



# Dr Milan Stankovic

PhD in Information Science from Sorbonne University. 10+ years of Entrepreneurship, Information Technology Research and Product Innovation.

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Through my work I have come to value\*

Relationships where we can rely on one another **over** relationships where we challenge and pressure one another

Building competent structures **over** becoming necessary and depended on

Discomfort of the unknown **over** strong convictions

Change and movement **over** comfort

Initiative **over** waiting for permission

Common humanity **over** singularity

Understandings **over** ideas

Empathy **over** advice

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\*While there is value in the items on the right, I value the items on the left more.

Paris, France



# Learning to understand

## Building companies

### Blindnet (USA, FR)

From 2021, privacy technology start-up, VC-funded

### Sépage (FR)

AI startup founded in 2013, built award-winning<sup>1</sup> technologies, earned trust of the largest clients in the Travel Industry, got selected in FrenchWeb500 leaderboard of tech companies in France, and acquired in 2017.

## Mentoring founders

As a part of PEPITE accelerator of the Sorbonne University in 2022 I served as a start-up mentor to Jeanne Le Peillet who won the national PEPITE award with her project.

## Governance

Member of the Academic Council – Research Commission of the Sorbonne University.<sup>2</sup>

## Building products

### Software Components for Privacy

From 2021, Blindnet DevKit allows to make any software system able to deliver privacy and reconstitute part of the control over data to the users. Building upon fundamental knowledge, it combines advanced AI, and information security approaches to make the evolution towards a privacy-enabled internet easy.

### AI Travel Recommender System

From 2013 to 2020, GlobeAdvent used Semantic Knowledge Graphs to recommend travel products that people actually ended up buying. It did it with ~5x less data than traditional machine learning systems, making it revolutionary in the context of e-commerce. Awarded best technology award multiple times, by travel industry leaders in France and UK<sup>1</sup>.

## Teaching

Java and Semantic Web courses.<sup>3</sup>

# Building confidence and resilience

## Education

Information Science: PhD (Sorbonne University), MsC (University Paris-Saclay), Bachelor (University of Belgrade), and International AI Summer Schools.<sup>4</sup>

I went to Fifth Belgrade Gymnasium.



SR, EN, FR, ES

## Research Visits

I did research in collaboration with prestigious Computer Science research institutes in Austria, Ireland and France.<sup>5</sup>



## Grants

My studies and research were supported by grants programs in Austria, France and Serbia.<sup>6</sup>



# Befriending the unknown and the uncomfortable

## Interests

I am interested in semantics, knowledge structures (such as the Web), and how those get intertwined with humans as they interact with each other and with information.

I am particularly interested in the (worryingly incomplete) quality of connectedness that information technologies enable and in everything that is still missing for them to get in sync with human cognition.

## Contributions

I authored 60+ scientific publications in international journals and conferences<sup>12</sup>. I acted as a reviewer in programme committees of 20+ international academic events (many of which A-level)<sup>8</sup>.

Occasionally I also write for think tanks and general audience media, such as Le Figaro<sup>11</sup>.

## Research leadership

Year after year, I co-lead a multidisciplinary workshop at the WWW/TheWeb conference – the most important conference in my field.

I was also invited to give a keynote talk<sup>9</sup> and take part in Organising Committees of A-level conferences<sup>7</sup>.

I acted as co-editor of Books and scientific journals.<sup>10</sup>

## Mentoring students

I served as co-mentor for Vincent Lully (Chun Lu) – thesis prepared at Sorbonne 2014-2018. Several publications at international A-level conferences.

# Annex

## 1 **Technology Awards**

Amadeus & AirFrance T3 Forum, Paris 2016: Innovative Technology award for Globe Advent (Sépage)  
 EyeForTravel TDS 2015, London: Innovation in Travel Award for Globe Advent (Sépage)  
 Next Tourisme 2014, Paris: Technological Innovation Award – Award given by Heads of Digital Departments of AirFrance, Accor et Critéo, for Globe Advent (Sépage)

## 2 **Governance**

2022-2024 Academic Council – Research Commission of the Sorbonne University

## 3 **Teaching**

2011, Semantic Web (in English), American University of Paris – Course design, teaching and student examination  
 2006-2007, Introduction to programming - Java, University of Belgrade – Practical work and student examination

## 4 **Education**

### **2009-2012 PhD – AI: Semantic and Social Web**

Sorbonne University, summa cum laude  
 Semantic Web and Artificial Intelligence technologies applied to the tasks of expert search and unexpected yet relevant (serendipity) keyword discovery on the Web. <http://theses.fr/2012PA040247>

### **2008-2009 Research Master– Information Science**

University Paris-Sud Orsay  
 Structured data, Semantic Web, Human-Computer Interaction.

### **2003-2007 Bachelor – Information Systems**

University of Belgrade (Serbia), Faculty of Organizational Sciences  
 System Architecture, Software development, Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence. Project management.  
 Top 10 students award.

### **Additional education**

Summer School of Semantic Web (SSSW 2009), Cercedilla, Spain  
 Summer School of Multimedia Semantics (SSMS 2007), Glasgow, UK

## 5 **Research Visits**

DERI Galway, Ireland – Spring 2009, by invitation of Dr. Alexandre Passant and Prof. John Breslin,  
 INRIA, France – Summer 2009, by invitation of Dr. Fabien Gandon,  
 University of Vienna, Austria – Summer 2008, By Invitation of Prof. Dimitris Karagiannis.

## 6 **Grants**

2009-2012 CIFRE Grant for PhD Research by French ANRT Agency  
 2010-2011 Serbian fund for Young Talent  
 2008 Scholarship of the French Government  
 2007 OEAD Scholarship of the Republic of Austria  
 2006-2007 Scholarship of the City of Belgrade  
 2004-2006 Scholarship of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Serbia

## 7 **Participation in Organizing Committees of International Conferences**

Extended Semantic Web Conference (A level). 2014. – Challenges Chair  
 Extended Semantic Web Conference (A level). 2015. - Challenges Co-chair  
 Making Sense of Microposts – Interdisciplinary Workshop (Co-chair and event co-founder) Workshop at the Extended Semantic Web Conference 2011 and WWW (the largest and the most important Web conference) from 2012 to 2015.

## 8 **Participation in Programme Committees of International Conferences**

World Wide Web / The Web Conference (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
 International Semantic Web Conference – In Use Track (2011,2012,2013,2014)  
 Extended Semantic Web Conference (2011,2012,2013,2014)  
 Web Science Conference (2012)  
 ACM Hypertext and Social Media (2012)  
 The 7th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM) 2013  
 I-SEMANTICS (2009-2014)  
 IADIS Information Systems (2009,2010)  
 Workshop on User Profile Data on the Social Semantic Web (2011)



Workshop on Trust and Privacy on the Social and Semantic Web (2010)  
Interplay between Conceptual Modelling and Human-Computer Interaction (2013)

9 **Keynote Speaker**

Extended Semantic Web Conference 2018 (A level international Conference) Heraklion, Crete, Greece

10 **Book and Journal Editor**

Semantic Web Evaluation Challenges, Revised Selected Papers. Springer (2015). Eds. F Gandon, E Cabrio, M Stankovic, A Zimmermann

Special Issue on Semantics of Microposts, Semantic Web Journal, IOS Press (2014). Eds. Matthew Rowe, Aba-Sah Dadzie and Milan Stankovic

Semantic Web Evaluation Challenge: SemWebEval at ESWC 2014, Revised Selected Papers. Springer (2014). Eds. Valentina Presutti, Milan Stankovic, Erik Cambria, Iván Cantador, Angelo Di Iorio, Tommaso Di Noia, Christoph Lange, Diego Reforgiato Recupero, Anna Tordai

11 **Texts Published in General Audience Media**

OpEd in French Newspaper, Le Figaro (FR): [Un Internet aux contenus régulés serait une idée faussement courageuse](#)

Series of articles with the French Think Tank, Sapiens (in FR): [L'intelligence artificielle comme vecteur d'inégalités](#)

12 **Scientific Publications**

+ [Google Scholar](#)

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Image User Profiling with Knowledge Graph and Computer Vision. Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2018). Poster. 100-104.

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Exploring the synergy between knowledge graph and computer vision for personalisation systems. SEMANTICS 2018 – 14th International Conference on Semantic Systems. (2018). 175-186

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Enhancing explanations in recommender systems with knowledge graphs. SEMANTICS 2018 – 14th International Conference on Semantic Systems. (2018). 211-222

Lu, C., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Graphe de connaissances et folksonomie: leur performance comparative dans le calcul de l'afinité. 28es Journées francophones d'Ingénierie des Connaissances IC (2017), 175-180

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., Radulovic, F., and Laublet, P. Crowdsourced Affinity: A Matter of Fact or Experience Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2017).

Lu, C., Laublet, P., and Stankovic, M. Travel attraction recommendation with knowledge graphs. European Knowledge Acquisition Workshop (2016), 416-413

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., and Laublet, P. Desperately searching for travel offers? formulate better queries with some help from linked data Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2015).

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., and Laublet, P. Leveraging Semantic Web technologies for more relevant E-tourism Behavioral Retargeting Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on World Wide Web (2015). Poster.

Lu, Chun, Philippe Laublet, and Milan Stankovic. Ricochet: Context and Complementarity-Aware, Ontology-based POIs Recommender System. SALAD Workshop, ESWC (2014).

Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the the 4th Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts co-located with the 23rd International World Wide Web Conference (WWW 2014)

Amparo E Cano, Giuseppe Rizzo, Andrea Varga, Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Making Sense of Microposts (# Microposts2014) Named Entity Extraction & Linking Challenge. Making Sense of Microposts (# Microposts2014) (2014).

Amparo Cano, Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the Concept Extraction Challenge at the Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts 2013 (# MSM2013). CEUR Workshop Proceedings.

Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts (# MSM2012): Big things come in small packages

Stankovic, M. (2012) Convergence entre Web Social et Web Sémantique: Application à l'innovation à l'aide du Web. Thèse. Université Paris-Sorbonne.

Rowe, M., Stankovic, M., and Alani, H. Who will follow whom? Exploiting Semantics for Link Prediction in Attention-Information Networks In Proceedings of International Semantic Web Conference ISWC 2012, Boston, USA, 11-15 November 2012 (22% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Rowe, M. and Laublet, P. Finding Co-solvers on Twitter , with a Little Help from Linked Data. In Proceedings of Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC 2012, May 27-31, Heraklion, Crete, Grece (25% acceptance rate)

Damljanovic, D., Stankovic, M. and Laublet, P. Linked Data-based Concept Recommendation : Comparison of Different Methods in Open Innovation Scenario. In Proceedings of Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC 2012, May 27-31, Heraklion, Crete, Grece (25% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Breitfuss, W., and Laublet, P., Linked-Data Based Suggestion of Relevant Topics. In Proceedings of I-SEMANTICS conference 2011. Gratz, Austria, 7-9 September 2011.

Rowe, M. and Stankovic, M. Aligning Tweets with Events: Automation via Semantics. Semantic Web Journal, Special Issue on Real-time and Ubiquitous Social Semantics. 2011. IOS Press

Stankovic, M., Breitfuss, W., and Laublet, Ph. Discovering Relevant Topics using DBPedia, In Proceedings of WI2011, Lyon, France, August 2011



- Milikic, N., Jovanovic, J. and Stankovic, M. Discovering the Dynamics of Terms' Semantic Relatedness through Twitter. Making Sense of Microposts Workshop #MSM2011 at Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC May 30 May 2011, Heraklion, Crete, Greece
- Anadiotis, G., Alexopoulos, Panos., Kafentzis, K., Konstantinou, E., Stankovic, M., and Waeckerle, M. Semantics-powered Virtual Communities and Open Innovation for a Structured Deliberation Process. Workshop on Semantics for Governance and Policy Modelling on the Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC 2011, 30 May 2011. Heraklion, Greece
- Jesic, D., Kovacevic, J. and Stankovic, M. Web Technologies for Open Innovation. In Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Web Science, ACM WebSci 2011, 14th-16th June, Koblenz, Germany (15% acceptance rate)
- Stankovic, M., Jovanovic, J., and Laublet, P. Linked Data Metrics for Flexible Expert Search on the Open Web. In Proceedings of the 8th Extended Semantic Web Conference (ESWC2011), 29th May – 2nd June 2011, Heraklion, Crete, Greece (23% acceptance rate)
- Stankovic, M., Rowe, M., and Laublet, P. Mapping Tweets to Conference Talks: A Goldmine for Semantics. In Proceedings of the Third Social Data on the Web Workshop SDoW2010, collocated with the International Semantic Web Conference ISWC2010, 8th November, 2010, Shanghai, China pdf
- Anaya, J., Passant, A. and Stankovic, M. Enrichment of affiliation networks and information discovery in SKOS-based datasets. 6th Workshop on Semantic Web Applications and Perspectives (SWAP 2010), September 21-22, 2010, in Bressanone , Italy
- Stankovic, M., Open Innovation and Semantic Web : Problem Solver Search on Linked Data. In Proceedings of International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC) 2010; 7th-11th November, 2010, Shanghai, China
- Stankovic, M., Wagner, C., Jovanovic, J. and Laublet, P., Looking For Experts? What can Linked Data do for You? In Pre-proceedings of Linked Data on the Web 2010 (LDOW) workshop, within WWW2010 conference; 26th-30th April, 2010, Raleigh, NC, USA
- Passant, A., Breslin, J., Bojars, U., Hastrup, T., Stankovic, M. and Laublet, P. SMOB — A Platform for Open, Semantic and Distributed Microblogging. A poster at Fourth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2010), 23rd-26th May 2010, Washington, DC, USA
- Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P., Directing Status Messages to their Audiences in Online Communities. In Post-proceedings of Coordination, Organization, Institutions and Norms Workshop (COIN @ MELLOW). Accepted for publication by Springer LCNS.
- Stankovic, M. Faceted Online Presence – A Semantic Web Approach, Master's Thesis. Université Paris-Sud XI, Orsay, France.
- Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P., Directing Status Messages to their Audiences in Online Communities. In Pre-proceedings of Coordination, Organization, Institutions and Norms Workshop (COIN @ MELLOW) 7th–11th September, 2009, Torino, Italy [pdf](#)
- Stankovic, M., and Jovanovic, J. TagFusion – A System for Integration and Leveraging of Collaborative Tags, Annals of Information Systems, Special Issue on Semantic Web & Web 2.0. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Germany, December 2009.
- Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P. Status Messages for the Right Audience with an Ontology-Based Approach. In proceedings of The First International Workshop On Collaborative Social Networks. CollaborateSN 2009. In conjunction with CollaborateCom 2009 Crystal City, Washington D.C., USA, November 11-14, 2009
- Jovanovic, J., Gasevic, D., Stankovic, M., Jeremic, Z. & Siadaty, M. Online Presence in Adaptive Learning on the Social Semantic Web. Workshop on Social Computing in Education 2009 (WSCE2009) in conjunction with SocialComp'09, August 29-31, 2009, Vancouver, Canada
- Stankovic, M., and Jovanovic, J. Online Presence in Social Networks. In Proceedings of W3C Workshop on the Future of Social Networks, 15-16 January 2009, Barcelona,
- Milan Stankovic: Modeling Online Presence. In: Proceedings of the First Social Data on the Web Workshop, Karlsruhe, Germany, October 27, 2008, CEUR Workshop Proceedings, ISSN 1613-0073,
- Stankovic M., Modeling Online Presence in Bizer C. and Anupam J., Proceedings of the Poster and Demonstration Session at the 7th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC2008) Karlsruhe, Germany, October 28, 2008. (Honorable Mention at ISWC2008, [among best 3 posters](#))
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- Stankovic, M. & Krcadinac, U. (2007). New Light on Information Agents, Informer (24), British Computer Society – Information Retrieval Specialist Group, [pdf](#)