

Xinya Du

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Research Areas	Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning	
Education	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY, USA	
	Ph.D. in Computer Science, Advisor: Prof. Claire Cardie M.S degree granted in 2019	2016 – 2021
	Shanghai Jiao Tong University , Shanghai, China	
	B.E. in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA Rank: Top 1%	2012 – 2016
Professional Experience	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of CS	Sep 2021 – Present
	Postdoctoral Research Associate Supervisor: Heng Ji	
	Cornell University, Department of CS	Aug 2016 – Aug 2021
	PhD Research Assistant Supervisor: Claire Cardie	
	Google AI , Research Intern	May 2020 – Aug 2020
	Topic: QA-Driven Zero-shot Slot Filling with Weak Supervision Pretraining Supervisors: Qi Li, Luheng He	
	Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence , Research Intern	Sep 2018 – Dec 2018
	Topic: Improving Procedural Paragraph Understanding by Leveraging Consistency Constraints Supervisors: Bhavana Dalvi, Peter Clark	
	Microsoft Research Redmond , Research Intern	May 2018 – Aug 2018
	Topic: Leveraging web-structured knowledge for question answering Supervisors: Paul Bennett, Ahmed Hassan Awadallah	
	Cornell University , Undergrad Research Intern	Aug 2015 – Dec 2015
	Topic: Researched on deep learning techniques for fine-grained opinion extraction Supervisor: Claire Cardie	
Publications	Template Filling with Generative Transformers Xinya Du , Alexander M. Rush, and Claire Cardie <i>Proceedings of NAACL, 2021</i>	
	GRIT: Generative Role-filler Transformers for Document-level Event Entity Extraction Xinya Du , Alexander M. Rush, and Claire Cardie <i>Proceedings of EACL, 2021</i>	
	Few-shot Intent Classification and Slot Filling with Retrieved Examples Dian Yu, Luheng He, Yuan Zhang, Xinya Du , Panupong Pasupat and Qi Li <i>Proceedings of NAACL, 2021</i>	
	QA-Driven Zero-shot Slot Filling with Weak Supervision Pretraining Xinya Du , Luheng He, Qi Li, Dian Yu, Panupong Pasupat and Yuan Zhang <i>Proceedings of ACL, 2021</i>	

Event Extraction by Answering (Almost) Natural Questions

Xinya Du and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of EMNLP, 2020

Improving Event Duration Prediction via Time-aware Pre-training

Zonglin Yang, **Xinya Du**, Alexander M. Rush and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of Findings of EMNLP, 2020

Document-Level Event Role Filler Extraction using Multi-Granularity Contextualized Encoding

Xinya Du and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of ACL, 2020

Leveraging Structured Metadata for Improving Question Answering on the Web

Xinya Du, Adam Fourney, Robert Sim, Claire Cardie, Paul Bennett and Ahmed Hassan Awadallah

Proceedings of AACL, 2020

Be Consistent! Improving Procedural Text Comprehension using Label Consistency

Xinya Du, Bhavana Dalvi, Niket Tandon, Antoine Bosselut, Wen-tau Yih, Peter Clark, Claire Cardie

Proceedings of 17th North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL), 2019

Harvesting Paragraph-Level Question-Answer Pairs from Wikipedia

Xinya Du and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2018

Identifying Where to Focus in Reading Comprehension for Neural Question Generation

Xinya Du and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2017

Learning to Ask: Neural Question Generation for Reading Comprehension

Xinya Du, Junru Shao and Claire Cardie

Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2017

– **Featured in New Scientist** [\[Link\]](#), **TechRepublic**

– **The first paper to propose end-to-end learning for natural question generation**, inspiring work in QA (Alberti 2019), Summarization (Wang 2020), and Dialogue Systems (Laban 2020).

Cornell Belief and Sentiment System at TAC 2016

Vlad Niculae, Kai Sun, Xilun Chen, Yao Cheng, **Xinya Du**, Esin Durmus, Arzoo Katiyar, Claire Cardie

Text Analysis Conference (TAC), 2016

Awards & Scholarships

CDAC Spotlight Rising Star	2020
Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai Jiao Tong University	2016
National Scholarship (Highest honor for undergraduates in China, awarded to top 1% students.)	2013
National Olympiad in Mathematics in Provinces 2011, The First Prize.	2011
National Olympiad in Informatics in Provinces 2010, The First Prize.	2010

Media Coverage

New Scientist

“Inquisitive bot asks questions to test your understanding” [\[Link\]](#)

TechRepublic

“How researchers trained one AI system to start asking its own questions” [\[Link\]](#)

Mentoring	Zonglin Yang, Cornell CS MEng student → NTU PhD, Topic: Commonsense and case-based reasoning for NLP with publication in Findings of EMNLP 2020	Spring 2020 – Present
	Barry Wang, Cornell CS undergraduate student, Topic: Automatic error analysis for information extraction with work presented in SciNLP 2021	Summer 2021 – Present
	Aliva Das, Cornell CS undergraduate student, Topic: Automatic Error Analysis for information extraction with work presented in SciNLP 2021	Summer 2021 – Present
	Maitreyi Chatterjee, Cornell CS undergraduate student Topic: Applying neural doc-level IE model to scientific domain	Spring 2021
	Rishi Malhotra, Cornell CS undergraduate student Topic: Applying neural doc-level IE model to scientific domain	Spring 2021
Teaching	Natural Language Processing (TA for Prof. Claire Cardie), Fall 19	
	Natural Language Processing (TA for Prof. Yoav Artzi), Spring 19	
	Software Engineering (TA for Prof. William Arms), Spring 17, Spring 18	
	Introduction to Computing Using Python (TA for Prof. Walker White), Fall 16	
Talks	<i>Towards More Informed Extraction of Events from Documents</i> Rising Stars in Data Science Workshop at University of Chicago, Jan 2021 Tencent AI Research, Nov 2020	
	<i>Event Extraction by Answering (Almost) Natural Questions</i> EMNLP 2020 (Online), Nov 2020 UIUC Class Information Extraction and Knowledge Acquisition (Online), Sep 2020	
	<i>LwLL: Progress on the NLP Front</i> DARPA site visit, Cornell University (Online), Apr 2020	
	<i>Harvesting Paragraph-Level Question-Answer Pairs from Wikipedia</i> ACL 2018, Jul 2018	
Services	Program Committee Member Year 2018: ACL, CoNLL, MRQA, W-NUT Year 2019: NAACL, ACL, EMNLP, CoNLL, *SEM, W-NUT, IJCAI, AAAI Year 2020: ACL, IJCAI, EMNLP, AACL Year 2021: EMNLP, ACL ARR	
	Journal Reviewer IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE) IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing (TASLP) AI Communications	
	Volunteer ACL 2017, 2018; EMNLP 2017 Cornell CS PhD Visit Day 2019, 2020, 2021 Cornell CS PhD Admission Committee 2021	
Code Release	NQG [Link] Open source repository for neural question generation from sentences (ACL 2017). Including evaluation scripts and implementations for the models.	
	EEQA [Link] Open source repository for using QA techniques for extracting events from text (EMNLP 2020). Including different question templates and implementations for the models.	
	GRIT: Document Event Entity Extractor [Link] Open source repository for document-level entity extraction (EACL 2021). Including implementations for our model, evaluation scripts for document-level extraction, and analysis for predictions.	

References

Claire Cardie

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Heng Ji

Professor, Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Alexander M. Rush

Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science
Cornell University
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Peter Clark

Senior Research Manager
Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2)
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Ahmed Hassan Awadallah

Principal Research Manager, Language and Information Technologies Team
Microsoft Research AI
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