

Behnam Rahdari

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San Francisco Bay Area

U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT - AUTHORIZED TO WORK FOR ANY US EMPLOYER.

EDUCATION

- **University of Pittsburgh** Pittsburgh, PA
Ph.D. in Information Science; GPA: 4.00
Jan. 2019 – Present
Thesis: Human-AI Collaboration in Search and Recommendation
Expected Graduation Date: *August 2024*
- **Polytechnic University of Milan** Milan, Italy
Master's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering; GPA: 4.00
2014 – 2017
Thesis: Event-Based User Profiling in Social Media Using Data Mining Approaches

EXPERIENCE

- **Amazon - AWS AI Labs** Santa Clara, CA
Applied Scientist Intern
June 2023 - August 2023
 - **Activities:** Developed an end-to-end LLM-Based framework for generating personalized, robust and factually correct explanation for recommendations by utilizing prompt engineering and chain-of-thought techniques.
- **University of Pittsburgh** Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate Student Researcher
Jan 2019 - Present
 - **Activities:** Conducted theoretical and experimental research on interactive recommender systems. Implemented several online search and recommender systems for experiments and public use. Published and presented in top-tier conferences. Trained and directed graduate and undergraduate research assistants.
- **Polytechnic University of Milan** Milan, Italy
Research Fellow
May 2017 – Aug 2017
 - **Activities:** Conducted research on data-driven fashion and travel. Analyzed large amounts of social media data to find patterns related to various fashion and tourism related events. Collaborated with designers in the school of design to build a customized fashion entity recognition models.
- **Sabzafraz Zagros** Iran
Senior Software Engineer
Jan 2009 – Mar 2011
 - **Activities:** Managed a software development team focusing on building web apps for small business financing.

SKILLS

- **Programming/Scripting Languages** proficient
Python, TensorFlow, Pytorch, C++, Java, R, PHP, JavaScript, SQL, Cypher
- **Frameworks/Tools:** proficient
SPSS, Stata, SAS, MATLAB, Octave, Neo4j, AWS
- **General Skills:**
Research, Report writing, Planning and scheduling, Critical thinking and analysis, Teamwork
- **Biomedical Research Certificates:**
Biomedical Human Subjects Research, Genetic Research in Human Populations full list CITI Program
- **Behavioral Research Certificates:**
Responsible Conduct of Research, Social and Behavioral Science Human Subjects full list CITI Program

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **Investigating and Evaluating Exploratory Recommender Systems:**
Funding Agency: Amazon Research Awards (ARA)
 - **June 2021 - Present:** Pittsburgh, PA /Remote
- **Integrating complementary learning principles in aphasia rehabilitation via adaptive modeling:**
Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - **Feb 2022 - May 2023:** Pittsburgh, PA /Remote
- **Health E-Librarian with Personalized Recommendations (HELPeR):**
Funding Agency: National Library of Medicine (NLM)
 - **Jan 2020 - Present:** Pittsburgh, PA
- **Utilizing Clinical Metadata to Predict High-Cost Complications and Treatment Response in IBD: Development of Clinical Decision Support Tools:**
Funding Agency: United States Department of Defense (DoD)
 - **Jan 2019 - September 2021:** Pittsburgh, PA
- **It's Who You Know: Feasibility of a Hybrid Recommender System to Connect Students With Informal Social Networks of Pitt Researchers:**
Funding Agency: University of Pittsburgh - Office of the Provost.
 - **Jan 2019 - May 2020:** Pittsburgh, PA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **2024: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky, Branislav Kveton. "Towards Simulation-Based Evaluation of Recommender Systems with Carousel Interfaces" In Proceedings of the ACM Transactions on Recommender Systems.
- **2023:** Khushboo Thaker, **Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky, Chi Ching Vivian Hui, Zhimeng Luo, Youjia Wang Daqing He, Heidi Donovan, Young Ji Lee. "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes: Using Personas to obtain Health Professional Perspectives for an Ovarian Cancer Patient-Focused Recommender System" In Proceedings of the AMIA 2023 annual symposium.
- **2023: Behnam Rahdari**, Hao Ding, Ziwei Fan, Yifei Ma, Zhuotong Chen, Branislav Kveton, Anoop Deoras. "Logic-Scaffolding: Personalized Aspect-Instructed Recommendation Explanation Generation using LLMs" In Proceedings of the 17th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining.
- **2022: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky and Branislav Kveton. "The Magic of Carousels: Single vs. Multi-List Recommender Systems" In Proceedings of the 33rd ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media.
- **2022: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky and Branislav Kveton. "Towards Increasing the Coverage of Interactive Recommendations" In Proceedings of the Florida Online Journals (FLAIRS-35).
- **2022: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky Daqing He, Khushboo Thaker, Zhimeng Luo and Young Ji Lee. "HELPeR: An Interactive Recommender System for Ovarian Cancer Patients and Caregivers" In Proceedings of Sixteenth ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'22).
- **2022:** Dmitriy Babichenko, **Behnam Rahdari**, Ben Stein, Suraj Subramanian, Claudia Ramos Rivers, Gong Tang, David Binion "Classification Models for Predicting Inflammatory Bowel Disease Healthcare Utilization." In Proceedings of the 15th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies.
- **2021: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky and Alireza Javadian Sabet. "Connecting Students with Research Advisors Through User-Controlled Recommendation" In Proceedings of the Fifteenth ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'21). **Best paper in category**
- **2021: Behnam Rahdari** and Peter Brusilovsky. "PaperExplorer: Personalized Exploratory Search for Conference Proceedings" In Proceedings of the Fourth IUI Workshop on Exploratory Search and Interactive Data Analytics (ESIDA).

- **2020: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky, Khushboo Thaker and Jordan Barria-Pineda. “Using Knowledge Graph for Explainable Recommendation of External Content in Electronic Textbooks” In Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Intelligent Textbooks in the 21th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED’2020).
- **2020: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky and Dmitriy Babichenko. “Personalizing Information Exploration with an Open User Model” In Proceedings of the 31st ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT’20).
- **2020: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky, Khushboo Thaker and Jordan Barria-Pineda. “Knowledge-Driven Wikipedia Article Recommendation for Electronic Textbooks.” In Proceedings of the Fifteenth European Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning.
- **2020: Behnam Rahdari**, Peter Brusilovsky, Dmitriy Babichenko, Eliza Beth Littleton, Ravi Patel, Jaime Fawcett and Zara Blum. “Grapevine: A Profile-Based Exploratory Search and Recommendation System for Finding Research Advisors.” In Proceedings of the 83rd ASIS&T Annual Meeting.
- **2019: Behnam Rahdari** and Peter Brusilovsky. “Building a Knowledge Graph for Recommending Experts.” In 1st International Workshop on Challenges And Experiences From Data Integration To Knowledge Graphs Held in conjunction with KDD 2019 - CEUR - Vol. 2512
- **2019: Rahdari, Behnam**, and Peter Brusilovsky. “User-controlled hybrid recommendation for academic papers.” In Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces: Companion, pp. 99-100.
- **2019: Tsai, Chun-Hua, Behnam Rahdari**, and Peter Brusilovsky. “Exploring user-controlled hybrid recommendation in conference contexts.” In Joint Proceedings of the ACM IUI 2019 Workshops - CEUR , vol. 2327. CEUR-WS.org

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Spring 2024 Catherine Ofiesh and Gerald Orner Award** DINS, Pitt
Academic excellence in the PhD program April 2024
- **NSF Conference Support** NSF
Travel Award for attending WSDM and IUI 2024 April 2024
- **RecSys 2021 Best Paper Award** ACM RecSys
Best demo paper - First Place September 2021
- **FLAIRS 2019 Best Paper Award** AAI
Best demo paper - Second place May 2019
- **Featured Research Project (Grapevine)** Smithsonian
ACCElerate Creativity and Innovation Festival April 2019

SERVICES

- **ACM Conference series on Recommender Systems** RecSys
Program committee member 2024
- **ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media** HT
Program committee member 2024
- **Workshop on Interfaces and Human Decision Making for Recommender Systems** RecSys
Program committee member 2020-2023
- **ACM Special Interest Group on Hypertext and the Web** Executive Committee
Social Media Chair July 2020 - Feb 2023
- **School of Computing and Information, University of Pittsburgh** Faculty Search Committee
Student Representative November 2020 - March 2021
- **International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education** AIED
Student volunteer 2021
- **ACM Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining** KDD
Student volunteer 2019
- **ACM Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces** IUI
Student volunteer 2019,2024