

SIMON LUPART

PhD Candidate in Information Retrieval and Machine Learning

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PhD candidate in Information Retrieval and Machine Learning at the University of Amsterdam, advised by Prof. Evangelos Kanoulas and Dr. Mohammad Aliannejadi. My research focuses on conversational search, agentic search, retrieval-augmented generation, and efficient LLM-based IR systems. I previously worked at Naver Labs Europe, and hold a Master's degree from Grenoble INP Ensimag, including an Erasmus exchange at Imperial College London.

Experience

PhD in Conversational AI Oct 2023–Present

University of Amsterdam [Amsterdam, NL]

- Research on conversational search, retrieval-augmented generation, and efficient neural retrieval.
- Distillation from LLMs to bi-encoder and sparse retrieval models for improved effectiveness and efficiency.
- Personalized conversational RAG and evaluation of long-form answer generation for the TREC iKAT track.
- Research topics include contrastive learning, self-supervised learning, sparse retrieval, query reformulation, and personalization.

Research Intern in Information Retrieval Oct 2025–Feb 2026

Naver Labs Europe [Grenoble, FR]

- Research internship on information retrieval and large language models.
- Worked on conversational search, sparse retrieval, and efficient retrieval models for large-scale systems.

Research Scientist in Information Retrieval Nov 2021–Jun 2023

Naver Labs Europe [Grenoble, FR]

- Worked on neural information retrieval with a focus on sparse models (SPLADE) in the Search and Recommendation team.
- Studied the robustness of neural retrievers (SPLADE, ColBERT, bi-encoders) under distribution shifts and adversarial settings.

Research Intern in NLP May 2021–Oct 2021

Aix-Marseille University x Naver Labs Europe [Marseille, FR]

- Zero-shot and few-shot classification of biomedical documents. Compared pretrained transformer models, including BioBERT, and multi-task learning approaches.

Machine Learning Engineering Intern Jun 2020–Aug 2020

Safran Aircraft Engines [Paris, FR]

- Worked on prognostics and health monitoring for aircraft engine oil circuit variables. Applied machine learning models and neural network explainability techniques.

Selected Publications [Google Scholar]

- [Pre-print 2026] ChatR1: Reinforcement Learning for Conversational Reasoning and Retrieval Augmented Question Answering. S. Lupart, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas.
- [SIGIR 2025] DiSCo: LLM Knowledge Distillation for Efficient Sparse Retrieval in Conversational Search. S. Lupart, M. Aliannejadi, E. Kanoulas.
- [SIGIR 2025] Conversational Gold: Evaluating Personalized Conversational Search Systems using Gold Nuggets. Z. Abbasiantaeb, S. Lupart (equal contribution), L. Azzopardi, J. Dalton, M. Aliannejadi.
- [SIGIR-AP 2025] Investigating LLM Variability in Personalized Conversational Information Retrieval. S. Lupart, Daniël van Dijk, Eric Langezaal, Ian van Dort, Mohammad Aliannejadi (Best Paper award nominee).

Education

Erasmus Exchange (Master AI)

Imperial College London

Sep 2020–Apr 2021 · London, UK

- Machine Learning, Deep Learning, NLP, and Reinforcement Learning.

Master of Engineering

ENSIMAG Computing and Applied Mathematics

Sep 2018–Jul 2021 · Grenoble, FR

- Applied mathematics, statistics, and computer science.

Preparatory Classes in Mathematics and Physics

CPGE Louis Thuillier

Sep 2016–Jul 2018 · Amiens, FR

Teaching & Service

Teaching Assistant · Information Retrieval 1 & 2 at the University of Amsterdam, including guest lectures.

Student Supervision · Supervision of master's student projects in AI and IR.

Summer School Organization · Hackathon organization at ESSIR 2024 [GitHub].

Technical Skills

Programming · Python, R, C++, C, Java

ML / IR Tools · PyTorch, Hugging Face, Transformers, FAISS, Git, Slurm

Research Areas · Information Retrieval, Conversational Search, Sparse Retrieval, RAG, Large Language Models