

# CHRIS SAMARINAS

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## EDUCATION

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**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**, Thessaloniki, Greece October 2013 - Jun 2017  
*Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science*

- GPA: **9.67**/10.00, ranked **1/130**, highest GPA since **1992** out of 2,500+ CS graduates, top **0.04%**
- Ranked **1/130** in national university entrance exam in my department and top **0.2%** nationwide.
- Thesis: *Mining answers from the web using information retrieval techniques and machine learning*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**National University of Singapore**, Singapore February 2020 - Present  
*Research Assistant*

- Research on *latent retrieval for large-scale fact-checking and question answering* with prof. Wynne Hsu, president of [IDS](#) and prof. Mong Li Lee, president of [CTIC](#). Published our work at [IEEE ICTAI 2020](#).
- Developed a framework for large-scale semantic search that returns text snippets related to questions or statements and deployed it in a real-world semantic search engine for COVID-19, launched by the president of NUS.
- Research on *multi-stage evidence retrieval for large-scale fact-checking*.

**Plural AI**, London, United Kingdom October 2018 – January 2020  
*Research Engineer*

- [Plural AI](#) is a fintech start-up that builds a *knowledge engine* for the finance industry. The company focuses on extracting content from corporate websites and financial statements to enrich a financial *knowledge graph*, and support question answering on complex financial queries.
- Developed a novel framework for *concept extraction* and *saliency scoring* from corporate websites. Owned the whole machine learning pipeline, from the *annotation tool development* and website crawling, to the productionization and deployment.
- Developed a smart tool for efficient curation of an industrial *category graph*.
- Developed a scalable semantic search service of companies using a novel *topic modeling* technique.

**Donaco LTD**, London, United Kingdom June 2018 – January 2019  
*Research Engineer*

- [Donaco](#) is an online advertising start-up that tries to revolutionize online donations.
- Designed a system for contextual recommendation of charity campaigns in news articles
- Worked on the advertising platform and tried to utilize the real-time user behavior for better ad serving.

**Foshan.io**, Remote Software Consultant August 2018 – November 2018

- Responsible for the development of the new version of the *historical* HotBot metasearch engine.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Latent Retrieval for Large-Scale Fact-Checking and Question Answering with NLI Training**

Chris Samarinas, Wynne Hsu, Mong Li Lee  
Long paper at *IEEE ICTAI 2020*, **25%** acceptance rate  
[\[code\]](#) [\[demo 1, demo 2\]](#) [\[news\]](#) [\[blog post\]](#)

### **WAMBy: An Information Retrieval Approach to Web-Based Question Answering**

Chris Samarinas, Grigorios Tsoumakas  
Long paper at *SETN 2018*, **33%** acceptance rate

**Personalized High-Quality News Recommendations Using Word Embeddings and Text Classification Models**  
(Preprint) Chris Samarinas, Stefanos Zafeiriou

## AWARDS

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**Bioengineering Hackathon, 1st place** 2018  
*EMB IEEE Student Chapter AUTH, StudentGuru*

- 1st place for developing DropSense in 48 hours, a platform that monitors and connects elderly with their relatives and paid carers using Wear OS smartwatches.

**Hackathon Thessaloniki, Honor** 2014  
*Municipality of Thessaloniki*

- Awarded for developing CityReport in 24 hours, an online web application for instant issues reporting.

**Great Moment for Education Scholarship, Award** 2013  
*Eurobank Ergasias*

- A scholarship for achieving the highest grade at school at the national university admission examination.

**National Mathematics Competition, First Prize** 2009  
*Hellenic Mathematical Society*

- Awarded for competing in the final stage “Archimedes”, top 50 out of 20,000 participants.

## GRANTS

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**Tensorflow Research Cloud Program** 2020  
*Google*

- Granted free access to TPU pods for 6 months for our project on large-scale latent retrieval.

**Innovate UK Smart Grant ~ 1% acceptance rate** 2019  
*UK Research and Innovation*

- £400,000 for our work at Plural AI, building a knowledge engine for the finance industry.

**Horizon 2020 Grant ~ 16% acceptance rate** 2019  
*European Union Funding for Research and Innovation*

- £50,000 for our research at Plural AI on entity extraction and semantic search.

## SKILLS

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Programming languages</b> | Python, Java, C, C++, Prolog                       |
| <b>Web development</b>       | JavaScript, HTML5, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB             |
| <b>Machine Learning</b>      | Tensorflow, PyTorch                                |
| <b>Others</b>                | Kubernetes, neo4j, GCP, Latex, Android development |

## REFERENCES

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- [Wynne Hsu](#), Professor of Computer Science at *National University of Singapore*, Director of *Institute of Data Science*, co-founder of *EyRIS*
- [Jaron Collis](#), co-founder and CTO at *Plural AI*
- [Grigorios Tsoumakas](#), Assistant Professor of Machine Learning and Knowledge Discovery at *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, Greece, co-founder of *Medoid AI*