

Alyssa Hwang

alyssahwang@alumni.upenn.edu · alyssahwang.com

Modified: December 18, 2025

Research Interests

I conduct in-depth, user-centered studies to explore how generative AI can be integrated into information-dense documents to make them easier to understand. I focus on augmentating documents at the level of a phrase or image segment. I am experienced with user experience research, mixed-methods analysis, and AI-driven products.

Education

University of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia, PA

- Dec 2025 *PhD* in Computer and Information Science
- Dec 2023 *MS* in Computer and Information Science
Advisors: [Boon Thau Loo](#), [Andrew Head](#)
Thesis: User Interfaces for Fine-grained Integration of Information
- May 2020 **Columbia University** – New York, NY
BS in Computer Science
Advisor: [Kathleen McKeown](#)
Thesis: Towards Augmenting Lexical Resources for Slang and African American English

Industry Experience

- Summer 2022 **AWS Comprehend** (Applied Scientist Intern) – New York, NY
NewsQs: Multi-Source Question Generation for the Inquiring Mind
Hosts: [Kathleen McKeown](#), Kalpit Dixit
- Summer 2021 **Google** (Software Engineering Intern) – Pittsburgh, PA
Image Ranking for Shopping
Hosts: Wei Wan, [Tao Chen](#)
- Summer 2020 **Google** (Software Engineering Intern) – Mountain View, CA
Dialogue Act Recognition for Dialogflow
Hosts: Chuan Wang, [Igor Poletaev](#)

Honors

- 2023 **OpenAI**, DevDay Invited Attendee
- 2023 **Penn Engineering**, Outstanding Service Award
- 2022 **Amazon Alexa Prize TaskBot Competition**, Finalist Team
- 2022 **CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women**, Invited Attendee
- 2020 **Columbia University**, Theodore R. Bashkow Award
Presented to a senior in computer science who has excelled in independent projects.
- 2020 **National Science Foundation**, Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2019 **Google**, Grace Hopper Celebration Travel Scholarship
- 2018 **Johnson & Johnson**, Summer Research Grant
- 2018 **Columbia University**, Data Science Institute Scholars Program and Grant

Publications, Articles, and Preprints

* Equal contribution

- 2025 **Interactive Figure-Text Integration at Document Scale**
Alyssa Hwang, Hita Kambhamettu, Yue Yang, Ajay Patel,
Joseph Chee Chang, Andrew Head.
In preparation.
- arXiv 2025 **Attribution Gradients: Citation Sensemaking of Attributed AI Answers with Incrementally Unfoldable Context**
Hita Kambhamettu, **Alyssa Hwang**, Philippe Laban, Andrew Head.
[arXiv preprint](#) (in submission).
- arXiv 2024 **JumpStarter: Human-AI Planning with Task-Structured Context Curation**
Sitong Wang*, Xuanming Zhang*, Jenny Ma, **Alyssa Hwang**, Lydia Chilton.
[arXiv preprint](#) (in submission).
- ACL 2024 **RAID: A Shared Benchmark for Robust Evaluation of Machine-Generated Text Detectors**
Liam Dugan, **Alyssa Hwang**, Filip Trhlík, Josh Magnus Ludan, Andrew Zhu, Hainiu Xu,
Daphne Ippolito, Chris Callison-Burch.
[Association for Computational Linguistics](#).

- ACL 2024 **FanOutQA: Multi-Hop, Multi-Document Question Answering for Large Language Models**
Andrew Zhu, Alyssa Hwang, Liam Dugan, Chris Callison-Burch.
Association for Computational Linguistics.
- CHI 2024 **Ivie: Lightweight Anchored Explanations of Just-Generated Code**
Litao Yan, Alyssa Hwang, Zhiyuan Wu, Andrew Head
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.
- arXiv 2024 **NewsQs: Multi-Source Question Generation for the Inquiring Mind**
Alyssa Hwang, Kalpit Dixit, Miguel Ballesteros, Yassine Benajiba, Vittorio Castelli, Markus Dreyer, Mohit Bansal, Kathleen McKeown.
Work conducted during an internship at AWS AI Labs. arXiv preprint.
- arXiv 2023 **Grounded Intuition of GPT-Vision's Abilities with Scientific Figures**
Alyssa Hwang, Andrew Head, Chris Callison-Burch
arXiv preprint.
- NLP-OSS 2023 **Kani: A Lightweight and Highly Hackable Framework for Building Language Model Applications**
Andrew Zhu*, Liam Dugan*, Alyssa Hwang, Chris Callison-Burch
Workshop for Natural Language Processing Open-Source Software (co-located with EMNLP).
- arXiv 2023 **Large Language Models as Sous Chefs: Revising Recipes with GPT-3**
Alyssa Hwang*, Bryan Li*, Zhaoyi Hou*, Dan Roth
arXiv preprint.
- DIS 2023 **Rewriting the Script: Adapting Text Instructions for Voice Interaction**
Alyssa Hwang, Natasha Oza, Chris Callison-Burch, Andrew Head
ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems.
- Amazon 2022 **QuakerBot: A Household Dialog System Powered by Large Language Models**
Artemis Panagopoulou, Manni Arora, Li Zhang, Dimitri Cugini, Weiqiu You, Yue Yang, Liyang Zhou, Yuxuan Wang, Zhaoyi Hou, Alyssa Hwang, Lara Martin, Sherry Shi, Chris Callison-Burch, Mark Yatskar
Alexa Prize Taskbot Proceedings.
- VarDial 2020 **Towards Augmenting Lexical Resources for Slang and African American English**
Alyssa Hwang, William R. Frey, and Kathleen McKeown
Workshop on NLP for Similar Languages, Varieties and Dialects (co-located with COLING).

- EMNLP 2019 **AMPERSAND: Argument Mining for PERSuAsive oNline Discussions**
Tuhin Chakrabarty, Christopher Hidey, Smaranda Muresan, Kathy McKeown, **Alyssa Hwang**
2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and 9th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing.
- MWE-WN 2019 **Confirming the Non-compositionality of Idioms for Sentiment Analysis**
Alyssa Hwang and Christopher Hidey
Joint Workshop on Multiword Expressions and WordNet (co-located with ACL).

Invited Talks

- Nov 20, 2024 **The Ethics Institute at Kent Place School**
Rethinking Ethical Behavior for Oneself Online Together (REBOOT) assembly
Authorship Matters in Generative AI
- Apr 18, 2024 **Google People and AI Research (PAIR) Machine Learning**
A Principled Approach to Developing Grounded Intuition of Generative Models
- Apr 17, 2024 **Columbia University Natural Language Processing Seminar**
Rewriting the Script: Human-Centered Opportunities for Natural Language Processing
- Feb 9, 2024 **Women in Data Science @ Penn**
Human-centered AI Research and Design
- Jan 29, 2024 **University of Pennsylvania Computational Linguistics Lunch (CLunch)**
Developing Grounded Intuition of Large Language Models
- Sept 18, 2023 **University of Pennsylvania Computational Linguistics Lunch (CLunch)**
Rewriting the Script: Adapting Text Instructions for Voice Interaction

Selected Media and Impact

- Dec 5, 2024 **AI's Hidden Challenges: A Conversation with Alyssa Hwang**
Season 3 Episode 4, *Tapping In* podcast.
- Mar 1, 2024 **Wider Perspectives**
Laura J. Cole, *Kent Place Magazine* (cover story).
- Nov 16, 2023 **A Peak into the Future of Visual Data Interpretation**
Nathi Magubane, *Penn Today*.

- Nov 7, 2023 **ChatGPT-Maker OpenAI Hosts its First Big Tech Showcase as the AI Startup Faces Growing Competition**
Barbara Ortutay and Matt O'Brien, [Associated Press](#).
Reposted by 162 US news outlets, including The Independent, ABC News, Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, The Business Journal, and CBS News.
- Nov 6, 2023 **As OpenAI's Multimodal API Launches Broadly, Research Shows It's Still Flawed**
Kyle Wiggers, [TechCrunch](#)
- Oct 2, 2023 **Rewriting the Script: Developing Effective AI Assistants**
Alyssa Hwang, [Penn Engineering Today](#).
- Feb 19, 2021 **Doctorates do Valentines!**
Eboneye Johnson, [Official Blog of the Penn Dept. of Computer and Information Science](#).

Teaching

- Fall 2022 **Head Teaching Assistant**, CIS 3990 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction
Instructor: [Danaé Metaxa](#) (University of Pennsylvania)
- Fall 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, CIS 5300 Computational Linguistics
Instructor: [Mark Yatskar](#) (University of Pennsylvania)

Mentoring

- Fall 2025–Present Mialy Rasetarinera (Penn CIS PhD Mentorship Program)
- Spring 2024 Emma Jin (Master's Independent Study and Career Development)
- Fall 2023– Spring 2024 Matthew Burke, Ryan Hsing-Smith, Bryan Yao, Joseph Koo, Sebastian Lee, Zachary Arnold (Undergraduate Senior Design Project)
- Summer 2022 Juni Kim (High School Independent Study)
- Spring 2022 Jasmine Chen (Undergraduate Thesis)

Outreach

- Sept 2023 **University of Pennsylvania Dept. of Computer and Information Science**
Invited Panelist, PhD New Student Orientation
- Nov 2022 **MindCORE Diversity and Equity Initiative (DivE In)**
Invited Speaker, Overview of the PhD Application Process

- Nov 2021, 2020 **University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science**
Invited Panelist, PhD Open House
- Mar 2021 **ACM Capital Region Celebration of Women in Computing (CAPWIC)**
Invited Panelist, Graduate School: Is It Right for Me?
- Jan 2021 **University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science**
Invited Panelist, Graduate Recruitment Panel
- Oct 2020 **Columbia University Department of Computer Science**
Invited Speaker, Alumni-In-Residence Discussion
- Leadership
- May 2022 **Founder, Penn CIS PhD Mentorship Program**
- Sept 20–May 23 **Co-Chair, Computer and Information Science Doctoral Association (CISDA)**
Advocate for student interests and liaise with faculty of CIS and Penn Engineering.
- Sept 22–May 23 **PhD Rep., Department of Computer and Information Science Office Committee**
- Sept 21–May 22 **PhD Rep, Penn Engineering Dean's Doctoral Advisory Board**
- Sept–Dec 2021 **Co-organizer, Penn NLP Computational Linguistics Lunch (CLunch)**
- Mar–Oct 2021 **MindCORE Diversity and Equity Initiative (DivE In)**
Programming Development Committee Lead, Steering Committee Member
Collaborate across departments to establish inaugural DivE In, a fully funded weekend of workshops for underrepresented undergraduates in the mind sciences.