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CONTACT INFORMATION	Edgbaston, B15 2TT, Birmingham, Great Britain	+34 633 13 55 47 v.o.kovatchev@bham.ac.uk
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Computational Semantics, Natural Language Inference, Natural Language Understanding, Psycholinguistics, Interpretability	
CURRENT POSITION	<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> <i>University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom</i> May 2020 - present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying state-of-the-art NLP techniques to psycholinguistic data</li> <li>• Data augmentation for NLP</li> <li>• Lecturer in the Master program on Data Science</li> </ul>	
EDUCATION	<b>University of Barcelona</b> , Barcelona, Spain <p>Ph.D., Cognitive Science and Language, July 2020, <i>Cum Laude</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis Topic: <i>Paraphrasing, Textual Entailment, and Semantic Similarity</i></li> <li>• Advisors: M. Antonia Marti, Ph.D and M. Salamo, Ph.D</li> <li>• Research Grup: CLiC- The Language and Computation Center</li> </ul> <p>M.S., Cognitive Science and Language, Sep 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic: <i>Vector Space Models for representing word meaning</i></li> <li>• Advisors: M. Antonia Marti, Ph.D and M. Salamo, Ph.D</li> </ul> <p><b>Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”</b>, Sofia, Bulgaria</p> <p>B.S., Bulgarian philology May 2012</p>	
CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kovatchev, V., Smith, P., Lee, M., and Devine, R., “Can Vectors Read Minds Better Than Experts? Comparing Data Augmentation Strategies for the Automated Scoring of Children’s Mindreading Ability” at <i>Proceedings of the Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP)</i>, 2021</li> <li>2. Kovatchev, V., Smith, P., Lee, M., Grumley Traynor, I., Luque Aguilera, I., and Devine, R., “What is on your mind?” Automated Scoring of Mindreading in Childhood and Early Adolescence” at <i>Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)</i>, 2020</li> <li>3. Hossain, M. M., Kovatchev, V., Dutta, P., Kao, T., Wei, E., Blanco, E., “An Analysis of Natural Language Inference Benchmarks through the Lens of Negation” at <i>Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)</i>, 2020</li> <li>4. Kovatchev, V., Gold, D., Martí, M. A., Salamó, M., and Zesch, T., “Decomposing and Comparing Meaning Relations: Paraphrasing, Textual Entailment, Contradiction, and Specificity” at <i>Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)</i>, 2020</li> <li>5. Ikauniece, I., Kovatchev, V., Puertas, E., “Spanish and Catalan Polarity Detection in Student Satisfaction Surveys”, at <i>Proceedings of the 21st International Conference of the Catalan Association for Artificial Intelligence</i>, 2019 (<i>Best Poster Award</i>)</li> </ol>	

6. Kovatchev, V., Martí, M. A., Salamó, M., and Beltran, J. “Qualitative Evaluation Framework for Paraphrase Identification”, at *Proceedings of the 12th Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing conference (RANLP)*, 2019
7. Gold, D., Kovatchev, V., and Zesch, T. “Annotating and analyzing the interactions between meaning relations”, at *Proceedings of the 13th Language Annotation Workshop (LAW @ ACL2019)*, 2019
8. Kovatchev, V., Salamo, M., and Marti, M. A. “ETPC - A Paraphrase Identification Corpus Annotated with Extended Paraphrase Typology and Negation” at *Proceedings of The 11th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*, 2018.
9. Kovatchev, V., Salamo, M., and Marti, M. A. “WARP-Text: A Web-Based Tool for Annotating Relationships Between Pairs of Texts” at *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING), System Demonstrations*, 2018.

REFEREED  
JOURNAL  
PUBLICATIONS

1. Marti, M. A., Taule, M., Kovatchev, V., and Salamo, M. “DISCOVeR: DIStributional approach based on syntactic dependencies for discovering Constructions”. *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*, 2019
2. Kovatchev, V., Salamo, M., and Marti, M. A. “Comparing models of distributional semantics for identifying groups of semantically related words” *Procesamiento de Lenguae Natural*, 57, 2016.

ORGANIZING  
COMMITTEE

- Conferences
- RELATIONS Workshop (co-located with IWCS) 2019
  - RANLP Student Workshop 2017, 2019
  - Monitor at Lisbon Machine Learning School (LxMLS) 2018, 2019

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

- Programming for Data Science 2020-2021  
*Master Program of Data Science,  
School of Computer Science,  
University of Birmingham*
- Introduction to Python programming 2018-2019; 2019-2020  
*Language Technology Service (STEL),  
Facilty of Filology and Communication,  
University of Barcelona*
- Introduction to NLP 2016-2017; 2017-2018  
*Master Program of Data Science,  
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science,  
University of Barcelona*

WORK  
EXPERIENCE

- Software Engineer and System Administrator  
*Support Service LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria* September 2015 – April 2017  
*DevHex LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria* March 2014 – August 2014  
*Support LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria* December 2011 – March 2014
- Research and development of systems for encoding and transfer of voice communication (VoIP)
  - Development of Interactive multi-lingual auto-response systems
  - Programming (PHP, Perl, Python)
  - System administration and maintenance (Unix based systems)

Software Specialist	October 2009 – December 2011
<i>DANS Energy LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria</i>	March 2008 – October 2009
<i>Ancient Media LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria</i>	October 2006 – January 2008
<i>SupportBG LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria</i>	

- Deployment and Management of software solutions for small and medium business
- System administration and maintenance
- Web development and PHP programming

PERSONAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
SKILLS

**Language proficiency**

Bulgarian	Native
English	C2
Spanish	B2

**IT related skills**

- Deployment and management of Unix based systems
- Programming (PHP, Python, Perl)
- Machine Learning (scikit-learn)
- Deep Learning (Tensor Flow, PyTorch)
- Virtualization
- Cluster management