

Leonhard Kestel

PHD CANDIDATE · DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, LMU MÜNCHEN

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Education

LMU München

PH.D. DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

- Focus: Neurosymbolic Architectures for Trustworthy ML
- Advisor: Prof. Dr. Christoph Kern

Munich, DE
07/2025 - now

University of Bamberg

M.SC. COMPUTING IN THE HUMANITIES

- Focus: Cognitive Systems
- Thesis: *Tree-Vitality Classification from Image Data: A Comparison of Multispectral Index Scores and Deep Learning Approaches*
- Advisor: Prof. Dr. Ute Schmid

Bamberg, DE
10/2021 - 09/2024

University of Dubrovnik

ERASMUS EXCHANGE

Dubrovnik, CR
09/2022 - 02/2023

University of Bamberg

B.SC. PSYCHOLOGY

- Thesis: *Affecting Insight: The Influence of Negative Affect on Creative and Analytic Thought*
- Advisor: Prof. Dr. Jascha Rüsseler

Bamberg, DE
10/2018 - 09/2022

Professional Experience

ondatix Datenwerkstatt GmbH

Co-FOUNDER

- Development of Data Science software for the public sector

Munich, DE
04/2026-now

Social Data Science and AI Lab, LMU München

ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE

- Member of the ADA initiative that organises data analysis workshops and support for public authorities
- Research on neurosymbolic architectures for trustworthy ML
- Teaching at the LMU Department of Statistics
- Co-organisation of the *Datafest* hackathon at LMU München

Munich, DE
02/2025-now

Social Data Science and AI Lab, LMU München

FREELANCE DATA SCIENTIST

- Assistance in the ADA workshop series on applied data analysis for public authorities in Bavaria
- Planning of an infrastructure solution for storage and processing of geo-spatial data in Bavarian public authorities
- Development of a *Shiny* application that aids archivists in the task of stratified court record sampling

Munich, DE
10/2024-02/2025

Bytabo GmbH

DATA SCIENTIST AND AI-ENGINEER (TRAINEE)

- Engineering of Python-backends
- Training and deployment of Machine Learning models for price regression (CatBoost) and time series prediction (LSTM)
- Development of RAG interfaces
- LLM Finetuning

Bamberg, DE
02/2024-07/2024

Chair of Cognitive Systems, University of Bamberg

TEACHING ASSISTANT AND MENTOR

- *make IT* project: Mentor to secondary school students on opportunities and fundamentals of a degree in computer science
- Course: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (Bachelor level)

Bamberg, DE
06/2023-04/2024

- Introduction to Computer Architectures and Operating Systems (Bachelor level)

Publications

PUBLISHED

Heilmann, X., Manganini, C., Cerrato, M., **Kestel, L.**, & Belle, V. (2026). *A Neurosymbolic Approach to Counterfactual Fairness*. In *Neurosymbolic Artificial Intelligence* (2). doi: 10.1177/29498732261443184

IN REVIEW

Leonhard Kestel, Christoph Kern. Counterfactual Latent Representations: A Neurosymbolic Approach. *European Conference on Algorithmic Fairness*.

Leonhard Kestel, Christoph Kern. Neurosymbolic Architectures for Algorithmic Fairness. *Neurosymbolic Artificial Intelligence*.

Awards & Fellowships

2026 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, Bavarian Institute for Digital Transformation

2025 **Junior Researcher Affiliation**, Munich Center of Machine Learning

Teaching Experience

Summer 2026	Advanced Statistical Software (Statistics Minor) , Lecturer, Instructor	LMU München, DE
Winter 25/26	Introduction to Statistical Software (Statistics Minor) , Lecturer, Instructor	LMU München, DE
Summer 2025	Statistics 2 (Statistics Minor) , Instructor	LMU München, DE
Summer 2023	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence , Teaching Assistant	Uni Bamberg, DE
Summer 2023	Computer Architectures and Operating Systems , Teaching Assistant	Uni Bamberg, DE

Extracurricular

2025-now	Büro Grandeza e.V. , Advisory board member of a non-profit for the promotion of culture and arts in Munich	Munich, DE
2018-2021	Student Council, Faculty of Human Sciences and Education (Uni Bamberg) , Member and treasurer	Bamberg, DE
2018-2022	Family-Support Service, Lebenshilfe gGmbH , Carer for people with disabilities	Bamberg, DE
2017-2018	Voluntary Gap Year, OBA München , Caregiver for people with disabilities	Munich, DE
2014-now	Lutheran Youth Org. Munich (EJM) , Organizing children's and youth camps	Munich, DE