

CHUAN MENG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I have been actively researching two core areas in AI: Information Retrieval (IR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP). My work focuses on leveraging machine learning, large language models (LLMs) to drive advancements in three key directions:

- **Conversational agents:** proactive conversational search, knowledge-grounded dialogue systems
- **Model- and data-efficient neural ranking:** LLM-based re-ranking, generative retrieval, synthetic data generation
- **Automatic evaluation:** LLM-based relevance judgment prediction, query performance prediction

EDUCATION

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

October 2021 - June 2025

Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence

Supervisors: Prof. dr. [Maarten de Rijke](#) and dr. [Mohammad Aliannejadi](#)

PhD thesis: Optimizing Agentic Workflows for Information Access [\[pdf\]](#)

Shandong University, China

September 2018 - June 2021

Master in Computer Science and Technology

Supervisors: Prof. dr. [Zhumin Chen](#), dr. [Pengjie Ren](#), and dr. [Zhaochun Ren](#)

Master's thesis: Research on Knowledge-Grounded Non-Task-Oriented Conversational System [\[pdf\]](#)

Shandong Normal University, China

September 2014 - June 2018

Bachelor in Electronic Commerce

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon, United Kingdom

August 2024 - January 2025

Applied Scientist Intern, focusing on LLM-powered proactive conversational agents

Manager: Dr. [Gabriella Kazai](#). Mentor: Dr. [Francesco Tonolini](#).

PUBLICATIONS

As of July 2025, I have 432 citations (Google Scholar) with an H-index of 13.

I have authored papers published in proceedings/journals, such as ACL, SIGIR, EMNLP, CIKM, NAACL, AAAI, ECIR, and TOIS.

1. UniConv: Unifying Retrieval and Response Generation for Large Language Model in Conversation

Fengran Mo, Yifan Gao, **Chuan Meng**, Xin Liu, Zhuofeng Wu, Kelong Mao, Zhengyang Wang, Pei Chen, Zheng Li, Xian Li, Bing Yin, Meng Jiang

ACL 2025: The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics to appear

2. Bridging the Gap: From Ad-hoc to Proactive Search in Conversations

Chuan Meng, Francesco Tonolini, Fengran Mo, Nikolaos Aletras, Emine Yilmaz, and Gabriella Kazai

SIGIR 2025: The 48th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval

[pdf](#), [code](#)

3. **Query Performance Prediction using Relevance Judgments Generated by Large Language Models**
Chuan Meng, Negar Arabzadeh, Arian Askari, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Maarten de Rijke
TOIS: ACM Transactions on Information Systems
[pdf](#), [code](#)
4. **SOLID: Self-seeding and Multi-intent Self-instructing LLMs for Generating Intent-aware Information-Seeking Dialogs**
Arian Askari, Roxana Petcu, **Chuan Meng**, Mohammad Aliannejadi, Amin Abolghasemi, Evangelos Kanoulas, and Suzan Verberne.
NAACL 2025: The 2025 Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics
[pdf](#), [code](#)
5. **Zero-Shot and Efficient Clarification Need Prediction in Conversational Search**
Lili Lu, **Chuan Meng**, Federico Ravenda, Mohammad Aliannejadi and Fabio Crestani
ECIR 2025: The 47th European Conference on Information Retrieval
[pdf](#), [code](#)
6. **Improving the Re-Usability of Conversational Search Test Collections**
Zahra Abbasiantaeb, **Chuan Meng**, Leif Azzopardi and Mohammad Aliannejadi
ECIR 2025: The 47th European Conference on Information Retrieval
[pdf](#), [code](#)
7. **Generative Retrieval with Few-shot Indexing**
Arian Askari*, **Chuan Meng*** (co-first author), Mohammad Aliannejadi, Zhaochun Ren, Evangelos Kanoulas, and Suzan Verberne
Submitted to ARR: ACL Rolling Review
[pdf](#)
8. **Can We Use Large Language Models to Fill Relevance Judgment Holes?**
Zahra Abbasiantaeb, **Chuan Meng**, Leif Azzopardi, Mohammad Aliannejadi
LLM4Eval: The First Workshop on Large Language Models (LLMs) for Evaluation in Information Retrieval
[pdf](#), [code](#)
9. **Ranked List Truncation for Large Language Model-based Re-Ranking**
Chuan Meng, Negar Arabzadeh, Arian Askari, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Maarten de Rijke.
SIGIR 2024: The 47th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval
[pdf](#), [code](#)
10. **Query Performance Prediction for Conversational Search and Beyond**
Chuan Meng
SIGIR 2024: The 47th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval
[pdf](#)
11. **LLM-based Retrieval and Generation Pipelines for TREC Interactive Knowledge Assistance Track (iKAT) 2023.**
Zahra Abbasiantaeb, **Chuan Meng**, David Rau, Antonis Krasakis, Hossein A. Rahmani, and Mohammad Aliannejadi.
TREC 2023: The Thirty-Second Text REtrieval Conference (**Our submitted runs ranked 1st**)
[pdf](#)
12. **Expand, Highlight, Generate: RL-driven Document Generation for Passage Reranking**
Arian Askari, Mohammad Aliannejadi, **Chuan Meng**, Evangelos Kanoulas, and Suzan Verberne
EMNLP 2023 (main conference): The 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
[pdf](#), [code](#)
13. **System Initiative Prediction for Multi-turn Conversational Information Seeking**

Chuan Meng, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Maarten de Rijke

CIKM 2023: The 32nd ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management
[pdf](#), [code](#)

14. **Query Performance Prediction: From Ad-hoc to Conversational Search**

Chuan Meng, Negar Arabzadeh, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Maarten de Rijke

SIGIR 2023: The 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval

[pdf](#), [code](#)

15. **Performance Prediction for Conversational Search Using Perplexities of Query Rewrites**

Chuan Meng, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Maarten de Rijke

QPP++ 2023: Query Performance Prediction and Its Evaluation in New Tasks Workshop co-located with The 45th European Conference on Information Retrieval

[pdf](#), [code](#)

16. **Initiative-Aware Self-Supervised Learning for Knowledge-Grounded Conversations**

Chuan Meng, Pengjie Ren, Zhumin Chen, Zhaochun Ren, Tengxiao Xi, and Maarten de Rijke

SIGIR 2021: The 44th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval

[pdf](#)

17. **Conversations Powered by Cross-Lingual Knowledge**

Weiwei Sun^{*}, **Chuan Meng**^{*} (co-first author), Qi Meng, Zhaochun Ren, Pengjie Ren, Zhumin Chen, and Maarten de Rijke

SIGIR 2021: The 44th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval

[pdf](#), [code](#)

18. **DukeNet: A Dual Knowledge Interaction Network for Knowledge-Grounded Conversation**

Chuan Meng, Pengjie Ren, Zhumin Chen, Weiwei Sun, Zhaochun Ren, Zhaopeng Tu, and Maarten de Rijke

SIGIR 2020: The 43rd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval

[pdf](#), [code](#)

19. **RefNet: A Reference-aware Network for Background Based Conversation**

Chuan Meng, Pengjie Ren, Zhumin Chen, Christof Monz, Jun Ma, and Maarten de Rijke

AAAI 2020: The Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

[pdf](#), [code](#)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Workshop organization:
 - **QPP++2025: Query Performance Prediction and its Applications in the Era of Large Language Models**
Chuan Meng, Guglielmo Faggioli, Mohammad Aliannejadi, Nicola Ferro, and Josiane Mothe
ECIR 2025: The 47th European Conference on Information Retrieval
6th–10th April 2025, Lucca, Italy
[pdf](#), [website](#)
- Program committee member: ACL 2023, EMNLP 2023–2021, SIGIR 2025–2024, COLING 2025, 2022 & 2020, CIKM 2025–2022, The Web Conf 2025–2024, WSDM 2025–2022, ECIR 2025–2024, ICTIR 2025 & 2023, SIGKDD 2022, ECML/PKDD 2022–2021, AAAI 2021
- ACL Rolling Review (ARR) reviewer 2025
- Journal reviewer: Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS), Information Processing and Management (IP&M)

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

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- Tutorial organization:
 - **Conversational Search: From Fundamentals to Frontiers in the LLM Era**
Fengran Mo, **Chuan Meng**, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Jian-Yun Nie
SIGIR 2025: The 48th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval
13th–17th July 2025, Padua, Italy
to appear
 - **Query Performance Prediction: Theory, Techniques and Applications**
Negar Arabzadeh, **Chuan Meng**, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Ebrahim Bagheri
WSDM 2025: The 18th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining
10th–14th March 2025, Hanover, Germany
[pdf](#), [slides](#)
 - **Query Performance Prediction: Techniques and Applications in Modern Information Retrieval**
Negar Arabzadeh, **Chuan Meng**, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Ebrahim Bagheri
SIGIR-AP 2024: The 2nd ACM SIGIR-AP conference
9th–12th December 2024, Tokyo, Japan
[pdf](#), [slides](#)
 - **Query Performance Prediction: From Fundamentals to Advanced Techniques**
Negar Arabzadeh, **Chuan Meng**, Mohammad Aliannejadi, and Ebrahim Bagheri
ECIR 2024: The 46th European Conference on Information Retrieval
24th–28th March 2024, Glasgow, UK
[pdf](#), [slides](#)
 - Lecturer
 - **Course**: Recommender Systems (about **50** students)
 - **Lecture**: Sequential and Large Language Model-based Recommender Systems
Institution: University of Amsterdam
Year: 2025
My responsibilities: Course design, and lecture delivery
[slides](#)
 - Teaching assistant
 - **Course**: Information Retrieval (about **60** students)
Institution: University of Amsterdam
Year: 2023
My responsibilities: project design and grading
 - **Course**: Information Retrieval (about **60** students)
Institution: University of Amsterdam
Year: 2022
My responsibilities: project design and grading
 - **Course**: Information Retrieval (about **60** students)
Institution: Shandong University
Year: 2020
My responsibilities: assignment design, project design and grading
 - **Course**: Natural Language Processing (about **70** students)
Institution: Shandong University
Year: 2019
My responsibilities: assignment design, project design and grading
 - PhD mentorship (Research-oriented): [Lili Lu](#), Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), with Prof. dr. [Fabio Crestani](#)

- **Opportunities and Challenges of LLMs in Information Retrieval**
21 October 2024, University of Glasgow
Host: Iadh Ounis, professor at the University of Glasgow
[slides](#), [post](#)
- **Predicting the Right Moment for System Initiative in Mixed-Initiative Conversational Search**
26 August 2024, Amazon (London)
Host: Gabriella Kazai, principal applied scientist at Amazon
[slides](#)
- **Opportunities and Challenges of LLMs in Information Retrieval**
14 August 2024, Objective, Inc.
Host: Pablo Mendes, co-founder & CEO at Objective, Inc.
[slides](#)
- **Opportunities and Challenges of LLMs in Information Retrieval**
17 April 2024, Amazon (Seattle)
Host: Shervin Malmasi, applied science manager at Amazon
[slides](#)
- **System Initiative Prediction and Query Performance Prediction for Conversational Information Seeking**
3 Nov 2023, University College London (UCL)
Host: Xi Wang, lecturer at the University of Sheffield
[slides](#), [post](#)
- **Query Performance Prediction for Conversational Search**
18 May 2023, University of Glasgow
Host: Iadh Ounis, professor at the University of Glasgow
[slides](#), [post](#)

ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

- Manager for the [IRLab LinkedIn](#) account, 2025–present
- Webmaster for the [IRLab website](#), 2023-2024
- Chair for internal seminars at IRLab, 2023
- Lead organizer of the IRLab BBQ event, 2023

RESEARCH FUNDING PROPOSALS

During my master's at Shandong University, I was involved in drafting the methodology sections for three research funding proposals.

- **Development of an AI-assisted Writing Robot System Based on News Reporting Scenarios**
National Key Research and Development Program project (Project No.: 2020YFB1406700)
- **Research on Explainable Medical Health Question-Answering Technology Based on Multi-Source Heterogeneous Data Fusion**
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) project (Project No.: 61972234)
- **Research on Conversational Recommendation Systems and Functional Enhancements Based Primarily on Implicit Feedback Data**
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) project (Project No.: 62072279)

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Excellent Master's Thesis of Shandong Province, 2022
- National Scholarship (China), 2020/2016
- Outstanding Graduates of Shandong Province, 2021/2017

- SIGIR Student Travel Grant, 2020
- Scholarship for Outstanding Postgraduate Cadres of Shandong University, 2020/2019
- AAAI Student Scholar Scholarship, 2019
- Academic Scholarship for Master Students of Shandong University, 2019
- Outstanding Students of Shandong Province, 2017

RESOURCES

I have curated the following resources:

- a [code repository](#) (**over 1,800 visitors**) providing scripts for fine-tuning open-source LLMs to generate relevance judgments, within a Python/PyTorch framework.
- a [code repository](#) (**over 2,800 visitors**) providing a comprehensive implementation of query performance prediction (QPP) methods, within a unified Python/PyTorch framework.
- a [code repository](#) (**over 1,100 visitors**) offering a comprehensive implementation of ranked list truncation methods, within a unified Python/PyTorch framework.
- a [paper reading list](#) (**over 260 stars**) on knowledge-grounded dialogue systems.

Also, I have contributed to key open-source toolkits in information retrieval, including:

- [Pyserini \(v0.19.2\)](#), a Python toolkit for reproducible information retrieval research.
- [Tevatron](#), a flexible and efficient Python toolkit for training and inference of neural retrieval models.

REFERENCES

Prof. dr. [Maarten de Rijke](#)

Distinguished University Professor at the University of Amsterdam

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Dr. [Mohammad Aliannejadi](#)

Assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam

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Dr. [Zhaochun Ren](#)

Associate professor at Leiden University

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Prof. dr. [Fabio Crestani](#)

Full Professor at Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI)

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