

# Wissam Antoun

DATA SCIENTIST · GRADUATE RESEARCHER

Beirut, Lebanon

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## Summary

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Engineer specialised in state-of-the-art Natural Language Processing techniques. Within 1 year, I had developed my knowledge of NLP and published one of the most famous and powerful AI models for Arabic text representation. I also ranked in top places in almost all AI competitions that I participated in. In addition, I have 2 years of experience in teaching as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Eng. faculty at AUB and through online sessions. I'm self-motivated, self-taught and a performer when working on tight deadlines. I'm also a tech geek who loves computer hardware and technology, and enjoys DIY projects and gaming.

## Work Experience

### Siren Analytics

Beirut, Lebanon

DATA SCIENTIST

Jan. 2021

Worked on Anomaly Detection systems for lockdown mobility permits, Chatbots, and data analysis.

### Zaka

Online

AI INSTRUCTOR

May. 2020 - Current

Developed and delivered training on AI and ML topics including Natural Language Processing

### Stars of Science

Doha, Qatar

MACHINE LEARNING EXPERT

Feb. 2020 - Apr. 2020

Provided ML and AI solutions to contestants as part of the support team

### MIND Lab (Prof. Hazem Hajj) - American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Sep. 2018 - Current

Research focuses on SOTA NLP technologies and social chatbots.

### ECE Dept. - American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Feb. 2018 - Dec. 2018

- EECE 435L: Software Tools Lab, Co-Instructor (3 semesters)
- EECE 696: Applied Parallel Programming, Lab instructor (1 semester)
- EECE 330: Data Structures and Algorithms, Lab instructor (1 semester)

### Huawei Technologies (Lebanon)

Beirut, Lebanon

S.A.R.L.

INTERN

June 2016 - Aug. 2016

## Publications (selected)

AraGPT2: Pre-Trained Transformer for Arabic Language Generation. **Antoun, Wissam, Fady Baly, and Hazem Hajj** Proceedings of the Sixth Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop at EAACL, 2020

AraELECTRA: Pre-Training Text Discriminators for Arabic Language Understanding. **Antoun, Wissam, Fady Baly, and Hazem Hajj** Proceedings of the Sixth Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop at EAACL, 2020

Empathetic BERT2BERT Conversational Model: Learning Arabic Language Generation with little data. **Naous, Tarek, Wissam Antoun, Reem Mahmoud, and Hazem Hajj** Proceedings of the Sixth Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop at EAACL, 2021

AraBERT: Transformer-based Model for Arabic Language Understanding. **Antoun, Wissam, Fady Baly, and Hazem Hajj** Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Open-Source Arabic Corpora and Processing Tools at LREC 2020, 2020, Marseille, France

Multi-Task Learning using AraBert for Offensive Language Detection. **Djandji, Marc, Fady Baly, Wissam Antoun, and Hazem Hajj** Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Open-Source Arabic Corpora and Processing Tools at LREC 2020, 2020, Marseille, France

State of the Art Models for Fake News Detection Tasks. **Antoun, Wissam, Fady Baly, Rim Achour, Amir Hussein, and Hazem Hajj** 2020 IEEE International Conference on Informatics, IoT, and Enabling Technologies (ICIoT) (ICIoT'2020), 2020, Doha, Qatar

hULMonA: The Universal Language Model in Arabic. **ElJundi, Obeida, Wissam Antoun, Nour El Droubi, Hazem Hajj, Wassim El-Hajj, and Khaled Shaban** Proceedings of the Fourth Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop at ACL, 2019, Florence, Italy

## Honors & Awards

**Second Place**, OSACT4-Shared task on Offensive Language Detection, 2020 Marseille, France

**Best Domain Detection system**, Qatar International Fake News Detection and Annotation Contest, 2019 Doha, Qatar

**Second Place**, Mindsets-OLX Datathon, Best car price prediction score. kaggle.com/c/mindsets, 2019 AUB, Lebanon

**First place**, Big Data, AI, and Media Hackathon Powered by Touch and Anghami, 2019 AUB, Lebanon

## Presentations

**High Performance Computing for Lebanon (HPC4L) Brown Bag**, Presented the use case of HPC for pretraining transformer-based model for Arabic language Understanding for HPC4L, Feb. 2020 Beirut, Lebanon

**PyData Khobar meetup**, Presenter for AraBERT: pretraining, use cases and future improvements, May. 2012 Online

## Education

**Masters Of Eng. In Electrical And Computer Engineering** Beirut, Lebanon

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

Feb. 2018 - Aug. 2020

- Major Area: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems
- Minor Area: Software, Networking and Security
- Awarded Graduate Fellowship with full tuition coverage

**Bachelor Of Eng. In Computer And Communication Engineering** Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY - LOUAIZE

Fall. 2014 - Summer 2017

- GPA: 3.58 Dean's List for 6 semesters

## Skills

Python TensorFlow PyTorch Keras Bash Git CUDA  
Parallel Programming C++ C# Matlab Java SQL