

Yanou Ramon

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Experienced ML engineer with a PhD in Explainable AI, skilled in designing, building & scaling AI solutions.

ML project highlights:

- Scalable LLM-driven recommender system on website: +20% conversion uplift
- NLP model for customer insights: +10% efficiency
- Agent staffing model for global tech client: +20% operational efficiency

Languages

Dutch (native) · English (fluent) · French (basic)

Technical

Python · SQL · cloud (Azure, AWS) · Git · ML pipelines (Kedro, Dagster, dbt) · A/B testing

EDUCATION

- Oct '18 – Sep '22 **PhD in Explainable AI – Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)**
- University of Antwerp (BE) · Advisor: Prof. David Martens
 - Title: Rule-based methods to explain models on behavioral data
- Nov '21 – April '22 **Visiting Research Scholar at Columbia University (New York City, US)**
- Columbia Business School · Advisor: Prof. Sandra Matz
 - Built and interpreted models that act as tools to diagnose people's personality & mental health from their financial transaction histories
- Oct '16 – June '18 **M.Sc. in Business Engineering**
- University of Antwerp (BE) · Great distinction (80/100)
 - Fall semester '17: Exchange at Toulouse School of Management (FR)
 - July '16: Summer school at Georgetown University in Washington (US)
- Oct '13 – June '16 **B.Sc. in Business Engineering**
- University of Antwerp (BE) · Great distinction (78/100)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- June '24 – present **AI Engineer II – Loop Earplugs**
- Worked on applied AI (from idea to deployment) to boost Loop's profitability
- Oct '22 – June '24 **Data Scientist – QuantumBlack, AI by McKinsey**
- Designed & implemented advanced analytics solutions for clients across different industries, topics, and countries
- Oct '19 – Sep '22 **Organizer of summer school on the American Business Environment**
- Put together a two-week program at Georgetown University in Washington (US) and supervised a group of 50+ Master students of the University of Antwerp
- Oct '18 – Sep '22 **Teaching Assistant**
- University of Antwerp (BE) · Master courses: Data Mining, Data Science Ethics, Case studies & Trends in Data Science, and Data Engineering

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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 and Economics (University of Antwerp, BE) ▪ 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

Guest speaker	Annual guest lectures on AI for business for law & business students
WiDS Ambassador	Women in Data Science Ambassador (Stanford University, US) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organized a local event in Antwerp in May 2022 & a full-day conference in Ghent in May 2024 (visit womenindatascience.be for more information)
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

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.</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.</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.</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.</p>
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PERSONAL INTERESTS

Hobbies	Field hockey ['10 - '12: national team], tennis, yoga, walking my dog, and winter sports
Ambitions	Promote data-driven decision-making in business and society Encourage & empower more women to enter STEM careers