DR. TAREK R. BESOLD

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Head of Strategic AI at DEKRA Digital GmbH (https://www.dekra.digital).

Former CTO and Acting Managing Partner at Neurocat GmbH (AI quality, http://www.neurocat.ai) and Chief Science Officer at Alpha Health, the health tech moonshot of Telefonica (http://alpha.company). Advisor to Dalang Technologies Inc. (digital health tech, http://www.dalang.ai). Chair of the German National Standards Working Group on AI (http://bit.ly/2QeNg7n). Editor-in-Chief of Elsevier's Cognitive Systems Research (https://bit.ly/2YMWEWw).

Strategic topical leadership at the intersection between AI, behavioral science, and the design of game-changing digital products. In-depth expertise in artificial intelligence, cognitive systems, and cognitive science, with strong analytical skills and the ability to carry theoretical insights all the way through to applications in technology products. Experience in building multidisciplinary teams and developing individual staff profiles in an R&D and innovation context.

WORK EXPERIENCE

02/2021 – TODAY
HEAD OF STRATEGIC AI, DEKRA DIGITAL GMBH (BERLIN/STUTTGART, DE)

09/2020 – 02/2021
CTO & ACTING MANAGING PARTNER, NEUROCAT GMBH (BERLIN, DE)
- Special responsibility for the areas Technology (incl. R&D), Standardization/Certification, and Operations (incl. HR).

08/2020 – TODAY
ADVISOR, DALANG TECHNOLOGIES INC. (CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA)
- Guidance on health tech business strategy
- Guidance on general tech and ML strategy

07/2019 – 08/2020
CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER/CHIEF BEHAVIOURAL OFFICER, HEALTH MOONSHOT @ TELEFONICA INNOVACION ALPHA (BARCELONA, ES)

- Building, development and leadership of a distinctive multidisciplinary team (25+ FTE) bringing together Service Design, UX/UI Design, Research/Data Science and AI capabilities, in its mission statement bridging the entire R&D pathway from foundational research to human-centered product and service innovation and delivery

- Identification of behavioral goals and challenges where there might be an opportunity to apply behavioral science to improve or change user behavior, definition of success criteria in line with Alpha Health's strategy and roadmap
- Management of the combination of skills and capabilities across the team, development of team members
- Driving team engagement, alignment and focus on successful delivery

09/2018 – 06/2019

AI LEAD, HEALTH MOONSHOT @ TELEFONICA INNOVACION ALPHA (BARCELONA, ES)

- Building, development and leadership of a specialist AI research team (9+ FTE) bringing together Machine Learning, Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, and research engineering capabilities
- Setting the strategic course of the AI Lab within Alpha Health, aligning the lab's activities with projects across Alpha Health (and especially with the Research/Data Science and Design units)
- Transfer of R&D results obtained within the AI Lab to deployment in Alpha Health products
- Coordination of R&D activities across the topical streams within the AI Lab (explainable AI, privacy-preserving AI/ML, empathic AI)

04/2018 – 08/2019

CONSULTANT, HEALTH MOONSHOT @ TELEFONICA INNOVACION ALPHA (BARCELONA, ES)

- Prepare the creation of the Alpha Health AI Lab across all relevant domains (organization and governance structures, staff planning, talent acquisition, etc.)

12/2017 – 08/2020

ADVISOR, NEUROCAT GMBH (BERLIN, DE)

- Scientific guidance especially on topics relating to explainable AI
- Mentoring of Neurocat's management team regarding strategic orientation, organizational development, start-up funding, etc.

09/2017 – 08/2018

LECTURER/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN DATA SCIENCE, CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (LONDON, UK)

- Teaching courses as part of the MSc in Data Science and the BSc in Computer Science, supervision of graduation thesis (BSc and MSc level), mentoring of students
- Research especially in explainable AI, cognitive systems and neural-symbolic integration
- Organization of scientific conferences and workshops at City, University of London, and internationally
- Contribution to funding proposals (national and on EU level)
- Industry engagement within the London AI ecosystem (on corporate and start-up level) aiming at increasing City's range of academic/industry partnerships

09/2016 – 08/2017

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, DIGITAL MEDIA LAB, UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN (BREMEN, DE)

- Teaching courses as part of the BSc and MSc in Digital Media and Computer Science, supervision of graduation thesis (BSc and MSc level), mentoring of students
- Research especially in explainable AI, computational creativity, cognitive systems and neural-symbolic integration
- Organization of scientific conferences and workshops at University of Bremen and internationally
- Contribution to funding proposals (national and on EU level)

10/2015 – 08/2016

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, RESEARCH CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND DATA, FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN-BOLZANO (BOZEN-BOLZANO, IT)

- Teaching courses as part of the BSc in Computer Science, mentoring students
- Research and administration work within EU FP7-funded COINVENT project
- Research especially in computational creativity, cognitive systems and neural-symbolic integration
- Organization of scientific conferences and workshops at Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (IT) and internationally
- Contribution to funding proposals (national and on EU level)

01/2014 – 06/2014

VISITING RESEARCHER, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (EDINBURGH, UK)

- Liaison between University of Edinburgh (UK) and University of Osnabrück (DE) as partners within the EU FP7-funded COINVENT project
- Research especially in computational creativity, cognitive systems and neural-symbolic integration

03/2011 – 09/2015

RESEARCH FELLOW & PART-TIME LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF OSNABRÜCK (OSNABRÜCK, DE)

- Teaching courses as part of the BSc and MSc in Cognitive Science, supervision of graduation thesis (BSc and MSc level), mentoring of students
- Research and administration work within EU FP7-funded COINVENT project
- Research especially in computational creativity, cognitive systems and neural-symbolic integration
- Organization of scientific conferences and workshops at University of Osnabrück (DE)
- Contribution to funding proposals (national and on EU level)

STANDARDIZATION

08/2019 – TODAY

MEMBER, GERMAN NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ROADMAP WORKING GROUP (BERLIN, DE)

03/2018 – TODAY
CHAIRMAN, GERMAN NATIONAL STANDARDS WORKING COMMITTEE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (BERLIN, DE)

- Organization and topical lead of German national standardization activities in AI/ML at the German Institute for Standardization (DIN)
- International representation of the German Standards Working Committee on Artificial Intelligence in the international context of the ISO/IEC JTC-1 SC42 on Artificial Intelligence
- National representation of the German Standards Working Committee on Artificial Intelligence towards stakeholders from politics, industry, and society

CO-AUTHOR, DIN SPEC 92001 SERIES

- DIN SPEC 92001-1:2019-04 Artificial Intelligence – Life Cycle Processes and Quality Requirements – Part 1: Quality Meta Model
- DIN SPEC 92001-2:2020-12 Artificial Intelligence – Life Cycle Processes and Quality Requirements – Part 2: Robustness

EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2014
PHD IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF OSNABRÜCK (OSNABRÜCK, DE)

Graduation *summa cum laude* (best PhD evaluation possible in the German academic system) with a PhD thesis on "Cognitive Aspects of Human-Level Artificial Intelligence".

FEBRUARY 2011
LOGIC YEAR CERTIFICATE, UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM (AMSTERDAM, NL)

Graduation with a grade average of 8.2/10 (equiv. *cum laude* in the Dutch academic system).

DECEMBER 2009
DIPLOM (EQUIV. MSC) IN MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG (ERLANGEN, DE)

Graduation with grade average 1.3 (equiv. GPA 3.8/4) and a graduation thesis in AI on "Theory and Implementation of Multi-Context Systems Containing Logical and Sub-Symbolic Contexts of Reasoning".

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- Member of Microsoft Germany's AI Expert Industry Counsel
- Author of 70+ scientific publications (Google Scholar citation count: 893/h-index: 14)
- Editor-in-chief of Elsevier's Cognitive Systems Research journal
- Frequent reviewer for high-impact scientific journals and internationally leading conferences in AI, cognitive science, and related fields
- Science communication and societal outreach especially on topics relating to AI and its likely future impact on society and daily life

LANGUAGES

- German (native)
- English (excellent)
- Spanish (good)
- Dutch (good)
- French (good)