Shuhaib Mehri

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am broadly interested in human-centered AI. My current research explores (1) multi-turn and mixed-initiative conversational agents, (2) continual learning throughout multi-session interactions, and (3) reliable and realistic user simulation.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign *Aug. 2024 - Present*
Ph.D. in Computer Science, Advisor: Prof. Dilek Hakkani-Tür

University of British Columbia *Sep. 2019 - May 2024*
B.Sc. Honours Computer Science, Advisors: Prof. Vered Shwartz, Giuseppe Carenini

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Learning User Preferences Through Interaction for Long-Term Collaboration** 📄
Shuhaib Mehri, Priyanka Kargupta, Tal August, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
ACL 2026 (under submission)

[2] **Goal Alignment in LLM-Based User Simulators for Conversational AI** 📄
Shuhaib Mehri, Xiaocheng Yang, Takyoung Kim, Gokhan Tur, Shikib Mehri, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
TACL 2025 (Oral at ACL 2026)

[3] **Beyond Sample-Level Feedback: Using Reference-Level Feedback to Guide Data Synthesis** 📄
Shuhaib Mehri, Xiusi Chen, Heng Ji, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
EACL 2026 (Oral)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Must Read: A Systematic Survey of Computational Persuasion** 📄
Nimet Beyza Bozdag, Shuhaib Mehri, Xiaocheng Yang, Hyeonjeong Ha, Zirui Cheng, Esin Durmus, Jiaxuan You, Heng Ji, Gokhan Tur, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
ACM Computing Surveys

[2] **PIPA: A Unified Evaluation Protocol for Diagnosing Interactive Planning Agents** 📄
Takyoung Kim*, Janvijay Singh*, Shuhaib Mehri*, Emre Can Acikgoz, Sagnik Mukherjee,
Nimet Beyza Bozdag, Sumuk Shashidhar, Gokhan Tur, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
NeurIPS 2025 MTI-LLM

[3] **Persuade Me if You Can: A Framework for Evaluating Persuasion Effectiveness and Susceptibility Among Large Language Models** 📄
Nimet Beyza Bozdag, Shuhaib Mehri, Gokhan Tur, Dilek Hakkani-Tür.
ICLR 2026 (under submission)

[4] **Discourse Relation Recognition with Language Models Under Different Data Availability**
Shuhaib Mehri, Chuyuan Li, Giuseppe Carenini.
EMNLP 2025 CODI Workshop

[5] **Exploiting Questions Under Discussion for Discourse Relation Recognition in Dialog**
Shuhaib Mehri, Chuyuan Li, Giuseppe Carenini.
EACL 2024 CODI Workshop

[6] **Automatic Evaluation of Generative Models with Instruction Tuning** 📄
Shuhaib Mehri, Vered Shwartz.
EMNLP 2023 GEM Workshop

Professional Experience

IBM Research *May. 2025 – Aug 2025*

Research Scientist Intern, Scalable Knowledge Intelligence Team
- Built a dynamic routing system for RAG pipelines that orchestrates specialized LLM intrinsics based on real-time feedback signals to improve response efficiency and quality.

iClinic Systems Inc. *Dec. 2023 – May 2024*

Research Scientist Intern
- Awarded the *Mitacs Accelerated Fellowship for Master's and PhD Students* as an undergraduate student, under the recommendation of Prof. Vered Shwartz.
- Worked on an information extraction pipeline tailored for clinical documents, and designed evaluations using synthetic data generation.

Amazon *Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2023*

Software Development Engineer Intern, Gurupa Team
- Owned the end-to-end creation of an interactive data visualization tool that streamlined the migration from Amazon's core page rendering engine. Resulted in a fully operation web application deployed to production.

Amazon *May 2022 – Aug. 2022*

Software Development Engineer Intern, Dram Team
- Built a command line interface that uses cloud computing to generate and register consumer ready metadata, enabling developers to create/manage Amazon web pages.

Clir Renewables *Sep. 2021 – Dec. 2021*

Software Development Engineer Intern
- Built and deployed a management software solution for renewable energy assets.

Teaching

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign *Jan 2026 – May 2026*

Teaching Assistant for *Conversational AI (CS 598)*

University of British Columbia *Sep 2020 – May 2024*

Teaching Assistant for *Models of Computation (CPSC 121)* and *Intro to Software Engineering (CPSC 310)*

Awards

Mitacs Accelerate Fellowship *2023*