

IVADO: Canadian and international leader in AI

New York - IVADO March 23-25, 2026



HEC MONTRÉAL



Tal Arbel, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, McGill University



Professor Arbel's research focuses on developing probabilistic deep learning methods for computer vision and medical image analysis, for a wide range of real-world applications involving neurological diseases.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● yes



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Shahab Bakhtiari, Department of Psychology, Université de Montréal



Shahab's research is centered at the intersection of neuroscience and AI, also known as NeuroAI. He examines visual perception and learning in both biological brains and artificial neural networks. He uses deep learning as a computational framework to model learning and perception in the brain, and leverages our understanding of the nervous system to create more biologically-inspired AI.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Glen Berseth, Department of Computer Science and Operations Research, Université de Montréal



Berseth's previous and current research has focused on solving sequential decision-making problems (planning) for real-world autonomous learning systems (robots). More specifically, his research has focused on human-robot collaboration, reinforcement, and continual-, meta-, multi-agent and hierarchical learning.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Danilo Bzdok/Chloé Savignac, Department of Biomedical Engineering, McGill University



Wearing the hat of a neuroscientist and a computer scientist, Danilo Bzdok has led research teams for ~10 years that drive projects across the full spectrum, from applied biomedical questions all the way to devising domain-agnostic AI frameworks. At Mila and McGill in Montreal, since 2019, he directs teams to seek and attack emerging opportunities - where classic research questions in neuroscience can be ambushed from an orthogonal angle by leveraging AI and big data. He is also a co-scientific director at IVADO. His PhD student, Chloé Savignac, will represent his laboratory on this mission.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● yes



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Sarath Chandar, Department of Computer Engineering and Software Engineering, Polytechnique Montréal



Chandar's research interests include lifelong learning, deep learning, optimization, reinforcement learning and natural language processing. To promote research in lifelong learning, Chandar created the Conference on Lifelong Learning Agents (CoLLAs) in 2022, for which he served as program chair in 2022 and 2023.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Sylvana Côté, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Université de Montréal



My work lies in the fields of developmental psychopathology and the epidemiology of mental health across the lifespan. My research program focuses on studying the intergenerational transmission of risk factors for mental health problems and the effectiveness of preventing these problems through perinatal and preschool services.

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- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● yes

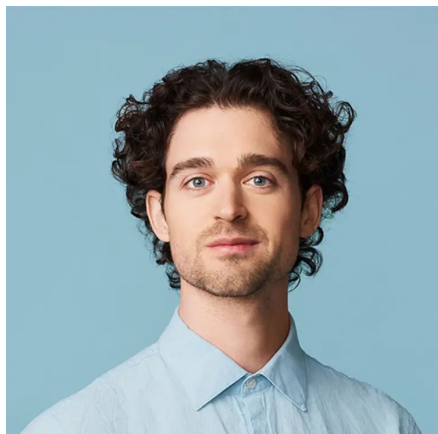
Aaron Courville, Department of Computer Science and Operations Research, Université de Montréal



Aaron is the Scientific Director of IVADO. He was an early contributor to deep learning: he is a founding member of Mila – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute. His current research focuses on the development of deep learning models and methods. He is particularly interested in reinforcement learning, multi-agent reinforcement learning, deep generative models and reasoning.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Gauthier Gidel, Department of Computer Science and Operations Research, Université de Montréal



His research focuses on generative modeling and multi-objective learning, such as alignment or adversarial robustness . He's well known for his work in variational inequality for learning including theoretical analyses of GANs and introducing the extragradient method to the deep learning community.

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- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Karim Jerbi, Department of Psychology, Université de Montréal



Jerbi's research lies at the crossroads of cognitive, computational and clinical neuroscience. The goal of his research is to probe the role of large-scale brain dynamics in higher-order cognition and to investigate brain network alterations in the case of psychiatric and neurological disorders.

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Foutse Khomh, Department of Computer Engineering and Software Engineering, Polytechnique Montréal



He is the Vice-President of Office of Research and Innovation at Polytechnique Montreal. Research interests of Professor Foutse Khomh include software maintenance and evolution, cloud engineering, service-centric software engineering, machine learning systems engineering, and dependable and trustworthy artificial intelligence.

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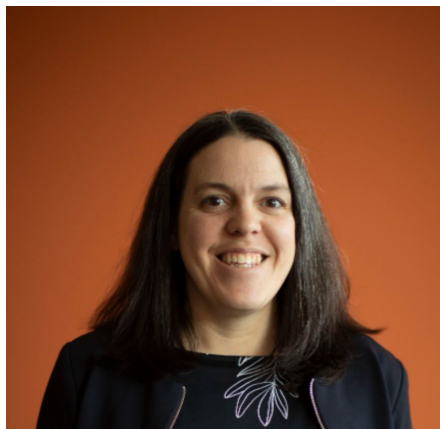
Pierre Larouche, Law Faculty, Université de Montréal



As an expert in competition law, economic governance, and civil liability within the traditions of civil and common law, Pierre Larouche is a full professor in law and innovation at the Faculty of Law at the Université de Montréal. In the Netherlands where he notably co-founded the Tilburg Law and Economics Center (TILEC), a world-leading research centre in economic governance.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
- ❖ Tuesday, March 24, ● yes
- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● yes

Flavie Lavoie-Cardinal, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Université Laval



Dr. Cardinal has established a research program that uses and develops machine learning and deep learning for microscopy. Her projects focus on improving the performance of microscopy techniques and developing techniques for quantitative analysis of the images obtained.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Sarah Lippé, Department of Psychology, Université de Montréal



“What happens at key moments in child development when pathologies sometimes occur that harm cerebral, cognitive, and emotional development?” Dr. Sarah Lippé is determined to find answers. As Director of the multidisciplinary Neuroscience of Early Development Lab (NED) she studies the cerebral mechanisms involved in learning processes in infants and children.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Ruxandra Monica Luca, Department of Marketing, HEC Montréal



Her research draws from psychology and neuroscience to examine the cognitive mechanisms underlying decision-making and consumer behavior. Using experimental designs and psychophysiological measures, she conducts research projects on online visual attention, dark patterns, AI-driven recommender systems, and chatbot interactions.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Aditya Mahajan, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, McGill University



His work focuses on systems and control, especially decision-making under uncertainty and reinforcement learning. His research spans decentralized control, stochastic systems, and learning-based methods for complex multi-agent environments.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Paul Masset, Department of Psychology, McGill University



Paul Masset is working at the intersection of neuroscience, AI and cognitive science. The focus of his research group is to understand how the structure of neural circuits endows the brain with efficient distributed computations underlying cognition and how we can leverage these principles to design more efficient learning algorithms.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Caroline Ménard, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Université Laval



The strength of our approach is a reverse translational strategy that consists in studying stress response in mice to unravel novel biological mechanisms underlying human diseases and stress resilience. Our research program combines behavioral experiments to functional, molecular and imaging studies and validate rodent findings in human samples to provide translational value to our basic research projects.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Eilif Muller, Department of Neurosciences, Université de Montréal



Eilif B. Muller is a neuroscientist and AI researcher who uses computational and mathematical approaches to study the biological and algorithmic mechanisms of learning in the mammalian neocortex.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Chris Pal, Department of Computer Engineering and Software Engineering, Polytechnique Montréal



Christopher Pal is the Interim Co-Scientific Director – Scientific and International Activities at IVADO. He has been involved in AI and machine learning research for over twenty-five years and has published extensively on large-scale language modelling methods and generative modelling techniques.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Courtney Paquette, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University



Her research focuses on designing and analyzing algorithms for large-scale optimization problems, motivated by applications in data science.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Eva Portelance, Department of Decision Sciences, HEC Montréal



My research intersects AI and Cognitive Science. I'm interested in studying how both humans and machines learn to understand language and reason about complex problems.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Doina Precup, School of Computer Science, McGill University



She combines teaching at McGill University with fundamental research on reinforcement learning, in particular AI applications in areas of significant social impact, such as health care. She is interested in machine decision-making in situations where uncertainty is high.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Siamak Ravanbakhsh, School of Computer Science, McGill University



He is broadly interested in the problems of representation learning and inference in AI. His current research focuses on the role of invariance and symmetry in deep representation learning.

- ❖ Monday, March 23, ● yes
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Siva Reddy, School of Computer Science and Department of Linguistics, McGill University



Reddy's research goal is to enable machines with natural language understanding abilities in order to facilitate applications like question answering and conversational systems. His expertise includes building symbolic (linguistic and induced) and deep learning models for language.

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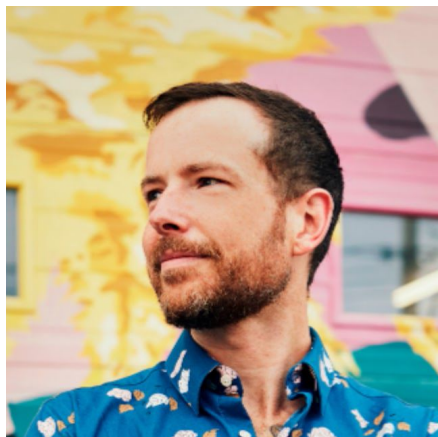
Catherine Régis, Law Faculty, Université de Montréal



Catherine is the Director of Social Innovation and International Policy at IVADO. Her work centers on the regulation and governance of artificial intelligence, with a strong emphasis on healthcare and the integration of human rights throughout the AI lifecycle. She also specializes in health law and policy, leading major projects on the normative role of the World Health Organization and on how digital innovation is reshaping the medical profession.

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- ❖ Wednesday, March 25, ● no

Blake Richards, School of Computer Science and Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill U.



Richards' research lies at the intersection of neuroscience and AI. His laboratory investigates universal principles of intelligence that apply to both natural and artificial agents.

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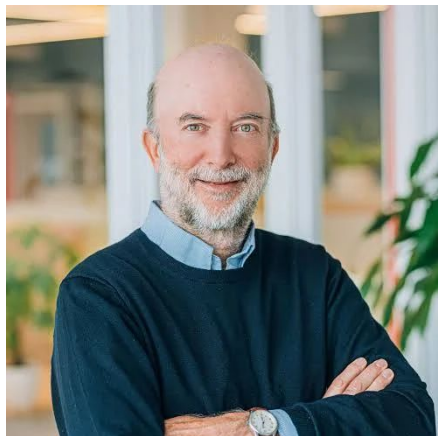
Irina Rish, Department of Computer Science and Operations Research, Université de Montréal



Her current research interests include continual lifelong learning, optimization algorithms for deep neural networks, sparse modeling and probabilistic inference, dialog generation, biologically plausible reinforcement learning, and dynamical systems approaches to brain imaging analysis.

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Luc Vinet, Department of Physics, Université de Montréal



Luc Vinet was appointed Chief Executive Officer of IVADO in August 2021, marking the culmination of a long and distinguished academic career. Aisenstadt Professor in the Department of Physics at the Université de Montréal, Luc Vinet is a world-renowned physicist and mathematician who also brings extensive experience in university administration. From 1999 to 2005, he served as Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) at McGill University before being appointed Rector of the Université de Montréal, a position he held from 2005 to 2010. Prof. Vinet also served as Director of the Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) at the Université de Montréal from 1993 to 1999 and again from 2013 to 2021. In addition to being one of the founders of MITACS, the most prominent of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence, he played a key role in the creation of many other research networks in Quebec and across Canada.

Coordination Team



Josée Savard

Research Coordinator
IVADO



Jacqueline Sanchez

Research Coordinator
IVADO



Laurent Vinet

Scientific Advisor
Quebec Government
Office in New York





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