Negar Rostamzadeh, Senior Research Scientist

Title: Rethinking values in machine learning research and practice

Abstract: Machine Learning papers are often motivated by the importance of the research problem, and their difficulty. Broader impact of the technologies, values and motivation behind the problem statement is usually not stated as part of the importance of the work. In this talk, I will be discussing the values that will help (1) emphasize important engineering and scientific practices that we should foster to increase the robustness of our research, (2) role of documentation in reflecting broader impact, and (3) lessons we can learn from communications between interdisciplinary fields of research.

Bio: Negar Rostamzadeh is a Senior Research Scientist at Google Ethical AI team, where she studies the social impact of machine learning technologies and evaluation systems. Prior to that, Negar was a research scientist at Element AI, where she worked on efficient sampling and labeling approaches in a variety of multimedia and computer vision problems. Negar obtained her PhD from the University of Trento, where she was advised by Nicu Sebe. Her main area of research during her PhD was on large scale video understanding problems. During her PhD, she spent two years at MILA, where she worked on attention mechanisms in videos, video captioning and generation under the supervision of Aaron Courville. Negar was a co-founder of Women in Deep Learning (WiDL) in 2016, and a co-organizer of WiML, WiCV and WiDL in 2017.

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