Kendra Chalkley

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Computational linguist and data scientist interested in machine learning and improving our understanding of natural language

MS Computer Science

Oregon Health and Science University   2017-19

Independent Research: Language based exploration of subreddit clustering, especially concerning absolutism in mental health forums

- Processed years of text posts to reddit.com using PySpark SQL and ML modules
- Extracted dictionary based sentiment features and performed LDA topic analysis
- Clustered, classified, and visualized subreddit feature data using sci-kit learn and PyTorch
- Ongoing project developed independently over last 15 months of degree

Coursework

- NLP as a course and independent study in machine learning and syntax
- Statistics, data visualization, and data science programming in R (ggplot2, tidyverse packages, blogdown) and Python (numpy, pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, rpy2)
- Advanced courses in machine learning and deep networks
- Traditional CS courses in algorithms, complexity, automata, etc.

BA Linguistics

Reed College   2010-15

I acquired communication and collaboration skills and experience in Reed's conference style classes which can be much harder to develop at other schools. My linguistics classes focused on data analysis and development of a cross-linguistic theory. My senior thesis provided a theoretical explanation of complex grammatical system in a language that had not yet been studied by academics in my subfield.

Senior Thesis: *Applied Asymmetries: Syntax of Applicative Constructions in Tukang Besi*

- Qualitative analysis of complex grammatical structures
- Theoretical linguistics research in minimalist syntax, distributed morphology, and the limited material available on Tukang Besi
- Conclusions combined minimalist 'verb shells' with distributed morphology to explain syntactic behavior of applicative suffixes
- Year long, independent, research project supported by weekly 1:1 meetings and writing feedback

Project and Admin Experience

Project Admin Assistant   Spring 2017
Sunrise Systems at Nike

Project Coordinator   2015-16
Alta Planning + Design

Administrative Assistant   2012-13
Portland General Electric

- Task management in both waterfall and agile frameworks
- Project budgeting, scheduling, invoicing
- Primary point of contact for a dozen subcontractors on a multi-million dollar project
- Process analysis, resource management and reporting
- Expert in most Microsoft Office products and several project management tools
- Also responsible for meeting logistics, minute keeping, and deliverable QA.