Philipp Zimmer

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Experienced Data Scientist and Policy Analyst with a strong foundation in technical project leadership, large-scale data analysis, and data storytelling. Proficient in machine learning, natural language processing, data product development, and communicating between policy needs and technical teams – particularly in the development and public sector.

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge (USA) Sep 2021 – Jan 2024

MSc in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

MSc in Technology and Policy

> Concentration in **Computational Political Science**, leveraging coursework in **Deep Learning**, **ML**, **NLP**, and **Cognitive Science**
> Cross-registration at Harvard University with a thematic focus on authoritarianism and continuing (political) conflicts
> Scholar at the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, **< 0.5% of German students**)

Kühne Logistics University, Hamburg (Germany) Sep 2017 – Aug 2020

BSc in Management

> Dean's List (Highest GPA), Quant. Research on **Humanitarian Operations**, Semester at Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

SOFTWARE SKILLS Python (incl. PyTorch, Spark, NLTK, NetworkX, sklearn, SciPy, spaCy), R, Git, Linux, Tableau, PowerBI, KNIME

LANGUAGE SKILLS English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (advanced), Luganda (intermediate)

FEATURED RESEARCH PROJECTS

> The Seeds of Conflict: Identifying **Causal Precursors of Political Conflicts** via Frame-Semantic Parsing (NLP, Causal Modeling)
> Identifying **Political Leaders' Stance** Towards Climate Action (NLP, Transfer Learning)
> Quantifying the Effect of Media Exposure on Humanitarian Funding (Cognitive Science, Bayesian Modeling)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The World Bank, Washington DC (USA) Mar 2023 – now

Consultant | Data Science

> Developing **natural language processing** models to research misinformation and hate speech in Nigeria
> Building data pipelines to extract **causal precursors from news articles** to predict food insecurity risks utilizing Deep Learning
> Leading research fundraising efforts, obtaining **$5mn** for a machine learning project studying gender inequities
> Designing and leading a research project utilizing **mixed methods** approaches to study famine pathways in Sub-Saharan Africa

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge (USA) Sep 2021 – Sep 2023

Research Assistant | Computational Social Science

> Investigated **algorithmic amplifications** on social media platforms as part of MIT IDSS' Initiative on Combatting Systemic Racism
> **ACM Web '23 Best Paper Award** for project auditing state-of-the-art, machine learning based bot detection on Twitter
> Researched recommender systems' impact on **(political) radicalization** through user consumption patterns on YouTube
> Established and managed 3 pro-bono data partnerships with private-sector data brokers to supply multiple research streams

United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General, New York (USA) Jan 2021 – Jul 2021

Fellow | Data, Strategic Planning & Monitoring

> Built **data science products**, incl. data pipelines for country indicators and COVID-19 dashboards for UN Executive Committee
> Led the **technical oversight** of the deployment of the UN Financial Transparency Portal, incl. effective UI/UX
> **Identified data use cases** to implement the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy and co-led the initiative's fundraising
> Drafted the terms of reference of the Complex Risk Analytics Fund to **enhance multilateral crisis data** financing

Additional Professional Experiences

> Suubi lya baana e.V. | since Dec 2017 | Co-Founder & Chairman coordinating micro-financing and education projects in Uganda
> Stichting Yes We Help | Jun 2020 to Jul 2021 | Co-Founder of low-code matching platform for social needs sponsored by Next47
> Kearney | Jul 2020 to Aug 2020 | Summer Fellow in Analytics practice co-developing an end-to-end network optimizer
> Siemens | Jun 2019 to Jun 2020 | Data Analyst in Advanced Analytics unit leading predictive pricing and process automation