



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full name: Pieter Adriaan Flach
Date of birth: 8th of April, 1961
Nationality: Netherlands

EDUCATION, CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2022 – now Vice-President, *European Association for Data Science*
2019 – now Director, *UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Interactive Artificial Intelligence*
2003 – now Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Bristol, UK
2019 – 2022 President, *European Association for Data Science*
2010 – 2020 Editor-in-Chief, *Machine Learning*, published by Springer Nature
2000 – 2003 Reader in Machine Learning, University of Bristol, UK
1997 – 2000 Lecturer in Computer Science, University of Bristol, UK
1995 PhD in Computer Science (*cum laude*), Tilburg University, the Netherlands
1988 – 1997 Assistant Professor in Computer Science, Tilburg University, Netherlands
1987 – 1988 Scientific Researcher, Philips Research Laboratories Eindhoven, Netherlands
1987 MSc in Electrical Engineering (*cum laude*), Twente University, Netherlands

SHORT BIO

Peter Flach is Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Bristol. An internationally leading scholar in the evaluation and improvement of machine learning models using ROC analysis and calibration, he has also published on mining highly structured data, on knowledge-driven and explainable AI, and on the methodology of data science. He is author of *Simply Logical: Intelligent Reasoning by Example* (John Wiley, 1994) and *Machine Learning: the Art and Science of Algorithms that Make Sense of Data* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), the latter of which has, to date, sold over 20,000 copies and has established itself as a key reference in machine learning with translations into Russian, Mandarin and Japanese.

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Prof Flach was Editor-in-Chief of the *Machine Learning* journal, one of the two top journals in the field, for a decade (2010-20). He was Programme Co-Chair of the 1999 *International Conference on Inductive Logic Programming*, the 2001 *European Conference on Machine Learning*, the 2009 *ACM Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining* (KDD'09), and the 2012 *European Conference on Machine Learning and Knowledge Discovery in Databases* in Bristol. He was a founding board member of the *European Association for Data Science* (EuADS.org), was elected President in 2019, and is currently Vice-President. He is a Fellow of the *Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence*, of the *European Lab for Learning and Intelligent Systems* (ellis.eu), and of the *European Association for Artificial Intelligence* (eurai.org). From April 2019 he directs a UKRI-funded *Centre for Doctoral Training in Interactive Artificial Intelligence*, which awards PhD scholarships to cohorts of 10 students annually. He was instrumental in setting up a peta-scale Research Data Storage Facility at Bristol and has recently stepped down after chairing the RDS Executive since its inauguration in 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Prof Flach's current [Google Scholar profile](#) lists more than 300 publications that have accumulated around 18,500 citations and a Hirsch-index of 69 (August 2023). He publishes regularly in the leading machine learning, data mining and artificial intelligence journals including *Communications of the ACM*, *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*, *Machine Learning*, and *Neurocomputing*; and conferences including AAAI, ACM SIGKDD, AISTATS, ECAI, ECML-PKDD, ICDM, ICML, IJCAI, NeurIPS (all in the past five years).

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Prof Flach has been teaching since 1988 on a wide range of computer science courses. Current teaching concentrates on the Interactive AI CDT (machine learning, natural language processing, artificial intelligence). He has supervised 11 PhD students until submission, with four more ongoing. He has supervised 12 postdocs in the past, with five ongoing.

COLLABORATIONS

Prof Flach has a strong track record of collaborations both in academia and in industry. In Bristol he collaborates with colleagues in Engineering on the SPHERE project, with colleagues in Population Health Science in the MRC-funded Integrated Epidemiology Unit, and others. In the UK, collaborations include the Alan Turing Institute and the University of Manchester; internationally they include the Polytechnic University of Valencia, the University of Strasbourg, the University of Tartu, and several universities in Brazil. He leads the work package on Network Collaboration in the recently funded TAILOR European network of AI excellence centres. Non-academic collaborators include LV=, Thales, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and over 20 partners in the Interactive AI CDT. Prof Flach is a member of the Advisory Boards of Adarga and XMOS.

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Only projects above £50k are listed. The projects marked with an asterisk are those where Prof Flach was PI or international coordinator.

- 2020 – 2023 ICT-48-2020 Research and Innovation Action *TAILOR: Trustworthy AI through Learning, Optimisation and Reasoning* (€12m total funding, £250k to Bristol).
- 2019 – 2027 *UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Interactive Artificial Intelligence, one of 16 funded in the most recent CDT exercise (£6.84m).
- 2019 – 2021 *The Alan Turing Institute pilot project *Towards a Measurement Theory for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence* (£147k).
- 2019 – 2020 Innovate UK Catapult project *Development of a machine learning algorithm to automate diabetes self-care decisions co-designed with users* (£297k to Bristol).
- 2018 – 2019 *FAT Forensics toolbox, funded by Thales UK (£90k).
- 2013 – 2021 EPSRC-funded Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration *Sensor Platform for HHealth in Residential Environments* (IRC-SPHERE, SPHERE next steps, £15.3m total). PF leads the Data Fusion and Data Mining workpackage.
- 2013 – 2023 MRC-funded *Integrative Epidemiology Unit*. PF co-led the Bioinformatics and Data Mining cross-cutting theme in the first quinquennium.
- 2013 – 2016 *CHIST-ERA project *Rethinking the Essence, Flexibility and Reusability of Advanced Model Exploitation* (€9.39k total, €466k to Bristol)
- 2011 – 2013 TSB project *Generating value from smart electricity meter data* (£100k)
- 2006 – 2010 *EPSRC Research Grant *Learning the morphology of complex synthetic languages* (£366k)
- 2004 – 2009 Applied Research collaboration with GCHQ (£1.28m total funding for UoB, £261k to Computer Science)
- 2000 – 2003 *EPSRC Research Grant *Efficient first-order probabilistic models for inference and learning* (£51k)
- 2000 – 2002 Framework V RTD Project 11495 *Data mining and decision support for business competitiveness* (2m ECU total funding, 175k ECU to Bristol)
- 1998 – 2002 *Esprit IV Long Term Research Project 26357 *A meta-learning assistant for providing user support in machine learning and data mining* (1.5m ECU total funding, 335k ECU to Bristol). PF was project coordinator from January 2001.
- 1998 – 2002 *EU-funded European Network of Excellence *ILPnet2* (network co-ordinator, 200k ECU total funding, 20k ECU to Bristol).