

# Ana-Maria Bucur

## Contact Information

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## Research Interests

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Mental Health Applications, Human-Centered AI, Natural Language Processing, Information Retrieval, Conversational Systems, Large Language Models

## Education

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**Oct 2020 - Present** Ph.D. Student at Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest, Romania. PhD in cotutelle with Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Together with my supervisors, prof. **Liviu P. Dinu** and prof. **Paolo Rosso**, and psychology researchers, we study the problem of mental disorders detection from social media data, using computational linguistics and state-of-the-art deep learning methods.

**Oct 2017 - Jun 2020** University of Bucharest, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence

Dissertation thesis "A Computational Approach to Early Onset Detection of Depression from Social Media Text", supervisor prof. **Liviu P. Dinu**. Contributions:

- Made a comprehensive literature review of the existing research.
- Explored different approaches based on hand-crafted features and topic modelling and obtained competitive results with state-of-the-art for early detection of depression.

**Oct 2014 - Jun 2017** University of Bucharest, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

## Professional Experience

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**Dec 2024 - Present** Research Assistant at Università della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland

As part of the Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence Studies.

**Oct 2024 - Feb 2025** Teaching Assistant at University of Bucharest, Romania

Teaching laboratories for the "LLMs & Cognition" Course

**July - Dec 2023** Researcher at Pattern Recognition and Human Language Technology Center, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Worked on two projects: one on depression detection from social media videos; and the second one on analyzing false online advertising targeted towards corporate entities.

**May - June 2023** Research Intern at Conversational AI and Social Analytics (CAISA) Lab, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany, under the supervision of **Lucie Flek**

Worked on analyzing how happy moments interplay with emotions in individuals with depression employing Dynamic Systems Theory.

**Mar 2022 - April 2023** Researcher at Pattern Recognition and Human Language Technology Center, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Worked on depression detection from multimodal social media content, including images and text data.

**Oct 2021 - Feb 2022    Research Assistant at University of Bucharest, Romania**

Worked within the aiCARE Project - An Artificial Intelligence-powered Conversational Therapeutic Agent for Anxiety and Depression in Young Adult Cancer Survivors, PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-2140.

**May 2021 - Feb 2022    Research Assistant at West University of Timișoara, Romania**

Worked within DACRE Project - Discipline-Specific Expert Academic Writing in Romanian and English: Corpus-Based Contrastive Analysis Models, PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-0821.

**Oct 2021 - June 2022    Teaching Assistant at University of Bucharest, Romania**

Taught laboratories for “Machine Translation”, “Foundations of Natural Language Processing”, and “Introduction to Natural Language Processing” Courses.

**Selected Publications**

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**IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics, 2025 On the State of NLP Approaches to Modeling Depression in Social Media: A Post-COVID-19 Outlook**

[Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Andreea-Codrina Moldovan, Krutika Parvatikar, Marcos Zampieri, Ashiqur R. KhudaBukhsh, Liviu P. Dinu

**NAACL 2025    Datasets for Depression Modeling in Social Media: An Overview**

**(CLPsych Workshop)** [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Andreea-Codrina Moldovan, Krutika Parvatikar, Marcos Zampieri, Ashiqur R. KhudaBukhsh, Liviu P. Dinu

**IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing, 2025 The Expression of Happiness in Social Media of Individuals Reporting Depression, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Berta Chulvi, Adrian Cosma, Paolo Rosso**

**LREC-COLING 2024    MentalHelp: A Multi-Task Dataset for Mental Health in Social Media**

Nishat Raihan, Sadiya Sayara Chowdhury Puspo, Shafkat Farabi, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Tharindu Ranasinghe, Marcos Zampieri

**ECIR 2024    Reading Between the Frames: Multi-Modal Depression Detection in Videos**

**from Non-Verbal Cues**, David Gimeno-Gómez, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Adrian Cosma, and Paolo Rosso

**Frontiers in Psychology Journal, 2023 Mental health at different stages of cancer survival: A natural language processing study of Reddit posts, Ioana R. Podina,**

[Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Diana Todea, Liviu Andrei Fodor, Andreea Iuliana Luca, Liviu P. Dinu, Rares Boian

**ECIR 2023    It's Just a Matter of Time: Detecting Depression with Time-Enriched**

**Multimodal Transformers**, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Adrian Cosma, Paolo Rosso, Liviu P. Dinu

**LREC 2022    Life is not Always Depressing: Exploring the Happy Moments of People**

**Diagnosed with Depression**, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Adrian Cosma and Liviu P. Dinu

**ACL-IJCNLP 2021    An exploratory analysis of the relation between offensive language and**  
**(Findings)    mental health**, [Ana-Maria Bucur](#), Marcos Zampieri and Liviu P. Dinu

**Additional awards/activities**

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**May 2025 Best poster award at the CLPsych Workshop, NAACL 2025**

**July 2022 Best poster award (popular vote) at VII Encuentro de Estudiantes de Doctorado, Universitat Politècnica de València**

**Mar 2021 Silver Award at E-Mental Health Hackathon for TherAmi app**

Together with my team, we worked on developing a therapy management application that uses AI algorithms to transcribe conversations and take notes automatically.