

RICCARDO CADEI

Machine Learning Researcher

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Education

ISTA

Jan 2024 - Present

Vienna, Austria

Ph.D. Causal Learning and AI

Aiming to scale Causal Representation Learning to real-world applications [6, 7, 5] and [10, 11, 12], supervised by Dr. Francesco Locatello (sponsored by a Google Research Scholar Award) and ELLIS Member co-supervised by Dr. Cordelia Schmid (visiting Willow Group at INRIA Paris from March to July 2025).

EPFL

Sep 2020 - Feb 2023

Lausanne, Switzerland

M.Sc. Data Science

Grade: 5.53/6 **Relevant courses:** Machine Learning, Artificial Neural Networks, Deep Learning, Applied Data Analysis, Visual Intelligence.

Teaching Assistant: In Introduction to Machine Learning (BIO-322)

Harvard University

Grade: 6/6 **Grant:** Causal Inference for Machine Learning

Thesis: Introducing a new algorithm for interpretable discovery and inference of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects [3, 4] + software package [a,b].

Visiting

Politecnico di Milano

Sep 2017 - Jul 2020

Milan, Italy

B.Sc. Mathematical Engineering

Grade: 110/110 **Associations:** PoliMi Data Scientists, Ass. Ing. Matematici
Thesis: Mathematical Programming for activity planning in Oncology Day-Hospital

Research Experience

Harvard University

Sep 2022 - Sep 2023

Cambridge (MA), United States

Research Assistant @NSAPH: Conducting research in Causal Inference and Machine Learning in the context of climate change, environmental impacts on health outcomes, and regulatory policy [3, 4] and [9].

Schlumberger-Doll Research

Feb 2022 - Aug 2022

Cambridge (MA), United States

Machine Learning Researcher: Deep Learning for Causal Modeling and interpretation of acoustic subsurface data for anomaly detection and prevention.

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Nov 2020 - Feb 2022

Lausanne, Switzerland

Research Assistant (Summer Intern) @iGH: Developing a mobile app for (non-invasive) upper body posture detection using Deep Learning.

Semester Project @VITA: Introducing a Causal formalism and a Robust and Adaptive modular architecture for Motion Forecasting [2] and [8].

Research Project @LESO-PB: Introducing a U-Net based model for detecting available rooftop areas to install photovoltaic panels from satellite images [1].

Consulting and Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneur First

Oct 2023 - Dec 2023

Paris, France

Founder in Residence: Learning entrepreneurial skills while trying to launch a start-up in Responsible AI and Sustainability at StationF.

L.O.L. Consultants

Dec 2020 - Feb 2021

[remote] Melbourne, Australia

Machine Learning Engineer: Detection of available rooftop area to install photovoltaic panels from high-quality satellite images using Deep Learning.

Awards

Career

Nova 111 Student List

2023

Selected among the 10 most promising Italian Computer Scientists Under25.

Machine Learning

Jane Warren Award

2023

By Health Effects Institute for Causal Rule Ensemble algorithm [3].

Generali Data Challenge

2021

Best model and code in the Churn Classification Data-hon at @Generali S.p.a out of 280+ participants.

Higgs Boson Challenge

2020

2nd place in the AICrowd final challenge of Machine Learning course at @EPFL out of 290+ teams.

Oracle GraphML Contest

2019

1st place in the Kaggle final challenge of Graph Machine Learning course at @Politecnico di Milano in partnership with @Oracle Labs.

ML for Networking Contest

2019

1st place in the Kaggle final challenge of ML for Networking course at @Politecnico di Milano.

Mathematics

International competition for mathematical and logical games

2018

5th national place (ITA), class L2 (Under21).

Grand Prix of Applied Mathematics

5th national place (ITA) out of 7500+ students.

2017

6th national place (ITA) out of 7500+ students.

2016

Coding

Machine Learning: Python, R, Julia

Deep Learning: PyTorch, Tensorflow

Math: MATLAB, Python, R, AMPL

Big Data: Spark, Scala, SQL, HDFS, AWS

Robotics: RobotC, C, Python

App and Web: HTML, CSS, Android Studio

Languages

Italian: C2, English: C1, French: A1

Referees

Dr. Francesca Dominici

Harvard

@ fdominic@hsph.harvard.edu

Dr. Cordelia Schmid

Google/INRIA

@ cordelias@google.com

Dr. Francesco Locatello

ISTA

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Publications

Google Scholar statistics

Total citations: 155

h-index: 4

Full Articles (arxiv, conferences, journals)

- [1] Roberto Castello, Alina Walch, Raphael Attias, **Riccardo Cadei**, Shasha Jiang, and Jean-Louis Scartezzini. Quantification of the suitable rooftop area for solar panel installation from overhead imagery using Convolutional Neural Networks. In *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, volume 2042, page 012002. IOP Publishing, 2021.
- [2] Yuejiang Liu, **Riccardo Cadei**, Jonas Schweizer, Sherwin Bahmani, and Alexandre Alahi. Towards Robust and Adaptive Motion Forecasting: A Causal Representation Perspective. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, pages 17081–17092, 2022.
- [3] Falco J Bargagli-Stoffi*, **Riccardo Cadei***, Kwonsang Lee, and Francesca Dominici. Causal rule ensemble: Interpretable Discovery and Inference of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2009.09036*, 2023.
- [4] **Riccardo Cadei***, Naeem Khoshnevis*, Kwonsang Lee, Daniela Maria Garcia, and Falco J. Bargagli-Stoffi. CRE: an R package for interpretable discovery and estimation of Heterogeneous Treatment Effect. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 2023.
- [5] **Riccardo Cadei**, Lukas Lindorfer, Sylvia Cremer, Cordelia Schmid, and Francesco Locatello. Smoke and mirrors in causal downstream tasks. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2024.
- [6] **Riccardo Cadei**, Ilker Demirel, Piersilvio De Bartolomeis, Lukas Lindorfer, Sylvia Cremer, Cordelia Schmid, and Francesco Locatello. Causal lifting of neural representations: Zero-shot generalization for causal inferences. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.06343 arXiv*, 2025.
- [7] Dingling Yao, Dario Rancati, **Riccardo Cadei**, Marco Fumero, and Francesco Locatello. Unifying Causal Representation Learning with the Invariance Principle. *Proceedings in the Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025.

Workshop Articles

- [8] Yuejiang Liu, **Riccardo Cadei**, and Alexandre Alahi. Towards Robust and Adaptive Motion Forecasting: A Causal Representation Perspective. In *NeurIPS Workshop on Distribution Shifts: Connecting Methods and Applications*, 2021.
- [9] Mauricio Tec, **Riccardo Cadei**, Francesca Dominici, and Corwin Zigler. Projecting the climate penalty on PM_{2.5} pollution with spatial deep learning. In *ICLR Workshop in Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning*, 2023.
- [10] **Riccardo Cadei**, Lukas Lindorfer, Sylvia Cremer, Cordelia Schmid, and Francesco Locatello. Smoke and mirrors in causal downstream tasks. *ICML Workshop in AI for Science: Scaling in AI for Scientific Discovery*, 2024.
- [11] Dingling Yao, Dario Rancati, **Riccardo Cadei**, Marco Fumero, and Francesco Locatello. Unifying Causal Representation Learning with the Invariance Principle. *NeurIPS Workshop on (i) Causal Representation Learning and (ii) UniReps*, 2024.
- [12] **Riccardo Cadei**, Ilker Demirel, Piersilvio De Bartolomeis, Lukas Lindorfer, Sylvia Cremer, Cordelia Schmid, and Francesco Locatello. Causal lifting of neural representations: Zero-shot generalization for causal inferences. *ICLR Workshop on (i) Spurious Correlation and Shortcut Learning and (ii) XAI4Science*, 2025.

* Co-first authors.

Software Packages

- [a] Naeem Khoshnevis, **Riccardo Cadei**, Daniela Maria Garcia, Kwonsang Lee, Falco Joannes Bargagli Stoffi, "CRE: R Package Causal Rule Ensemble Algorithm", CRAN, 2023 (10 000+ downloads, [Website](#), [Github](#)).
- [b] **Riccardo Cadei**, Naeem Khoshnevis, Falco Joannes Bargagli Stoffi "pycre: Python Package Causal Rule Ensemble Algorithm", pypi, 2023 ([Github](#)).

Projects

For a structured summary of my personal/academic projects and software releases publicly available (25+ repositories; >100 ★ on GitHub [🔗](#)), visit my Portfolio at <https://www.riccardocadei.com/projects/> or scanning the QR Code on the top-right of the first page and clicking on 'Projects'.

Conferences

Main Conferences

NeurIPS: 2021 (online), New Orleans 2022, Vancouver 2024
ICML: Vienna 2024
ICLR: Kigali 2023 (online), Vienna 2024
CVPR: New Orleans 2022
HDSI: Boston 2022
CISBAT: Lausanne 2021

Summer Schools

M²L Summer School: Milan 2020-22 (online)
Neurosymbolic Programming: Los Angeles 2022
Causality: Barbados 2025

Reviewer

NeurIPS: UniReps Workshop 2024

Other Interests

Sport: Marathon Runner (2:42:35) @VRC, Long distance Hiker, Cycle Tourist, Skier and Skater.

Volunteer: NeurIPS and ICLR (logistic), LeadTheFuture (mentoring), Africatlethics (teaching and coaching), BrixiaMaTe (teaching), CARITAS (childcare), Operazione Mato Grosso (various), AVIS (blood donor).