

# Mubashara Akhtar

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## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Natural Language Processing, King's College London** since Oct 2020

- Advisor: [Prof. Elena Simperl](#), [Dr. Oana Cocarascu](#)
- Topic: Multimodal Evidence Integration for Automated Fact-Checking
- Thesis submitted: July 2024 (defense: Dec 2024)

**Visiting PhD student, University of Cambridge** Jan - June 2023

- Host: [Prof. Andreas Vlachos](#)
- Visiting the [NLP research group](#)

**BSc & MSc in Computer Science, TU Wien** Oct 2011 - Jan 2020

- Minor in Economics
- Grade Master's Degree: 1.6 (comparable to UK first)
- Grade Bachelor Degree: 2.1 (comparable to UK 2.1)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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*Croissant: A Metadata Format for ML-Ready Datasets.* (**spotlight**)

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Omar Benjelloun, Costanza Conforti, et al.

Accepted at NeurIPS 2024.

*Croissant: A Metadata Format for ML-Ready Datasets.* (**best paper award**)

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Omar Benjelloun, Costanza Conforti, et al.

Proceedings of the Eighth Workshop on Data Management for End-to-End Machine Learning, 2024.

*ChartCheck: Explainable Fact-Checking over Real-World Chart Images.*

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Nikesh Subedi, Vivek Gupta, Sahar Tahmasebi, Oana Cocarascu, Elena Simperl.

Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**), 2024.

*Exploring the Numerical Reasoning Capabilities of Language Models: A Comprehensive Analysis on Tabular Data.*

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Abhilash Shankarampeta, Vivek Gupta, A. Patil, Oana Cocarascu, Elena Simperl.

Findings of Annual Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), 2023.

*Multimodal Automated Fact-Checking: A Survey.*

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Z. Guo, Michael Schlichtkrull, Oana Cocarascu, Elena Simperl, Andreas Vlachos.

Findings of Annual Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), 2023.

*Reading and Reasoning over Chart Images for Evidence-based Automated Fact-Checking.*

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Oana Cocarascu, Elena Simperl.

Findings of Annual Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**EACL**), 2023.

*PubHealthTab: A Public Health Table-based Dataset for Evidence-based Fact Checking.*

**Mubashara Akhtar**, Oana Cocarascu, Elena Simperl.

Findings of Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**NAACL**), 2022.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Student Researcher, Google Deepmind (Zurich, Switzerland)** July - Nov 2023 & Jan - April 2024

– Host: [Julian Eisenschlos](#)

– Project on open-domain question answering with text, tables, and semi-structured data

**Teaching Assistant, King's College London (London, UK)** Sept 2021 - Dec 2022

– Course: Python programming for data scientists

– Responsibilities: coursework co-design, lab supervision, marking of programming projects

**Data Scientist, Mayato AT (Darmstadt, Germany)** Jan 2019 - Sept 2020

– German smart speaker project for Europe's largest telecom provider, **Deutsche Telekom AG**

– Language model development for recognising users' intents given interactions with the smart speaker

– Technologies: Python (PyTorch, transformers, scikit-learn, nltk, etc.), MS LUIS, git, etc.

**Java Software Engineer, Ebcont GmbH (Vienna, Austria)** Oct 2017 - Dec 2018

– Developed a fraud detection tool for Austrian Ministry of Finance

– Technologies: Java, Openshift, Camunda, Spring Boot, Maven, Hibernate, etc.

**Research Assistant, TU Wien (Vienna, Austria)** Feb - Dec 2017

– Machine learning project in cooperation with telecom company, T-Mobile Austria

– Researched on user modelling and clickstream prediction; reported to head of data lab at T-Mobile

**Statistics Consultant, United Nations (Vienna, Austria)** Sept - Dec 2015

– Analysed trends in the manufacturing industry in MENA countries

– Reported to chief statistician at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

**Teaching Assistant, TU Wien (Vienna, Austria)** Mar - July 2014

– Institute of Computer Graphics & Algorithms; Institute of Statistics & Math. Methods in Economics

– Taught groups of 20 students; prepared and reviewed math and programming assignments/labs

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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– Best Short Paper Award, DEEM workshop @SIGMOD, 2024

– Research Impact Award, King's College London NMES PhD competition, 2023

– King's College London NMES Faculty Studentship Award (Total £79,9223), 2020-2024

– [European Forum Alpbach](#) scholarship for the years 2020/21 (5% acceptance rate), 2020

– US Embassy of Austria's Austria to Austin Entrepreneurship program, 2019

– [Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens](#) mentorship (mentored by TU Wien vice-rector), 2019

– Research scholarship from TU Wien for master's thesis, 2017

– ACM RecSys summer school and conference grant from TU Wien, 2017

– Merit-based scholarship from TU Wien, 2012-2016

– Top 1% with 1.0 grade at Austrian high school final exam (summa cum laude)

## SERVICE & SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE

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Co-Lead Responsible AI working group, [Croissant ML Dataset Format](#), [MLCommons](#) since Aug 2023

Organisation committee [FEVER workshop](#), co-located with [EACL '23](#), [EMNLP '24](#) since Oct 2022

Organisation <a href="#">King's College London KG Lab's weekly seminar group</a>	Dec 2020 - Dec 2022
Teaching Assistant, <a href="#">Oxford Machine Learning Summer School</a>	July 2021
Organisation of a <a href="#">Women in ML (WiML) Workshop at NeurIPS 2020</a>	Dec 2020
<a href="#">ACM Summer School on Recommender Systems</a>	Aug 2017

## MEDIA & OUTREACH

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Panel discussion at <a href="#">Österreichischer Journalistinnenkongress</a>	Vienna, Austria (2024)
Talk at <a href="#">CardiffNLP</a> , Cardiff University	Cardiff, UK (2024)
Talk at <a href="#">Int. Multimodal Communication Centre</a> , University of Oxford	Oxford, UK (2024)
Talk at <a href="#">iPragma group</a> , Google DeepMind	Zurich, Switzerland (2023)
Panel discussion at <a href="#">the European Forum Alpbach 2023</a>	Alpbach, Austria (2023)
Talk at <a href="#">Alan Turing Visualization Interest Group 5th Symposium</a>	London, UK (2023)
Panel moderation <a href="#">A digital Future with Human Values</a> , Austrian Embassy UK	London, UK (2023)
Interview for the podcast <a href="#">FrauenFunk</a> , City Council of Vienna	Vienna, Austria (2021)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

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President, <a href="#">Club Alpbach London</a>	Oct 2022 - Nov 2023
Board member, <a href="#">Club Alpbach Vienna</a>	Oct 2020 - Sept 2022
Board member (2015 - 2020) and scouts leader, Scouts in Austria	since 2013