Hongli Zhan

Ph.D. Student at UT Austin

Department of Linguistics
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Education

2021 – **Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics (Minor in Computer Science)**.
Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- *Advisor:* Prof. Junyi Jessy Li

2017 – 2021 **B.A. in English Linguistics (Second Major in Law)**.
School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China

Industry Experience

Summer 2024 **Research Scientist Intern**, *IBM Research*.
IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY
- Hosted by the Responsible and Inclusive Technologies Research Group
- *Manager*: Dr. Raya Horesh; Mentors: Dr. Muneeza Azmat & Dr. Mikhail Yurochkin
- Received return internship offer for Summer 2025

Refereed Publications

* denotes equal contributions

COLM 2024 **Hongli Zhan**, Allen Zheng, Yoon Kyung Lee, Jina Suh, Junyi Jessy Li, and Desmond C. Ong. Large language models are capable of offering cognitive reappraisal, if guided. In *Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Language Modeling (to appear)*, 2024. [28.8% acceptance rate (299 out of 1,036 submissions)].

ACII 2024 Yoon Kyung Lee, Jina Suh, **Hongli Zhan**, Junyi Jessy Li, and Desmond C. Ong. Large language models produce responses perceived to be empathic. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (to appear)*, 2024. [The acceptance rate was lower than 40%].

EMNLP 2023 (Findings) **Hongli Zhan**, Desmond C. Ong, and Junyi Jessy Li. Evaluating subjective cognitive appraisals of emotions from large language models. In Houda Bouamor, Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali, editors, *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023*, pages 14418–14446, Singapore, December 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics. [45.4% acceptance rate (1,758 out of 3,868 submissions)].

ACL 2023 Tiberiu Sosea*, **Hongli Zhan***, Junyi Jessy Li, and Cornelia Caragea. Unsupervised extractive summarization of emotion triggers. In Anna Rogers, Jordan Boyd-Graber, and Naoaki Okazaki, editors, *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 9550–9569, Toronto, Canada, July 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics. [23.5% acceptance rate (910 out of 3,872 submissions)].

EMNLP 2022 **Hongli Zhan***, Tiberiu Sosea*, Cornelia Caragea, and Junyi Jessy Li. Why do you feel this way? summarizing triggers of emotions in social media posts. In Yoav Goldberg, Zornitsa Kozareva, and Yue Zhang, editors, *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 9436–9453, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 2022. Association for Computational Linguistics. [22.1% acceptance rate (715 out of 3,242 submissions)].

Professional Service

Reviewer, *EMNLP 2023*, *ICRA 2024*.

Student Volunteer, *ACL 2023*.

2023 – 2024 **Organizer**, *Natural Language Learning Reading Group*, UT Austin.

Teaching Experience

The University of Texas at Austin

LIN 371 **Machine Learning for Text Analysis**, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Spring 2024.
Instructor: Prof. Junyi Jessy Li

LIN 306 **Intro to the Study of Language**, *Guest Lecturer*, Spring 2023.
Instructor: Seyeon Park

LIN 373N **Machine Learning Toolbox for Text Analysis**, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2022.
Instructor: Prof. Junyi Jessy Li

LIN 350 **Computational Semantics**, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2021.
Instructor: Prof. Katrin Erk

Mentoring

2023 – 2024 **Allen Zheng**, *B.S. in Computer Science (Turing Honors) & Mathematics*, UT Austin.

Fellowships & Awards

Fall 2023 **Professional Development Award for Attending EMNLP 2023**, *UT Austin*, 1,160 USD.

Fall 2022 **Professional Development Award for Attending EMNLP 2022**, *UT Austin*, 1,200 USD.

Spring 2022 **COLA Supplemental Graduate School Fellowship**, *UT Austin*, 5,000 USD.

2021 **Outstanding Graduate**, *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*.

2021 **Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award**, *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*.

Conference Presentations

ACL 2023 **Unsupervised Extractive Summarization of Emotion Triggers**, *Toronto, Canada*, presented in-person on July 11th, 2023.

EMNLP 2022 **Why Do You Feel This Way? Summarizing Triggers of Emotions in Social Media Posts**, *Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates*, presented in-person on Dec 9th, 2022.

Invited Talks

Oct 11, 2023 **Can I Cheer You Up? Psychologically-Grounded Emotional Support: Leveraging LLMs for Targeted Re-Appraisals**, *Computational Affective and Social Cognition Lab (CASCogLab)*, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Feb 22, 2023 **An Introduction to Computational Linguistics**, *Westlake High School*, Austin, TX.