

# Ashish Sharma

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🌐 <https://ash-shar.github.io>  
🎓 Google Scholar

## Education

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**University of Washington**, Seattle, WA, USA

September 2019 – Present

*PhD student in Computer Science*

**Indian Institute of Technology**, Kharagpur, India

July 2013 – June 2018

*Dual Degree in Computer Science (Bachelor and Master of Technology)*

🏆 **Student-Par Excellence Award**

## Research Experience

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**University of Washington**, Seattle, WA, USA

September 2019 – Present

*Research Assistant*

Advisor: [Prof. Tim Althoff](#)

**Microsoft Research**, Bengaluru, India

July 2018 – Aug 2019

*Research Fellow*

Advisor: [Dr. Monojit Choudhury](#)

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Urbana, IL, USA

May 2017 – July 2017

*Research Intern*

Advisor: [Prof. Hari Sundaram](#)

**Adobe Systems**, Bengaluru, India

May 2016 – July 2016

*Research Intern*

Advisor: [Dr. Sunav Choudhary](#)

**Indian Institute of Technology**, Kharagpur, India

Jan 2016 – June 2018

*Research Assistant*

Advisor: [Prof. Niloy Ganguly](#)

## Selected Publications

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*Towards Facilitating Empathic Conversations in Online Mental Health Support: A Reinforcement Learning Approach*

🏆 **Best Paper Award**

**Ashish Sharma**, Inna Lin, Adam S. Miner, David C. Atkins, and Tim Althoff

The Web Conference 2021 [WWW'21] [pdf] [talk] [video] [project page]

*A Computational Approach to Understanding Empathy Expressed in Text-Based Mental Health Support*

**Ashish Sharma**, Adam S. Miner, David C. Atkins, and Tim Althoff

The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing [EMNLP'20] [pdf] [talk] [project page]

*Engagement Patterns of Peer-to-Peer Interactions on Mental Health Platforms*

**Ashish Sharma**, Monojit Choudhury, Tim Althoff, and Amit Sharma

14th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media [ICWSM'20] [pdf] [talk]

*Going Beyond Content Richness: Verified Information Aware Summarization of Crisis-Related Microblogs*

**Ashish Sharma**, Koustav Rudra, and Niloy Ganguly

28th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management [CIKM'19] [pdf]

*Insights from the Long-Tail: Learning Latent Representations of Online User Behavior in Presence of Skew & Sparsity*

Adit Krishnan, **Ashish Sharma**, and Hari Sundaram

27th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management [CIKM'18a] [pdf] [code]

*An Adversarial Approach to Improve Long-Tail Performance in Neural Collaborative Filtering* [Short Paper]

Adit Krishnan, **Ashish Sharma**, Aravind Sankar, and Hari Sundaram

27th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management [CIKM'18b] [pdf] [code]

## 🏆 Best Academic Demo Award

Ashish Sharma, J. Arora, P. Khan, S. Satapathy, S. Agarwal, S. Sengupta, S. Mridha, and N. Ganguly

Demo & Exhibits Session, 9th Intl. Conf. on Communication Systems & Networks [COMSNETS'17] [[link](#)] [[video](#)]

## Achievements & Awards

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- **Best Paper Award** at TheWebConf/WWW 2021 (*given to a single paper out of 1700+ submissions*)
- **Student Par-Excellence Award** by Computer Science Department, IIT Kharagpur
- **Goralal Syngal Memorial Scholarship** for academic excellence during 2015-2016
- **Best Academic Demo Award** at COMSNETS 2017
- **S.N. Bose Scholarship** for a summer internship at UIUC in 2017 (*one of the 50 scholars from India*)

## Invited Talks

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Issaquah High School Artificial Intelligence Club	Oct 25, 2021
<i>Human-AI Collaboration to Encourage Empathic Conversations in Mental Health Support</i>	
Research Running on Cloud Compute & Emerging Technologies, 2021	Aug 10, 2021
<i>Leveraging Cloud Compute for Improving Empathy in Mental Health Support</i>	
Crime Lab, University of Chicago	Feb 26, 2021
<i>Towards Facilitating Empathic Conversations in Online Mental Health Support</i>	
University of Connecticut	Mar 2, 2020
<i>NLP for Mental Health</i>	

## Teaching Experience

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- Head TA, CSE547: Machine Learning for Big Data, University of Washington *Spring 2021*
- Head TA, CSE547: Machine Learning for Big Data, University of Washington *Spring 2020*
- TA, CS29003: Algorithms Laboratory, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur *Spring 2018*
- TA, CS31003: Compilers, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur *Fall 2017*

## Technical Skills

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<b>Programming Languages</b>	C, C++, Python
<b>Machine Learning Tools</b>	NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Gensim, Matlab, Tensorflow, PyTorch
<b>Databases</b>	MySQL, PostgreSQL, Hadoop, Spark, Snowflake
<b>Web Stack</b>	HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript, jQuery, Django

## Relevant Coursework

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<b>AI</b>	Speech & Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Interactive Learning
<b>Data Mining</b>	Information Retrieval, Scalable Data Mining, Social Computing, Economic & Financial Network Analysis
<b>Systems</b>	Distributed Systems, Database Management Systems, Cloud Computing
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Big & Small Data for Health, Smartphone Computing & Applications, Image Processing, Probability & Statistics, Operations Research