

Ashish Sharma

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University of Washington

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🎓 Google Scholar

Education

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

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

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] [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] [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]

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

- **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*).

Technical Skills

Programming Languages C, C++, Python

Machine Learning Tools NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Gensim, Matlab, Tensorflow, PyTorch

Databases MySQL, PostgreSQL, Hadoop, Spark, Snowflake

Web Stack HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript, jQuery, Django

Teaching Experience

- 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*

Invited Talks

Towards Facilitating Empathic Conversations in Online Mental Health Support *Feb 26, 2021*
Crime Lab, University of Chicago

NLP for Mental Health *Mar 2, 2020*
Tools to Analyze Language, University of Connecticut

Relevant Coursework

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