, UK

- Developed and fine-tuned custom LLM models (BERT) to detect changing and emerging trends in existing fraud signals.
- Built end-to-end pipelines for data collection, labelling, and training.
- Engaging with Action Fraud and City of London Police stakeholders to finalise the dashboard's requirements.

PhD Researcher in Cyber Security　　**Sep 19 – Sep 23**
University College London, London, UK

- Developed and fine-tuned NLP models (e.g., BERT, LDA, Word2Vec, VADER) for discourse and analysis, and toxicity and stance detection.
- Built scalable online data scraping pipelines (DOM-tree scraping).
- Used various ML API tools to annotate datasets.
- Published at AAAI ICWSM and ACM WWW and featured at Wired, NYT, New Scientist, and more.

Cybersafety Dashboard Supervisor (Secondment)　　**Aug 19 – Oct 19**
Telefonica I&D, Barcelona, Spain

- Developed and evaluated pilot systems for ENCASE EU-funded project.
- Produced user engagement and UX analytics reports.
- Supervised the development of a cybersafety parental control tool.

Product Owner (Secondment)　　**May 18 – Jul 18**
LSTech LTD, London, UK

- Defined dashboard's requirements to protect minors on social media.
- Led engineering team towards development of the dashboard (Scrum).

Visiting Researcher (Secondment)　　**Aug 18 – Dec 18**
Telefonica I&D, Barcelona, Spain

- Analysed existing work on the detection of inappropriate content online.
- Contributed to multi-class data annotation of videos.

Technical Lead & Product Owner　　**Dec 17 – Dec 19**
Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

- Architected and led development of an EU-funded research system.
- Led and submitted deliverables and managed technical reports presented to the EU Commission.
- Participated in grant proposal writing.

Research Fellow & Software Engineer　　**Feb 17 – May 18**
Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

- Built and maintained Android app back-end/front-end.
- Recruited pilot users and analysed UX data for mobile systems.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Discourse Analysis & Data Science　　**2019 – 2023**
University College London, London, UK

Thesis: *A Comprehensive Study of the Extremist Narratives and the Role of Alternative Social Networks that Facilitate Radical Discourse.*

M.Sc. – Data Engineering & Data Science (Honors)　　**2016 – 2019**
Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

B.Sc. – Computer Science (Honors)　　**2012 – 2016**
Frederick University, Limassol, Cyprus

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Kaé Dupuy
University College London
Quasi-similar subreddits: A study with Topic Modelling and Sentiment Analysis techniques

Yao Jiayi
University College London
Exploring the Application of NLP Models in Fraud Identification and Prevention

Liu Shiyi
University College London
Outlier Detection of Synthetic Voice Generated from Text-to-Speech and Voice Cloning Applications

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Erin Ju
University College London
Analysing Incel Communities' Discourse Following Trump's Election: Topic modelling and Semantic Analysis
To be submitted at ICWSM 2026

Birak Manvir
Home Office
Developing Automated Machine Learning Tools to Flag Suspicious Cryptocurrency Transactions
To be submitted at Financial Cryptography Conference 2026

Amin Mekacher
City University of London
"I Can't Keep It Up": A Dataset from the Defunct Voat.co News Aggregator
Presented at ICWSM 2022

Hrishikesh Akella
Lumiere Education
A comparison of thoughts on the Russo-Ukrainian war 2 years apart using topic modeling and sentiment analysis

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Fishing for Smishing: Understanding SMS Phishing Infrastructure and Strategies by Mining Public User Reports
ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), 2025

ACM IMC

S. Agarwal, A. Papasavva, G. Suarez-Tangil, M. Vasek

Applications of AI-Based Models for Online Fraud Detection and Analysis
Crime Science Journal, Springer, 2025

Crime Science

A. Papasavva, S. Lundrigan, E. Lowther, S. Johnson, E. Mariconti, N. Tuptuk

A Sinister Fattening: Dissecting the Tales of Pig Butchering and Other Cryptocurrency Scams
APWG Symposium on Electronic Crime Research (eCrime), 2024

IEEE eCrime

M. Ordekian, A. Papasavva, E. Mariconti, M. Vasek

Waiting for Q: An Exploration of QAnon Users' Online Migration to Poal in the Wake of Voat's Demise
ACM Web Science Conference, 2024

ACM WebSci

A. Papasavva, E. Mariconti

The Gospel According to Q: Understanding the QAnon Conspiracy from the Perspective of Canonical Information
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2022

AAAI ICWSM

A. Papasavva, M. Aliapoulios, C. Ballard, E. De Cristofaro, et al.

"I Can't Keep It Up": A Dataset from the Defunct Voat.co News Aggregator
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2022

AAAI ICWSM

A. Mekacher, A. Papasavva

"Is it a Qoincidence?": An Exploratory Study of QAnon on Voat
Proceedings of the Web Conference (WWW), 2021

ACM WWW

A. Papasavva, J. Blackburn, G. Stringhini, S. Zannettou, E. De Cristofaro

Raiders of the Lost Kek: 3.5 Years of Augmented 4chan Posts from the Politically Incorrect Board
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2020

AAAI ICWSM

A. Papasavva, S. Zannettou, E. De Cristofaro, G. Stringhini, J. Blackburn

Disturbed YouTube for Kids: Characterizing and Detecting Inappropriate Videos Targeting Young Children
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2020

AAAI ICWSM

K. Papadamou, A. Papasavva, S. Zannettou, J. Blackburn, et al.