

Leonidas Zotos

PhD Student - AI in Education

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Education

University of Groningen

PhD - Artificial Intelligence in Education

Groningen, The Netherlands

Dec. 2023 - Ongoing

I am a third-year PhD Student at the University of Groningen, working with Hedderik van Rijn and Malvina Nissim. With a background in Artificial Intelligence, I am fascinated by the impact AI can have on education and society more broadly. As a member of the GroNLP research group, I am especially interested in application-oriented research that uses Natural Language Processing methods to improve various aspects of education.

University of Groningen

MSc in Artificial Intelligence (Honours)

Groningen, The Netherlands

Sep. 2021 - Nov. 2023

During the AI Master's program, I focused on the topics of Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) and Natural Language Processing (NLP). To develop in the MAS field, my thesis focused on Adaptive Mechanism Design for Traffic Coordination. At the same time, in the NLP field, I developed a news article recommendation system that worked based on text (dis)similarity.

University of Groningen

BSc in Artificial Intelligence (Honours)

Groningen, The Netherlands

Sep. 2017 - Nov. 2020

The AI degree at the University of Groningen is an international degree that covers several fields including Maths, Logic, Philosophy, and Cognitive Psychology. A particular interest of mine was the design of self-optimising multi-agent systems through the use of Reinforcement Learning, which was also the topic of my Thesis.

Publications

- [1] **Leonidas Zotos**, Hedderik van Rijn, Malvina Nissim, et al. "Can Model Uncertainty Function as a Proxy for Multiple-Choice Question Item Difficulty?," *COLING*, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
- [2] **Leonidas Zotos**, Hedderik van Rijn, Malvina Nissim, et al. "Are You Doubtful? Oh, It Might Be Difficult Then! Exploring the Use of Model Uncertainty for Question Difficulty Estimation," *EDM*, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
- [3] **Leonidas Zotos**, Ivo Pascal de Jong, Matias Valdenegro-Toro, et al. "NLP Methods May Actually Be Better Than Professors at Estimating Question Difficulty," *AISEER @ ECAI*, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
- [4] **Leonidas Zotos**, Hedderik van Rijn, Malvina Nissim, et al. "The Role of the Availability Heuristic in Multiple-Choice Answering Behaviour," *ArXiv*, 2026. [\[Link\]](#)
- [5] **Daniel Scalena**, Leonidas Zotos, Elisabetta Fersini, et al. "EAGER: Entropy-Aware GEneration for Adaptive Inference-Time Scaling," *ArXiv*, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)

Awards and Honors

May. 2025	Behavioural Cognitive Neuroscience Retreat Day 1 Best Presentation Award	Groningen
Sep. 2023	2023 Artificial Intelligence Best Teaching Assistant Award	Groningen
Nov. 2020	2020 Artificial Intelligence Best Teaching Assistant Award	Groningen

Other Activities

University of Groningen

(Head) Teaching Assistant and Mentor

Groningen

Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2023

As a Teaching Assistant and Mentor I helped 1st year students understand and fall in love with Artificial Intelligence by fostering an engaging and sometimes challenging learning environment. Through this experience I have learnt to understand the students' mentality, which helped me to motivate them through the process of learning, among other skills.

Study Association Cover

Chairman & Secretary

Groningen

Sep. 2020 - Sep. 2021

Cover is the Study Association for Computing Science, Artificial Intelligence and Computational Cognitive Science at the University of Groningen and has around 1000 members. As the Chairman & Secretary of Cover, I led the board, a team of passionate students, in not only running the association but also in completing large projects with a long-lasting impact.