WESAM AL-NABKI, Ph.D.

Senior AI Consultant (UN) | AI & NLP Scientist | University Lecturer
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ACADEMIC SUMMARY

AI Consultant and University Lecturer with a Ph.D. in Computer Science and over 10 years of experience in NLP, LLMs, and Cybersecurity. Currently leading strategic AI initiatives within the United Nations system, after successfully serving as a Senior Researcher and Deputy Lab Lead at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC). Author of 15+ peer-reviewed Q1 publications and holder of 3 patents. Combines international technology consultancy with a strong commitment to academia, currently serving as a Volunteer Lecturer at Damascus University, where he handles graduate-level teaching and Master's thesis supervision.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Computer Science (Cum Laude / Sobresaliente)**
    - *University of León, Spain | 2016 - 2019*
    - **Thesis:** "Supervised Machine Learning for Classification, Mining, and Ranking of Illegal Web Contents."
    - **Advisors:** Dr. Enrique Alegre & Dr. Eduardo Fidalgo.
- **Master in Artificial Intelligence**
    - *Université de Bourgogne, France | 2013 - 2014*
- **Bachelor in Information Technology Engineering**
    - *Arab International University, Syria | 2007 - 2011*

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY | *Remote* **Visiting Lecturer (Graduate Program)** | *09/2025 - Present*

- Delivering advanced lectures on **"Smart AI Applications"** to Master's students.
- Mentoring students on research methodologies, experimental design, and thesis writing.

BARCELONA SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER (BSC) | *Barcelona, Spain* **Senior Data Scientist (R3) & Deputy Lab Lead (NLLP4BIA)** | *12/2024 - 09/2025*

- **Lab Leadership:** Co-managed the biomedical NLP research unit, overseeing resource allocation and scientific output.
- **Research Focus:** Developed large-scale biomedical language models and text understanding systems.
- **Grant Writing:** Actively contributed to drafting proposals for **Horizon Europe**, securing funding for long-term research initiatives.
- **Project Leadership:** Led a Work Package in the **"Data Tools for Heart (Dt4H)"** EU project.
- **Scientific Service:** Served as **Chair** for Shared Tasks at **IJCAI**, managing peer review committees.

UNIVERSITY OF LEÓN / INCIBE | *Leon, Spain* **Postdoctoral Researcher & Technical Lead** | *06/2016 - 02/2023*

- **Research:** Designed novel algorithms for **Cybersecurity** (Phishing detection, Darknet monitoring) and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) detection.
- **EU Projects:** Served as Technical Work Package Manager for **GRACE** and **4NSEEK** projects (Horizon 2020).
- **Collaboration:** Acted as primary research liaison with Law Enforcement Agencies (Europol, Spanish National Police).

ADVICE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT S.L.U. | *Girona, Spain* **Machine Learning Researcher** | *01/2015 - 01/2016*

- Conducted research in graph theory to identify influential nodes in social networks (Twitter).

INDUSTRY & APPLIED RESEARCH (UN SYSTEM)

UNITED NATIONS (UN) | *Remote* **Senior AI Consultant** | *09/2025 - Present*

- Leading the **DISHA project** research on Post-Disaster Damage Assessment using Satellite Imagery and AI.
- Collaborating with **UNOSAT** and **Google** on applying LLMs for humanitarian response.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) | *Remote* **AI Specialist (Consultancy)** | *11/2024 - 06/2025*

- Researched and implemented Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architectures for automated reporting.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) | *Remote* **Data Science Expert** | *05/2024 - 08/2024*

- Developed NER models for extracting intelligence from unstructured data sources (Telegram, Web).

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) | *Remote* **Data Science Consultant** | *09/2020 - 03/2022*

- Developed inclusive ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) models for non-native English speakers.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

- **Smart AI Applications:** Master's Program, Damascus University (2025-Present).
- **Machine Learning & NLP for Cybersecurity:** University of León (2017-2019).

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Journals (Q1/Q2)

1. **Al Nabki, M.W.**, Fidalgo, E., et al. (2023). "Supervised ranking approach to identify influential websites in the darknet." *Applied Intelligence*, 1-17.
2. Sánchez-Paniagua, M., ... **Al-Nabki, M.W.** (2022). "Phishing URL Detection: A Real-Case Scenario Through Login URLs." *IEEE Access*, 10, 42949-42960.
3. Gök, A., ... **Al-Nabki, W.** (2022). "Building the European Social Innovation Database with NLP and ML." *Scientific Data*, 9(1).
4. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, Fidalgo, E., et al. (2019). "ToRank: Identifying the Most Influential Suspicious Domains in the Tor Network." *Expert Systems with Applications*, 123, 212-226.
5. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, et al. (2019). "Improving Named Entity Recognition in Noisy User-Generated Text." *Neurocomputing*, 382, 1-11.

Conferences & Proceedings 6. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, et al. (2020). "Evaluating Performance of an Adult Pornography Classifier for Child Sexual Abuse Detection." *arXiv preprint*. 7. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, et al. (2020). "File Name Classification Approach to Identify Child Sexual Abuse." *ICPRAM 2020*, Malta. 8. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, et al. (2019). "DarkNER: A Platform for Named Entity Recognition in Tor Darknet." *JNIC*, Spain. 9. **Al-Nabki, M.W.**, et al. (2017). "Classifying illegal activities on TOR network based on web textual contents." *EACL 2017*, Valencia.

PATENTS

1. **System for the classification and detection of the most influential domains.** (Ref: P201831145). Granted 2018. Holder: Univ. of León.

2. **Ranking the onion domains in the Tor network.** (Ref: Le-155-17). Granted 2017.
3. **Classifying illegal activities in the Tor network analyzing its text.** (Ref: Le-156-17). Granted 2017.

GRANTS & FUNDED PROJECTS

- **Data Tools for Heart (Dt4H):** EU Horizon Europe. *Role: Work Package Leader (BSC)*.
- **GRACE:** EU Horizon 2020. *Role: Technical Work Package Manager (INCIBE)*.
- **4NSEEK:** EU Funded. *Role: Technical Lead (INCIBE)*.
- **DISHA:** UN Global Pulse. *Role: Senior AI Engineer*.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Chair / Organizer:** Shared Tasks at IJCAI.
- **Reviewer:** *Expert Systems with Applications* (2020), *Applications of Intelligent Systems* (2019), *CIARP* (2018).
- **Invited Speaker:** Artificial Intelligence International Conference (A2IC2018), Barcelona.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

- **AI/NLP:** LLMs, RAG, Transformers, PyTorch, LangChain, Spacy, NLTK.
- **Development:** Python, Docker, FastAPI, RESTful APIs, Git (CI/CD).
- **Languages:** Arabic (Native), English (C1), Spanish (B2).