



Damiaan Reijnaers

Dual PhD Candidate



ILLC BZK

www.damiaan.nl

+31 6 1666 9000

Amsterdam, NL

info@damiaanreijnaers.nl

github.com/damiaanr

[/damiaan-reijnaers](https://www.linkedin.com/in/damiaan-reijnaers)

WHO AM I?

A curious person with a deep interest in people and the world they live in, driven to make it a better place. I work at the intersection of the humanities and AI; where insight into the complexities of society inform the technology that drives its progress. For innovation that is ethical and responsible. To humanity *and the humanities*.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2025** Let's Use This Wave to Our Advantage... [↗](#)
- 2024** GTNC: A Many-To-One Dataset of Google Translations from NewsCrawl [↗](#)
- 2023** Machine-translated texts from English to Polish show a potential for typological explanations... [↗](#)

EDUCATION

- 9/2020 – 8/2023 **MSc (Res), Artificial Intelligence** [↗](#) **University of Amsterdam**
Thesis: *Exploiting Machine Translationese for Source Language Identification* [↗](#)
- 9/2021 – 8/2022 **MA, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Cum Laude** **Leiden University**
Thesis: *Reading Dolgans through their language: approaching indigenous Dolgan culture by collecting words.* [↗](#)
- 9/2017 – 8/2021 **BA, Slavonic Language and Culture** **University of Amsterdam**
View thesis [↗](#)
- 9/2014 – 8/2020 **BSc, Artificial Intelligence** **University of Amsterdam**
View thesis [↗](#), awarded an honourable mention [↗](#).

EXPERIENCE

- 1/2025 – present part-time **Advisor** **Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations**
 - Giving technical advice on ethical implications, practical (im)possibilities, and on strategy in national AI projects.
 - Offering knowledge sessions on the (responsible) use of technology and speaking on the topic at various events.
- 1/2025 – present **PhD Researcher** **UvA, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation**
 - Inventing NLP technology to improve the accessibility of open government data and to perform linguistic analysis.
 - Presenting at conferences and to members of parliament, supervising students, representing the PhD Council.
- 9/2024–12/2024 **(in collaboration)** **TiU, Public Law and Governance**
 - Studying the legal dimensions of open data in cooperation with law firms (e.g., Pels Rijcken) and the public sector.
- 11/2022–7/2023 **Research Intern** **National Police Corps**
 - Developing and researching explainable AI algorithms for usage in sensitive contexts.
 - Implementing machine learning models with PyTorch, spaCy, Transformers, scikit, and 'from scratch'.
- 4/2022–5/2022 voluntary **Russian Interpreter** **Municipality of Zaanstad**
 - Interpreting for Russian-speaking refugees from Ukraine, overseeing their registration, and related tasks.
- 1/2009–4/2022 **Software Engineer (specialised in back-end)** **My own business: Turn.Blue**
 - Developing complex, tailor-made software for 100+ (diverse) clients as a 'side job' in school and uni.
 - ↳ Case: for a Dutch university, I developed an online library and archive system.
 - Appearing in media with ethical hacks [↗](#), and reporting critical vulnerabilities to platforms with millions of users.
 - ↳ Case: in high school, I obtained the passwords of teachers nationwide by finding an exploit in a leading LMS.
 - Setting up, managing, and migrating servers and websites with thousands of daily visitors (and keeping it secure).
 - Working with many (REST/GraphQL/OAuth) APIs and data structures, creating complex database systems.

★ PHP / JS / MariaDB / Python / PostgreSQL / C / Prolog / VB / misc
- 9/2019–12/2019 **Intern** **Netherlands Institute in Saint Petersburg (Russia)**
 - Developing advanced educational software 'from scratch', featuring multiple annual courses, diverse teaching material, Zoom integration, (automatic) correction tools, voice messaging, a forum, and other functionality.
 - Playing a key role in the entire process from idea to product: i.e., consultation, 'paperwork', translating, etc.
- 2017 **Candidate Member of Parliament**
 - Taking part in debates and in other democratic processes (e.g., collecting 'OSVs'), making media appearances.
 - Reasons for candidacy were my writings on enhancing democracy in an increasingly digital society.

MORE ABOUT ME

- languages **English** - excellent, **Dutch** - native, **Russian** - fluent (adult L2)
- special interests indigenous peoples, natural language (and its evolution), history and archives, (linked) open data