



Damiaan Reijnaers

Raising *human-centeredness*.



ILLC BZK

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ABOUT ME

I am a curious person with a deep interest in people and the world they inhabit, driven to make a meaningful contribution. My ambition lies at the intersection of the humanities and AI; where insights into the complexities of society itself inform the technology that drives its progress. For science that is ethical and responsible—advancing humanity *and the humanities*.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2024** GTNC: A Many-To-One Dataset of Google Translations from NewsCrawl [↗](#)
- 2023** Machine-translated texts from English to Polish show a potential for typological explanations... [↗](#)
- 2021** Re Explaining Groups of Points in Low-Dimensional Representations. [↗](#)

EDUCATION

- 9/2020 - 8/2023 **MSc (Res), Artificial Intelligence** University of Amsterdam
Thesis: *Exploiting Machine Translations for Source Language Identification* [↗](#)
Focus: cognitively-inspired NLP, explainability (XAI), fairness
- 9/2021 - 8/2022 **MA, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Cum Laude** Leiden University
Thesis: *Reading Dolgans through their language: approaching indigenous Dolgan culture by collecting words.* [↗](#)
Focus: digital humanities, linguistics, cultural history
- 9/2017 - 8/2021 **BA, Slavonic Language and Culture** University of Amsterdam
View thesis [↗](#).
- 9/2014 - 8/2020 **BSc, Artificial Intelligence** University of Amsterdam
View thesis [↗](#), awarded an honourable mention [↗](#).

EXPERIENCE

- 1/2025 – present **Advisor** Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
 - Advising on AI opportunities within the Dutch government, and on information management in general.
- 1/2025 – present **PhD Researcher** UvA, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation
 - Inventing NLP technology for ‘open government’ and integrating it into various practical contexts.
- 9/2024–12/2024 *(in collaboration)* TIU, Public Law and Governance
 - Exploring the legal dimensions of government data in cooperation with partners in industry and in government.
- 11/2022–7/2023 **Research Intern** National Police Corps
 - Developing and researching explainable AI algorithms for usage by governments in a forensic context.
 - Implementing machine learning models with PyTorch, spaCy, Transformers, and scikit.
- 4/2022–5/2022 **Russian Interpreter** Municipality of Zaanstad
voluntary
 - Interpreting for Russian-speaking refugees from Ukraine, overseeing their registration, and related tasks.
- 1/2009–4/2022 **Software Engineer (full-stack)** Self-employed
 - Developing diverse software for 100+ clients across all sectors as a ‘side job’ in school and university.
 - ↳ Case: for the University of Amsterdam, I developed an online library catalogue system.
 - Appearing in media with ethical hacks [↗](#), and reporting critical vulnerabilities to platforms with millions of users.
 - ↳ Case: in high school, I obtained the passwords of teachers nationwide by finding an exploit in a leading LMS.
 - Setting up and managing servers and websites with thousands of daily visitors (and keeping it secure).
 - Working with many (REST/GraphQL/OAuth) APIs and data structures, and constructing complex SQL queries.
 - Python / PostgreSQL / Prolog / JS / PHP / MariaDB / HTML / CSS / misc
- 9/2019–12/2019 **Intern** Netherlands Institute in Saint Petersburg
 - Creating advanced online educational software *from scratch*, including multiple annual courses, diverse teaching material, Zoom integration, (automatic) correction tools, voice messaging, a forum, and other functionality.
 - Playing a key role in the entire process from idea to product: *i.e.*, consultation, ‘paperwork’, translating, etc.

MORE ABOUT ME

- languages **English** - excellent, **Dutch** - native, **Russian** - fluent (adult L2)
- special interests natural language (and its evolution), explainable AI, linked open data, history, (staying with) indigenous peoples