



Curriculum Vitae

Mehdi Elahi

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Short Profile

Mehdi Elahi received M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden), and Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Libera Università di Bolzano (Italy), under the supervision of Prof. Francesco Ricci¹. During the course of the Ph.D., he has researched on *Recommender Systems (RSs)*, mainly focused on the cold start problem. He has designed, developed, and evaluated (offline/online) several personalized techniques for *Active Learning* in RSs that resulted in significant improvement over the state-of-the-art solutions. These techniques were integrated in a mobile context-aware recommender system for tourism, called **South Tyrol Suggests**².

As a result of his research work, Mehdi Elahi served as a primary author or co-author on several publications in AI, ML, IR, HCI, UM, and UA related conferences³. He was also given the opportunity to publish his research findings in the form of five key publications, i.e., a book chapter in the second edition of **Recommender Systems Handbook**⁴, an article in a top ACM journal (**ACM-TIST**⁵), which is ranked #4 among Artificial Intelligence journals⁶, an article in a top Springer journal (**UMUAI**⁷), ranked #12 among 1000 journals in Computer Science⁸, a survey article in **Computer Science Review** journal⁹, which is ranked #27 among 145 journals in Theoretical Computer Science¹⁰, and an article recently accepted in the journal of **Multimedia Tools and Applications (MTAP)**

¹<http://www.inf.unibz.it/ficci/>

²<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.unibz.sts.android>

³<https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=aUWF7LYAAAAJ>

⁴<https://www.amazon.com/Recommender-Systems-Handbook-Francesco-Ricci/dp/1489976361>

⁵ACM-Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (2014 IF: 9.39), <http://tist.acm.org>

⁶http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?area=0&category=1702&country=all&year=2014&order=sjr&min=0&min_type=cd

⁷H-Index: 47, ISI/Thompson IF: 3.0, <http://www.umuai.org/>

⁸http://www.umuai.org/journal_rankings.html

⁹<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/computer-science-review>

¹⁰<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2614>

¹¹ ranked #18 among 136 journals in Media Technology ¹².

He had the opportunity to work on several research projects, during his Ph.D. and Postdoc, comprising **SUSDEM** (Supporting Sequential Item Selection with Recommendation), **SIPAI** (Proactive Information Access Systems), **STS** (South Tyrol Suggests), and **Mise-en-scene** (Movie recommendation based on stylistic visual features).

Moreover, he has been actively involved in preparation of three datasets, freely available to community:

- **STS dataset** ¹³: which contains user personality, context, and rating on POIs
- **Mise-en-scene dataset** ¹⁴: which contains colors, motions, and lights extracted from movies
- **PoliMovie dataset** ¹⁵: which contains user ratings on directors, casts, genre, and production date of movies

In addition to the research experience obtained during his doctoral work, he has co-invented a US-patent ¹⁶, submitted recently. He served as an organizer of the RecSys challenge 2017 ¹⁷ as well as the proceeding chair of the conference ¹⁸. He also worked as a laboratory instructor for both of the bachelor and master level courses at Libera Universita di Bolzano and Politecnico di Milano.

Education

2010-2014	Ph.D. in Computer Science, Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy Thesis: Empirical Evaluation of Active Learning Strategies in Collaborative Filtering, Supervisor: Prof. Francesco Ricci
2007-2009	M.Sc in Electrical Engineering, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Sweden

Professional Experiences

2016-present	Assistant Professor (RTD), Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy
2016-present	Teaching Assistant, “Information Search and Retrieval” course, Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy
2015-2016	Postdoctoral Researcher, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
2015-2016	Teaching Assistant, “Recommender Systems” course, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
2014-2015	Research Assistant, Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy
2011-present	Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Programming” course, Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy
2011-2012	Teaching Assistant, “Internet Technologies” course, Libera Universita di Bolzano, Italy

¹¹<http://www.springer.com/computer/information+systems+and+applications/journal/11042>

¹²<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2214>

¹³<http://goo.gl/wYGVY0>

¹⁴<http://goo.gl/V3ulrY>

¹⁵<http://goo.gl/mBMGXu>

¹⁶<http://goo.gl/ejfLrR>

¹⁷<https://recsys.acm.org/recsys17/challenge/>

¹⁸<https://recsys.acm.org/recsys17/committees/>

Community Service

Journal Reviewer	<p>ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems (TIIS)</p> <p>ACM Transactions on the Web (TWEB)</p> <p>ACM Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage (JOCCH)</p> <p>Journal of User Modelling and User-Adapted Interaction (UMUAI)</p> <p>Elsevier Expert Systems with Applications</p> <p>Elsevier Information Sciences</p> <p>Elsevier Information Processing and Management</p> <p>Elsevier Journal of Systems and Software, Special Issue of the on Mobile Applications: Status and Trends</p> <p>IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)</p> <p>IEEE Intelligent Systems</p> <p>Springer Multimedia Tools and Applications (MTAP)</p> <p>Journal of Interaction Studies</p> <p>Journal of Interaction Design and Architecture (IxD&A)</p>
Conference & Workshp Reviewer	<p>RecSys'17: ACM Conference on Recommender Systems, Como, Italy</p> <p>SAC'17, ACM SIGAPP Symposium On Applied Computing, Track on Recommender Systems: Theory and Applications (RS), Marrakech, Morocco</p> <p>RecSys'16: ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (sub-reviewer), Boston, MA, USA</p> <p>UMAP'16: 24th Conference on User Modelling, Adaptation and Personalization (sub-reviewer), Halifax, Canada</p> <p>EMPIRE'16: workshop on Emotions and Personality in Personalized Services (in conjunction with the ACM RecSys 2016), Boston, MA, USA</p> <p>SOAP'16: ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on the State Of the Art in Program Analysis (Co-located with PLDI 2016), Santa Barbara, California</p> <p>FLAIRS '16: The 29th International FLAIRS Conference, In cooperation with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, Florida, USA</p> <p>FLAIRS '15: the 28th International Conference of Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS), Florida, USA</p> <p>EMPIRE '15: 3rd workshop on Emotions and Personality in Personalized Services (in conjunction with the ACM RecSys 2015), Vienna , Austria</p> <p>SoMeRA '15: 2nd International Workshop on Social Media Retrieval and Analysis (in conjunction with the IEEE ICDM 2015), Atlantic City, USA</p> <p>EMPIRE '14: 2nd workshop on Emotions and Personality in Personalized Services (co-located with UMAP'14), Aalborg, Denmark</p> <p>SoMeRA '14: International Workshop on Social Media Retrieval and Analysis (co-located with SIGIR'14), Gold coast, Australia</p> <p>ADMIRE: International Workshop on Advances in Music Information Research (co-located with WWW'12), Lyon, France</p>

Professional Membership

2014 - present	ACM Professional Member
2013 - 2014	IEEE Student Member
2013 - present	Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence (AI*IA)

Technical Skills

Matlab, Java, Android, Netbeans, Eclipse, Python, Scikit-learn, PySpark, Graphlab, iDeas, OPNET, Pascal, C++, J2ME, R, ASP, PHP, SQL, SQLite, Joomla, Spring, Latex, MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Flash

References

Research Advisor	Prof. Francesco Ricci Position: Full Professor Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science Affiliation: Libera Università di Bolzano, Italy Tel: +39-0471-016 009 Email: fricci@unibz.it Webpage: http://www.inf.unibz.it/~ricci/
Research Advisor	Prof. Paolo Cremonesi Position: Associate Professor Affiliation: Politecnico di Milano, Italy Tel: +39 02 2399 3400 Email: paolo.cremonesi@polimi.it Webpage: http://home.deib.polimi.it/cremones/
Research Collaborator	Dr. Neil Rubens Position: Visiting Scholar Affiliation: Stanford University, United States Email: neil@hrstc.org Webpage: http://activeintelligence.org

Publications

Book Chapter

- 2015 N. Rubens, M. Elahi, M. Sugiyama, and D. Kaplan, **Active Learning in Recommender Systems**. Book chapter in *Recommender Systems Handbook*, Springer Verlag, 2015

Journal

- 2016 Ignacio Fernandez Tobias, Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Cantador Ivan. **Alleviating the new user problem in collaborative filtering by exploiting personality information**. *User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction (UMUAI)*
- Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Neil Rubens. A survey of active learning in collaborative filtering recommender systems. *Computer Science Review*, 2016
- Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, Paolo Cremonesi, Franca Garzotto, Pietro Piazzolla, and Massimo Quadrana. Content-based video recommendation system based on stylistic visual features**. *Journal on Data Semantics*, 5(2):99–113, 2016
- Paolo Cremonesi, Mehdi Elahi, and Franca Garzotto. User interface patterns in recommendation-empowered content intensive multimedia applications. *Multimedia Tools and Applications*, pages 1–35, 2016
- 2014 Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, and Francesco Ricci. Techniques for cold-starting context-aware mobile recommender systems for tourism. *Intelligenza Artificiale*, 8(2):129–143, 2014
- 2013 **Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Neil Rubens. Active learning strategies for rating elicitation in collaborative filtering: A system-wide perspective**. *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST)*, 5(1):13, 2013

Conference

- 2016 Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, Paolo Cremonesi, Franca Garzotto, and Pietro Piazzolla. Recommending movies based on mise-en-scene design. In *Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pages 1540–1547. ACM, 2016
- Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, and Paolo Cremonesi. How to combine visual features with tags to improve the movie recommendation accuracy? In *E-Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web)*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2016
- 2015 Mouzhi Ge, Mehdi Elahi, Ignacio Fernández-Tobías, Francesco Ricci, and David Massimo. Using tags and latent factors in a food recommender system. In *5th ACM International Conference on Digital Health*. ACM, 2015
- Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, Massimo Quadrana, and Paolo Cremonesi. Toward building a content-based video recommendation system based on low-level features. In *E-Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web)*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2015
- Paolo Cremonesi, Mehdi Elahi, and Franca Garzotto. Interaction design patterns in recommender systems. In *The 11th Edition of ACM CHIItaly, the biannual Conference of the Italian SIGCHI Chapter*. ACM, 2015

- Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, Massimo Quadrana, Paolo Cremonesi, and Franca Garzotto. Toward effective movie recommendations based on mise-en-scene film styles. In *The 11th Edition of ACM CHIItaly, the biannual Conference of the Italian SIGCHI Chapter*. ACM, 2015
- Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, and Francesco Ricci. User personality and the new user problem in a context-aware points of interest recommender system. In *Information and Communication Technologies in Tourism 2015*. Springer International Publishing, 2015
- 2014 Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, and Francesco Ricci. Usability assessment of a context-aware and personality-based mobile recommender system. In *E-Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web)*, pages 77–88. Springer International Publishing, 2014
- Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, and Francesco Ricci. Sts: A context-aware mobile recommender system for places of interest. In *User Modeling, Adaption and Personalization (UMAP'14)*, 2014
- Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Thomas Schievenin. Context-aware points of interest suggestion with dynamic weather data management. In *Information and Communication Technologies in Tourism 2014*, pages 87–100. Springer International Publishing, 2014
- Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Neil Rubens. Active learning in collaborative filtering recommender systems. In *E-Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web)*, pages 113–124. Springer International Publishing, 2014
- Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, Mouzhi Ge, and Francesco Ricci. Context dependent preference acquisition with personality-based active learning in mobile recommender systems. In *Learning and Collaboration Technologies. Technology-Rich Environments for Learning and Collaboration*, pages 105–116. Springer International Publishing, 2014
- 2013 Mehdi Elahi, Matthias Braunhofer, Francesco Ricci, and Marko Tkalcic. Personality-based active learning for collaborative filtering recommender systems. In *AI* IA 2013: Advances in Artificial Intelligence*, pages 360–371. Springer International Publishing, 2013
- 2012 Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Neil Rubens. Adapting to natural rating acquisition with combined active learning strategies. In *Foundations of Intelligent Systems*, pages 254–263. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2012
- 2011 Mehdi Elahi, Valdemaras Repsys, and Francesco Ricci. Rating elicitation strategies for collaborative filtering. In *E-Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web)*, pages 160–171. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2011
- Mehdi Elahi. Adaptive active learning in recommender systems. In *User Modeling, Adaption and Personalization*, pages 414–417. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2011
- 2010 Mehdi Elahi. Context-aware intelligent recommender system. In *Proceedings of the 15th international conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI)*, pages 407–408. ACM, 2010
- 2009 Magnus Jändel and Mehdi Elahi. Tribal taste: mobile multiagent recommender system. In *Proceedings of the 14th international conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI)*, pages 489–490. ACM, 2009

Workshop

- 2016 Yashar Deldjoo, Mehdi Elahi, and Paolo Cremonesi. Using visual features and latent factors for movie recommendation. In *Workshop on New Trends in Content-Based Recommender Systems (CBRecSys), in conjugation with ACM Recommender Systems conference (RecSys)*, 2016
- 2015 Mona Nasery, Mehdi Elahi, and Paolo Cremonesi. Polimovie: a feature-based dataset for recommender systems. In *ACM RecSys Workshop on Crowdsourcing and Human Computation for Recommender Systems (CrawdRec)*, volume 3, pages 25–30. ACM, 2015
- Mona Nasery, Mehdi Elahi, and Paolo Cremonesi. Investigating the decision making process of users based on the polimovie dataset. In *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Decision Making and Recommender Systems 2015 22-23 October 2015, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy*, 2015
- 2013 Matthias Braunhofer, Mehdi Elahi, Mouzhi Ge, and Francesco Ricci. Sts: Weather-aware mobile recommender system in tourism. In *AI HCI workshop*, 2013
- 2011 Mehdi Elahi, Francesco Ricci, and Valdemaras Repsys. System-wide effectiveness of active learning in collaborative filtering. *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Social Web Mining, Co-located with IJCAI, Barcelona, Spain (July 2011)*, 2011
- 2010 Valdemaras Repsys, Francesco Ricci, and Mehdi Elahi. Active learning and collaborative filtering. 2010

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