Eya Cherif

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I am a PhD candidate at Leipzig University. My PhD project is at the interface of remote sensing of vegetation and machine learning. I am particularly interested to explore Deep Learning techniques using hyperspectral data for vegetation properties estimation.

Education

June 2021 – Present	**Leipzig University, Germany** *PhD Candidate in Physics and Earth sciences*
October 2018 – January 2021	**University of Passau, Germany** *Master of Science in Computer Science* Double degree program with Erasmus+ scholarship
September 2016 – January 2021	**Higher School of Communication of Tunis (SUPCOM), Tunisia** *Engineering Degree in ICT* Double Degree Program in Telecommunication Systems (Systel)
September 2014 – June 2016	**University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia** *Undergraduate Diploma in Mathematics and Physics* **Ranked 143/2280** in the national entrance examination to engineering schools

Practical Experience

June 2021 – Present	**Scalable Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Center (ScaDS.AI) and Remote Sensing for Earth System Research (RSC4Earth), Leipzig, Germany** *Researcher*
February 2024 – June 2024	**Mila - Quebec AI Institute, Canada** *Research Intern*
May 2020 – December 2020	**Esri Deutschland GmbH, Germany** *Master Thesis –Intern*
November 2019 – May 2020	**Quicket GmbH, Germany** *Working Student*
June 2018 – August 2018	**Standard Sharing Software (3S), Tunisia** *Engineering Intern*

July 2017 – August 2017 **Tunisie Telecom, Tunisia**
Intern

Scientific Publications

- Mederer, D., Feilhauer, H., **Cherif, E.**, Berger, K., Hank, T. B., Kovach, K. R., ... & Kattenborn, T. (2025). Plant trait retrieval from hyperspectral data: Collective efforts in scientific data curation outperform simulated data derived from the PROSAIL model. *ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.*
- **Cherif, E.**, Feilhauer, H., Berger, K., Dao, P. D., Ewald, M., Hank, T. B., ... & Kattenborn, T. (2023). From Spectra to Plant Functional Traits: Transferable Multi-Trait Models from Heterogeneous and Sparse Data. *Remote Sensing of Environment.*
- **Cherif, E.**, Hell, M., & Brandmeier, M. (2022). DeepForest: Novel Deep Learning Models for Land Use and Land Cover Classification Using Multi-Temporal and Modal Sentinel Data of the Amazon Basin. *Remote Sensing.*

Scholarships & Awards

- **Finalist** – EARSeL Young Scientist Award Poster Presentation (2022, Germany)
- **STIBET Scholarship** – DAAD (2019, Germany)
- **Finalist (Top 8 teams)** – Atos IT Challenge: Machine Learning for Sustainability (2019, Germany)
- **Erasmus+ Scholarship** – (2018, Germany)

Technical Skills

- **Languages:** Python, MATLAB, C, C++
- **Machine Learning:** PyTorch, TensorFlow/Keras *(Coursera-certified)*
- **Containerization & Deployment:** Docker *(Nvidia NCG)*
- **Databases:** SQL, Neo4j, MongoDB
- **GIS Tools:** QGIS, ArcGIS Pro *(Esri-certified in Spatial Data Science)*
- **Satellite Data Processing:** Sentinel-2 (Multispectral), Hyperspectral Data
- **Azure Microsoft certificated:** Azure Fundamentals

Languages

- **German:** B1
- **English:** B2
- **French:** C1
- **Arabic:** C2 *(Native speaker)*

Conferences & talks

08/2025 – **Invited talk** at the Rolnick Lab at Mila (Remote)

06/2024 – **Invited talk** at the Plant Functional Ecology Lab of the Université de Montréal (Montreal, Canada)

06/2024 – Represented the TEECube project at the **CEOS Workshop on Biodiversity** (UN CBD, Montreal, Canada)

09/2023 – **Volunteer and conference talk** at GFÖ23 (Session 55: Mapping of Plant Traits) (Leipzig, Germany)

04/2023 – **Conference talk** at EGU23 (Session BG9.4: Large-scale mapping of continuous environmental variables by combining ground observations, remote sensing and machine learning) (Vienna, Austria)

08/2022 – **ELLIS Doctoral Symposium 2022** – **Poster presentation** (Alicante, Spain)

06/2022 – **EARSeL Workshop 2022** – **Pitch Talk** (Potsdam, Germany)

04/2022 – **Living Planet Symposium 2022** – **Poster presentation** (Bonn, Germany)

11/2019 – **Gastrohackathon 2019/2020** – Participant (Salzburg, Austria)

Personal Interests

- **Music Diploma**
- **Chorbeau – German-French Choir**