Sara Blalock Ng

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RESEARCH

I am a Ph.D. student in Computational Linguistics at the University of Washington. I do Natural Language Processing on corpus speech data. My areas of interest include **use of linguistic structures** in conjunction with **deep learning** methods, **language modeling**, **semantic labeling**, and NLP in general for low-resource languages, especially languages without orthographic forms. My research goal is to create innovative algorithmic advances and to **align existing frameworks with the needs of underrepresented language communities**. I believe that speech is a exciting frontier space for the implementation of the state-of-the-art in deep learning for text data.

EDUCATION

current	University of Washington, Seattle, WA **2nd-year Ph.D. student** in Computational Linguistics
2017	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT **Bachelor of Science, Applied Mathematics** **Honors Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics** - Thesis: *Musical Text-Setting as Evidence for Syllabification of Highly Moraic Structures in English* - Advisor: Dr. Abby Kaplan
2016	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages) Certificate

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017-2018	**Research Assistant** under Dr. Sharon Hargus on Sahaptin, Witsuwit'en, Deg Xinag, and Kwadacha language projects.
2016-2017	**Undergraduate research group** in phonology, under the direction of Dr. Abby Kaplan, University of Utah

LANGUAGES

Python (incl. nltk, pytorch)	French (working)
Javascript	Spanish (basic)
R	Hoisanva (heritage)
Matlab	
HTML, CSS	
Java (basic)	

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2018   *Musical Evidence for Syllabification Patterns of Highly Moraic Structures in English*
Linguistic Society of America, with Abby Kaplan and Joselyn Rodriguez, **poster session**

2017   *Musical Evidence for Syllabification Patterns in English*
University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics, with Jenica Jessen &
Joselyn Rodriguez, **presentation**

2017   *Musical Evidence for Syllabification Patterns of Highly Moraic Structures in English*
Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Utah, with Jenica Jessen, **poster session**

2014   Englishes in the African Diaspora
University of Utah Social Justice Scholars, **panel presentation**

TEACHING

2018   **Teaching Assistant**
LING 570: Shallow Processing Techniques for Natural Language Processing

2018   **Teaching Assistant**
LING 269: Swearing and Taboo Language
University of Washington

2016   **Student Teacher**
Intermediate ESL and Content ESL
Cottonwood High School (UT)

2015   **Student Teacher**
ESL Reading and Lanugage
Murray High School (UT)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2018   Travel Scholarship for Ethics in NLP workshop at NAACL-HLT 2018
2017   Top Scholar Award, University of Washington Graduate School
2017   Small Grant ($200), Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program,
University of Utah
2013   President's Scholarship (full-tuition Scholarship), University of Utah
2013   National Merit Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program

WORK EXPERIENCE

2014, 2016-2017   Communications Assistant, CaptionCall
2014-2017   Mathematics Tutor

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