Milan Stankovic, PhD

Parisian startup founder (2 created : 1 sold).
PhD in Artificial Intelligence from Sorbonne
University. 10+ years of experience in Tech
Leadership roles as VP of Product, VP of Engineering,
Director of R&D. Also photographer.

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Recommendations received

As a co-founder
by Thomas Houriez, Co-founder at Sépage

Milan is the kind of person who makes the impossible possible, always able to grasp the ins and outs of any situation to find a positive way out with a creative and bold solution. I have had the pleasure to work with Milan at Sépage, the AI startup which we founded, grew and sold in 4 years. This was only possible thanks to Milan's rare combination of scientific knowledge and entrepreneur skills, which enables him to make the leap between technologies and business opportunities. Working with Milan is not only a valuable experience, it is also a pleasure: Milan's wit and panache, as well as his taste for unorthodox ideas, turns any conversation into an opportunity to learn, laugh, and often both.

As a scientist
by Matthew Rowe, Computer Scientist at Oracle

Milan is a philosopher, in the true sense of the word, always able to see a problem, question existing solutions and address the problem from a lateral angle that others would never catch a glimpse of. I have worked with Milan in two capacities; paper collaboration and organisation. For the former I found him to be hard-working and intelligent, able to work to hard deadlines and come up with results that are demonstrable in his exemplary publication record. In terms of organisation I have worked with Milan on organising two workshops, in each case he has, again, worked hard and come up with innovative and novel solutions to encountered issues.

As a team leader
By Justin Boileau, Software Engineer at Blindnet

As a manager, Milan provides the perfect balance of guidance and autonomy, which allowed me to develop as an engineer while never being afraid to reach out for help. He creates a fun, fulfilling work environment that any driven individual should love to be apart of. Milan is respected by those who work for him, and he cares a lot for his employees.

As a mentor
by Jeanne Le Peillet, start-up founder at Sorbonne PEPITE

I met Milan as part of the Pépite startup support program at Sorbonne University, and he became my mentor to develop my startup Beink. An incredible opportunity for me because Milan has a very fine understanding of the people around him, their projects and motivations. He also manages to make the path to success very concrete! Being supported by Milan literally gives wings that I want everyone to feel.

As a teacher
by Claudia Roda, Department director at American University of Paris

Milan taught a course in "Semantic Web" for our Computer Science BS degree. He is very knowledgeable, reliable, and a great teacher/communicator. Our students have reported extremely positive comments about the course, its content, the ambiance in the class and their overall learning experience. I have no hesitation in recommending him as a very knowledgeable scholar in the Semantic Web field and a very pleasant colleague

Learning

Building companies and leading teams

Blindnet (USA, FR)
Co-founder / VP Product / VP Engineering
2020-2023, VC-funded, privacy technology startup. Hired and managed a full-remote team. Agile, OKRs and GitHub for project management. The strong team culture favored personal growth and acceptance (rather than fitting-in). Delivered several iterations of product and early traction. Featured in VentureBeat and MarketWatch. Closed down due to lack of further funding in 2023.

Sépage (FR)
CEO / Director of R&D
AI startup founded in 2013. Hired and managed a highly skilled team with a strong engineering culture, built award-winning[1] AI technology products, earned trust of the largest clients in the Travel Industry in France and abroad, got selected in FrenchWeb500 leaderboard of tech companies in France, and acquired in 2017.

Mentoring founders

As a part of PEPITE accelerator of the Sorbonne University in 2022 I served as a start-up mentor to Jeanne Le Peillet who won the national best project award from the French Minister of Higher Education and Research.

Governance

Member of the Academic Council – Research Commission of the Sorbonne University.[2]

Product R&D

Software Components for Privacy
2020-2023, Blindnet DevKit made it easy to automate privacy requests. It pioneered a privacy metadata language combined with a rule engine to resolve requests against applicable regulations. It saved 5k EUR and 55h of work per data fetch/delete request.

AI Travel Recommender System
From 2013 to 2020, Sépage used Knowledge Graphs to recommend travel products that people actually ended up buying. It did it with ~5x less data than traditional machine learning systems, making it revolutionary in the context of e-commerce. Awarded best technology award multiple times, by travel industry leaders in France and UK[1].

Expert Finding System
2009-2012, Hypios expert platform used Knowledge Graph technologies to find unexpected yet relevant experts using clues from the Web and Social Media. CAC40 clients were impressed.

Teaching

Java and Semantic Web courses.[3]

Featured in[13]

SR, EN, FR, ES

Science

Interests

I am interested in Artificial Intelligence, semantics, knowledge structures (such as the Web), and how those get intertwined with humans as they interact with each other and with information.

I am particularly interested in the (worryingly incomplete) quality of connectedness that information technologies enable and in everything that is still missing for them to get in sync with human cognition.

Contributions

I authored 60+ scientific publications in international journals and conferences focusing on AI, Knowledge Graphs and Social Web[14]. I acted as a reviewer in programme committees of 20+ international academic events (many of which A-level)[8].

Occasionally I also write for think tanks and general audience media, such as Le Figaro[11].

Research leadership

Year after year, I co-lead a multidisciplinary workshop at the WWW/TheWeb conference – the most important conference in my field.

I was also invited to give a keynote talk[9] and take part in Organising Committees of A-level conferences[7].

I acted as co-editor of books and of a 3.5 impact factor journal special issue.[10]

Mentoring students

I served as co-mentor for Vincent Lully (Chun Lu) – thesis prepared at Sorbonne 2014-2018. Several publications at international A-level conferences.

Building perspective

Education

Information Science: PhD (Sorbonne University), MsC (University Paris-Saclay), Bachelor (University of Belgrade), and International AI Summer Schools.[4]

I went to the Fifth Belgrade Gymnasium.

Research Visits

I was invited to pursue my research visiting Computer Science institutes across Europe.[5]

Grants

My studies and research were supported by grant programs in Austria, France and Serbia.[6]

Annex

1 **Technology Awards**

Amadeus & AirFrance T3 Forum, Paris 2016: Innovative Technology award for Globe Advent (Sépage)

EyeForTravel TDS 2015, London: Innovation in Travel Award for Globe Advent (Sépage)

Next Tourisme 2014, Paris: Technological Innovation Award – Award given by Heads of Digital Departments of AirFrance, Accor et Critéo, for Globe Advent (Sépage)

2 **Governance**

2022-2024 Academic Council – Research Commission of the Sorbonne University

3 **Teaching**

2011, Semantic Web (in English), American University of Paris – Course design, teaching and student examination

2006-2007, Introduction to programming - Java, University of Belgrade – Practical work and student examination

4 **Education**

2009-2012 PhD – AI: Semantic and Social Web
Sorbonne University, summa cum laude
Semantic Web and Artificial Intelligence technologies applied to the tasks of expert search and unexpected yet relevant (serendipity) keyword discovery on the Web. http://theses.fr/2012PA040247

2008-2009 Research Master – Information Science
University Paris-Sud Orsay
Structured data, Semantic Web, Human-Computer Interaction.

2003-2007 Bachelor – Information Systems
University of Belgrade (Serbia), Faculty of Organizational Sciencies
System Architecture, Software development, Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence. Project management.
Top 10 students award.

Additional education
Summer School of Semantic Web (SSSW 2009), Cercedilla, Spain
Summer School of Multimedia Semantics (SSMS 2007), Glasgow, UK

5 **Research Visits**

DERI Galway, Ireland – Spring 2009, by invitation of Dr. Alexandre Passant and Prof. John Breslin,

INRIA, France – Summer 2009, by invitation of Dr. Fabien Gandon,

University of Vienna, Austria – Summer 2008, By Invitation of Prof. Dimitris Karagiannis.

6 **Grants**

2009-2012 CIFRE Grant for PhD Research by French ANRT Agency

2010-2011 Serbian fund for Young Talent

2008 Scholarship of the French Government

2007 OEAD Scholarship of the Republic of Austria

2006-2007 Scholarship of the City of Belgrade

2004-2006 Scholarship of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Serbia

7 **Participation in Organizing Committees of International Conferences**

Extended Semantic Web Conference (A level). 2014. – Challenges Chair

Extended Semantic Web Conference (A level). 2015. - Challenges Co-chair

Making Sense of Microposts – Interdisciplinary Workshop (Co-chair and event co-founder) Workshop at the Extended Semantic Web Conference 2011 and WWW (the largest and the most important Web conference) from 2012 to 2015.

8 **Participation in Programme Committees of International Conferences**

World Wide Web / The Web Conference (2017, 2018, 2018, 2019, 2020)

International Semantic Web Conference – In Use Track (2011,2012,2013,2014)

Extended Semantic Web Conference (2011,2012,2013,2014)

Web Science Conference (2012)

ACM Hypertext and Social Media (2012)

The 7th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM) 2013

I-SEMANTICS (2009-2014)

IADIS Information Systems (2009,2010)

Workshop on User Profile Data on the Social Semantic Web (2011)

Workshop on Trust and Privacy on the Social and Semantic Web (2010)

Interplay between Conceptual Modelling and Human-Computer Interaction (2013)

9 **Keynote Speaker**

Extended Semantic Web Conference 2018 (A level international Conference) Heraklion, Crete, Greece

10 **Book and Journal Editor**

Semantic Web Evaluation Challenges, Revised Selected Papers. Springer (2015). Eds. F Gandon, E Cabrio, M Stankovic, A Zimmermann

Special Issue on Semantics of Microposts, Semantic Web Journal, IOS Press (2014). Eds. Matthew Rowe, Aba-Sah Dadzie and Milan Stankovic *Impact factor 3.5*

Semantic Web Evaluation Challenge: SemWebEval at ESWC 2014, Revised Selected Papers. Springer (2014). Eds. Valentina Presutti, Milan Stankovic, Erik Cambria, Iván Cantador, Angelo Di Iorio, Tommaso Di Noia, Christoph Lange, Diego Reforgiato Recupero, Anna Tordai

11 **Texts Published in General Audience Media**

OpEd in French Newspaper, Le Figaro (FR): Un Internet aux contenus régulés serait une idée faussement courageuse

Series of articles with the French Think Tank, Sapiens (in FR): L'intelligence artificielle comme vecteur d'inégalités

12 **Employment history**

Jan 2022 – Jan 2023: Blindnet, R&D Director, permanent/CDI

Feb 2020 – Jan 2023: Blindnet, Co-founder (informal role)

Mar 2013 – Jan 2020: Sépage, R&D Director, permanent/CDI

Jan 2013 – May 2017: Sépage, Co-founder and CEO

Sept 2011 – Dec 2011: American University of Paris, Lecturer

Dec 2010 – Dec 2012: Hypios, R&D Director, permanent/CDI

Oct 2009 – Nov 2010: Hypios, Researcher (PhD student), permanent/CDI

13 **Press Coverage**

« [Pré-seed] Vie privée: Blindnet lève 1,3 million de dollars pour démocratiser la sécurité des données », FrenchWeb, 15 avril 2022

« Travelsoft rachète Sépage pour optimiser le parcours client des professionnels du tourisme », French Web, 6 juin 2017

Milan Stankovic : « Dans 10 ans, les sites de Tourisme tels qu'on les connaît n'auront plus le même visage »

« Semantic search is coming of age - Sépage », Eye For Travel, Londres, 13 mai 2015

« Sépage invente le vendeur virtuel », Les Echos, 14 avril 2015

« Six start-up françaises qui pourraient changer le tourisme de demain », Le Figaro, 14 août 2015

« Sépage, un outil marketing pour personnaliser l'offre sur internet », TourMag, 14 novembre 2014

« La start-up de la semaine : Sépage, 7 ans de recherche pour des algorithmes de recommandation de voyages », French Web, 9 mai 2014

« Ces ingénieurs parisiens ne manquent pas de talent », Le Parisien, 11 octobre 2013

14 **Scientific Publications**

+ Google Scholar

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Image User Profiling with Knowledge Graph and Computer Vision. Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2018). Poster. 100-104.

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Exploring the synergy between knowledge graph and computer vision for personalisation systems. SEMANTiCS 2018 – 14th International Conference on Semantic Systems. (2018). 175-186

Lully, V., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Enhancing explanations in recommender systems with knowledge graphs. SEMANTiCS 2018 – 14th International Conference on Semantic Systems. (2018). 211-222

Lu, C., Laublet, P., Stankovic, and M., Radulovic, F., Graphe de connaissances et folksonomie: leur performance comparative dans le calcul de l'afinité. 28es Journées francophones d'Ingénierie des Connaissances IC (2017), 175-180

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., Radulovic, F., and Laublet, P. Crowdsourced Affinity: A Matter of Fact or Experience Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2017).

Lu, C., Laublet, P., and Stankovic, M. Travel attraction recommendation with knowledge graphs. European Knowledge Acquisition Workshop (2016), 416-413

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., and Laublet, P. Desperately searching for travel offers? formulate better queries with some help from linked data Proceedings of the Extended Semantic Web Conference (2015).

Lu, C., Stankovic, M., and Laublet, P. Leveraging Semantic Web technologies for more relevant E-tourism Behavioral Retargeting Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on World Wide Web (2015). Poster.

Lu, Chun, Philippe Laublet, and Milan Stankovic. Ricochet: Context and Complementarity-Aware, Ontology-based POIs Recommender System. SALAD Workshop, ESWC (2014).

Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the the 4th Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts co-located with the 23rd International World Wide Web Conference (WWW 2014)

Amparo E Cano, Giuseppe Rizzo, Andrea Varga, Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Making Sense of Microposts (# Microposts2014) Named Entity Extraction & Linking Challenge. Making Sense of Microposts (# Microposts2014) (2014).

Amparo Cano, Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the Concept Extraction Challenge at the Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts 2013 (# MSM2013). CEUR Workshop Proceedings.

Matthew Rowe, Milan Stankovic, Aba-Sah Dadzie, Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on Making Sense of Microposts (# MSM2012): Big things come in small packages

Stankovic, M. (2012) Convergence entre Web Social et Web Sémantique: Application à l'innovation à l'aide du Web. Thèse. Université Paris-Sorbonne.

Rowe, M., Stankovic, M.,and Alani, H. Who will follow whom? Exploiting Semantics for Link Prediction in Attention-Information Networks In Proceedings of International Semantic Web Conference ISWC 2012, Boston, USA, 11-15 November 2012 (22% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Rowe, M. and Laublet, P. Finding Co-solvers on Twitter , with a Little Help from Linked Data. In Proceedings of Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC 2012, May 27-31, Heraklion, Crete, Grece (25% acceptance rate)

Damljanovic, D., Stankovic, M. and Laublet, P. Linked Data-based Concept Recommendation : Comparison of Different Methods in Open Innovation Scenario. In Proceedings of Extended Semantic Web Conference ESWC 2012, May 27-31, Heraklion, Crete, Grece (25% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Breitfuss, W., and Laublet, P., Linked-Data Based Suggestion of Relevant Topics. In Proceedings of I-SEMANTICS concerence 2011. Gratz, Austria, 7-9 September 2011.

Rowe, M. and Stankovic, M. Aligning Tweets with Events: Automation via Semantics. Semantic Web Journal, Special Issue on Real-time and Ubiquitous Social Semantics. 2011. IOS Press

Stankovic, M., Breitfuss, W., and Laublet, Ph. Discovering Relevant Topics using DBPedia, In Proceedings of WI2011, Lyon, France, August 2011

Milikic, N., Jovanovic, J. and Stankovic, M. Discovering the Dynamics of Terms' Semantic Relatedness through Twitter. Making Sense of Microposts Workshop #MSM2011 at Extended Semantic Web Cofnerence ESWC May 30 May 2011, Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Anadiotis, G., Alexopoulos, Panos., Kafentzis, K., Konstantinou, E., Stankovic, M., and Waeckerle, M. Semantics-powered Virtual Communities and Open Innovation for a Structured Deliberation Process. Workshop on Semantics for Governance and Policy Modelling on the Extened Semantic Web Cofnerence ESWC 2011, 30 May 2011. Heraklion, Greece

Jesic, D., Kovacevic, J. and Stankovic, M. Web Technologies for Open Innovation. In Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Web Science, ACM WebSci 2011, 14th-16th June, Koblenz, Germany (15% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Jovanovic, J., and Laublet, P. Linked Data Metrics for Flexible Expert Search on the Open Web. In Proceedings of the 8th Extended Semantic Web Conference (ESWC2011), 29th May – 2nd June 2011, Heraklion, Crete, Greece (23% acceptance rate)

Stankovic, M., Rowe, M., and Laublet, P. Mapping Tweets to Conference Talks: A Goldmine for Semantics. In Proceedings of the Third Social Data on the Web Workshop SDoW2010, collocated with the International Semantic Web Conference ISWC2010, 8th November, 2010, Shanghai, China pdf

Anaya, J., Passant, A. and Stankovic, M. Enrichment of affiliation networks and information discovery in SKOS-based datasets. 6th Workshop on Semantic Web Applications and Perspectives (SWAP 2010), September 21-22, 2010, in Bressanone , Italy

Stankovic, M., Open Innovation and Semantic Web : Problem Solver Search on Linked Data. In Proceedings of International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC) 2010; 7th-11th Novebmer, 2010, Shanghai, China

Stankovic, M., Wagner, C., Jovanovic, J. and Laublet, P., Looking For Experts? What can Linked Data do for You? In Pre-proceedings of Linked Data on the Web 2010 (LDOW) workshop, within WWW2010 conference; 26th-30th April, 2010, Raleigh, NC, USA

Passant, A., Breslin, J., Bojars, U., Hastrup, T., Stankovic, M. and Laublet, P. SMOB — A Platform for Open, Semantic and Distributed Microblogging. A poster at Fourth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2010), 23rd-26th May 2010, Washington, DC, USA

Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P., Directing Status Messages to their Audiences in Online Communities. In Post-proceedings of Coordination, Organization, Institutions and Norms Workshop (COIN @ MELLOW). Accepted for publication by Springer LCNS.

Stankovic, M. Faceted Online Presence – A Semantic Web Approach, Master's Thesis.
Université Paris-Sud XI, Orsay, France.

Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P., Directing Status Messages to their Audiences in Online Communities. In Pre-proceedings of Coordination, Organization, Institutions and Norms Workshop (COIN @ MELLOW) 7th–11th September, 2009, Torino, Italy pdf

Stankovic, M., and Jovanovic, J. TagFusion – A System for Integration and Leveraging of Collaborative Tags, Annals of Information Systems, Special Issue on Semantic Web & Web 2.0. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Germany, December 2009.

Stankovic, M., Passant, A. and Laublet, P. Status Messages for the Right Audience with an Ontology-Based Approach. In proceedings of The First International Workshop On
Collaborative Social Networks. CollaborateSN 2009. In conjuction with CollaborateCom 2009 Crystal City, Washington D.C., USA, November 11-14, 2009

Jovanovic, J., Gasevic, D., Stankovic, M., Jeremic, Z. & Siadaty, M. Online Presence in Adaptive Learning on the Social Semantic Web. Workshop on Social Computing in Education 2009 (WSCE2009) in conjunction with SocialComp'09, August 29-31, 2009, Vancouver, Canada

Stankovic, M., and Jovanovic, J. Online Presence in Social Networks. In Proceedings of W3C Workshop on the Future of Social Networks, 15-16 January 2009, Barcelona,

Milan Stankovic: Modeling Online Presence. In: Proceedings of the First Social Data on the Web Workshop, Karlsruhe, Germany, October 27, 2008, CEUR Workshop Proceedings, ISSN 1613-0073,

Stankovic M., Modeling Online Presence in Bizer C. and Anupam J., Proceedings of the Poster and Demonstration Session at the 7th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC2008) Karlsruhe, Germany, October 28, 2008. (Honorable Mention at ISWC2008, among best 3 posters)

Stankovic, M., Krcadinac, U., Kovanovic, V. & Jovanovic, J. (2008). An Owerview of Intelligent Software Agents in: Khosrow-Pour, M. (Ed.). Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology, 2 nd Edition , Idea Group International Publishing

Krcadinac, U., Stankovic, M., Kovanovic, V. & Jovanovic, J. (2008). Intelligent Multi-Agent Systems in: Carteli, A. & Palma, M. (Eds.). Encyclopedia of Information Communication Technology , Idea Group International Publishing

Stankovic, M. & Krcadinac, U. (2007). New Light on Information Agents, Informer (24), British Computer Society – Information Retrieval Specialist Group, pdf