

# IRENE CANNISTRACI

## OVERVIEW

Postdoc and Lecturer at [ETH Zurich](#). PhD with honors. Author of 20+ papers, incl. [ICLR \(Spotlight, top 5%\)](#), [TMLR](#). [ELLIS Member](#), [Organizer UniReps](#), [Co-leader of CSNOW](#). Research interests: representation learning, efficiency, foundation models, multimodal ML, post-training.

📍 Zurich, Switzerland

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## EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral Researcher & Lecturer** Feb 2025 – Present  
[ETH Zurich](#), Institute of Machine Learning

- Leading research on representation learning, multi-modal ML, foundation models and efficiency.
- Supervising MSc and PhD students.
- Co-lecturing and designing lectures for MSc course "ML for Health Care" (150+ students).
- Co-leading CSNOW, Computer Science Network of Women at ETH.

**Visiting Researcher** Feb 2024 – Jul 2024

[Helmholtz Munich](#), AIDOS Lab

Host: Prof. Bastian Rieck

- Working on representation learning and geometric deep learning. Paper at ICML Workshop on Methods and Opportunities at Small Scale.

**Teaching Assistant** 2023 – 2024

LUISS University & Sapienza University

- Designed and delivered lab sessions and lectures for 120+ MSc students across Deep Learning and Data Science courses.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Computer Science, With Honors** Jan 2025

Sapienza University, Advisor: Prof. Emanuele Rodolà.

Thesis: Improving Neural Networks Efficiency via Representation Similarities

**BSc and MSc in Computer Science** Mar 2017 and Oct 2020

Sapienza University of Rome

110/110 cum laude

## SELECTED INVITED TALKS

*From Bricks to Bridges: Product of Invariances to Enhance Latent Space Communication* Feb 2024  
Helmholtz AI, Munich. Host: Prof. Stefan Bauer.

*Unifying Representations by Infusing Invariances in the Latent Space* Jul 2023  
University of Tübingen. Host: Dr. Riccardo Marin.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[Full list on Google Scholar](#) ↗

S. Laguna, J. Gonçalves, M. Vandenhirtz, A. Ryser, J. E. Vogt\*, **I. Cannistraci\***. "Rethinking Machine Unlearning: Models Designed to Forget via Key Deletion". [Under Review, 2026](#). \*Equal senior authorship.

**I. Cannistraci**, S. Antonelli, E. Palumbo, T. M. Sutter, E. Rodolà, B. Rieck, J. E. Vogt. "TOAST: Transformer Optimization using Adaptive and Simple Transformations". [TMLR 2026](#).

**I. Cannistraci**, L. Moschella, M. Fumero, V. Maiorca, E. Rodolà. "From Bricks to Bridges: Product of Invariances to Enhance Latent Space Communication". [ICLR 2024 \(Spotlight, top 5%\)](#).

D. Crisostomi, **I. Cannistraci**, L. Moschella, P. Barbiero, M. Ciccone, P. Liò, E. Rodolà. "From Charts to Atlas: Merging Latent Spaces into One". [NeurIPS 2023 Workshop](#).

**I. Cannistraci**, L. Moschella, V. Maiorca, M. Fumero, A. Norelli, E. Rodolà. "Bootstrapping Parallel Anchors for Relative Representations". [ICLR 2023, Tiny Papers](#).

## HONORS & AWARDS

- ELLIS Member 2025
- ICLR 2024 Spotlight - Top 5% 2024
- ELLIS Mobility Grant - €5,000 travel grant 2024
- G-Research Grant - £2,000 research grant 2024
- Helmholtz Visiting Grant - Fully-funded stay 2024
- Women in Tech Scholarship - US\$8,000 by Zonta 2022

## LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- **Area Chair** (Upcoming): NeurIPS 2026
- **Co-Organizer**: UniReps Workshop (NeurIPS 2024 & 2025) and ELLISxUniReps Speaker Series
- **Co-Leader**: Network of Women in CS at ETH Zurich
- **Panel Moderator**: UniReps at NeurIPS 2025 with S. Hooker, A. Beirami, M. Khosla
- **Reviewer**: Top-ML conferences (ICML, ICLR, NeurIPS)
- **Volunteer**: WIML at NeurIPS 2023–25

## REFERENCES

Prof. Julia Vogt (ERC Grantee) – ETH Zurich

Prof. Emanuele Rodolà (ERC Grantee) – Sapienza University

Prof. Bastian Rieck (ERC Grantee) – University of Fribourg