

Iulian Serban

GenAI Researcher • Technical Leader • Product Builder

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Professional Summary

GenAI researcher turned technical leader and product builder with experience building AI products from concept to market. Founder and CEO of Korbit, a Khosla Ventures-backed startup, and former Senior Director of R&D at LawZero. Led R&D, ML, engineering, and product teams; published 40+ research papers, co-authored two books, won 5 awards, and helped raise over \$15 million. PhD in AI from Mila / Université de Montréal with expertise in NLP, reinforcement learning, conversational systems, and applied GenAI.

Core Skills

Generative AI

Engineering Management

Product Building

Product Strategy

Applied Machine Learning

NLP

Reinforcement Learning

Team Leadership

Experience

Korbit AI [Acquired by Boost Security]

Founder, CEO

January 2019 – May 2026
Greater Montreal Metropolitan Area

- Founded and led a Khosla Ventures-backed GenAI startup on a mission to empower and level up software engineers.
- Managed 20+ full-time employees (FTs).
- Built two AI products that impacted over 24,000 students and engineers.
- Launched an AI Teacher platform, built pre-ChatGPT, delivering personalized learning to 20,000+ learners across 50+ countries.
- The learning platform used 20+ ML components, including Socratic tutoring, generative educational content, and reinforcement-learning-based adaptive learning paths.
- Published a dozen research papers on the technology and achieved 2.5× higher normalized learning scores than MOOCs using videos and static exercises.
- Pivoted the business to developer tools and launched the Korbit Code Reviewer beta in early 2024.
- Korbit Code Reviewer reviewed 100,000+ pull requests, helped 180+ paying customers fix 30,000 issues before production, and reached approximately \$500,000 ARR with 110% NRR.

LawZero

Senior Director of R&D

November 2025 – July 2026
Montreal, QC

- Worked alongside Yoshua Bengio and Joumana Ghosh to co-lead research, engineering, and product efforts.
- Managed 10+ full-time employees and contractors across applied research and product.
- Built the organization's product strategy and roadmap from almost scratch and executed against it.
- Redesigned the hiring pipeline, technical assessments, and organizational structure to strengthen the feedback loop between product and research.
- Published 3 scientific papers and multiple blog posts; engaged collaborators, funders, journalists, and policy stakeholders.
- Focused on bridging foundational research into real-world product delivery and practical use cases.

Dawson College

DawsonAI Advisory Board Member

June 2019 – February 2026
Montreal, Canada Area

- Served on the DawsonAI advisory board supporting the college's 3-year plan to become a Centre of Excellence in AI education.
- Contributed to initiatives spanning curriculum, extra-curricular activities, professional development, and cross-disciplinary AI education.

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Experience (continued)

Blue Analysis

Founder & Owner

January 2007 – December 2018

Koege, Denmark

- Founded a software company at age 16 focused on mathematical software for classification and time-series prediction.
- Developed the core component 'Acid Library', distributed it online, and continued supporting the product and its customers over time.

IBM

Research Internship (Machine Learning)

January 2016 – April 2016

IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, New York

- Applied deep learning and reinforcement learning to large-scale natural language processing problems.

DigiCorpus Aps

Software Engineer

August 2012 – September 2013

Copenhagen Area, Denmark

- Conducted research and development of software systems for virtual physiotherapeutic rehabilitation.
- Built an intelligent feedback system using Kinect motion tracking to guide users through exercises with correct posture.
- Designed software interfaces for natural hands-free interaction.

Financys Aps

Software Developer

March 2012 – October 2012

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Designed and developed software for financial applications, focusing on portfolio optimization using mixed-integer linear programming.

Project Osiris

Project Manager & Researcher

April 2010 – August 2011

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Developed statistical models analyzing social and economic development in Denmark in partnership with Think Tank Cevea.
- Contributed to public communication and to a working paper published through the Luxembourg Income Study.

Operation Dagsværk

Board Member & Financial Executive (Unpaid)

January 2008 – January 2009

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Served on the board of a high-school NGO supporting education in developing countries; acted as financial executive and international correspondent.

Operation Dagsværk

Volunteer (Full-time, Unpaid)

June 2008 – December 2008

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Helped design and execute a national campaign to raise funds for a school development project in Niger.
 - Organized seminars on poverty aid and African culture and politics, wrote articles, and provided IT support.
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Education

Université de Montréal — Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Machine Learning

2014 – 2019

University College London, U. of London — Master of Science, Machine Learning

2013 – 2014

University of Copenhagen — Bachelor, Mathematics and Statistics

2009 – 2012

High School of Natural Sciences, Køge — Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Development of Technology

2005 – 2008

Additional Information

Top Skills: Generative AI • Engineering Management • Product Building

Languages: English (Native or Bilingual) • Danish (Native or Bilingual) • French (Limited Working)

Patent: Systems and methods for reviewing code

Selected Highlights: 40+ research papers • Co-authored 2 books • 5 awards