

# BAKHTIYAR SYED

@ bakhtiyar.hsyed@gmail.com    (+46) 790584942  
in linkedin.com/in/bakhtiyar-syed    github.com/bakszero  
Polhelmsgatan 6, 1202 Solna, Stockholm, Sweden

## EXPERIENCE

### Embark Studios

May 20 - Present | Machine Learning Research Engineer

- Building interactive experiences in a remixable game engine by exploring the confluence of reinforcement learning and natural language processing.
- Designing natural language processing (NLP) systems for in-game language grounding and integrating conversational agents into game characters.

### Adobe Research

Jun - Aug 19 | Research Intern

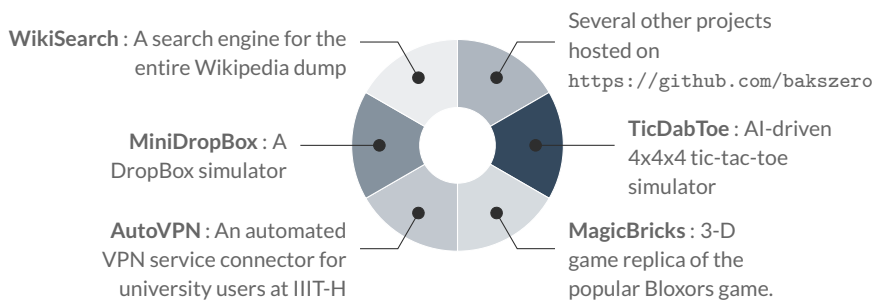
- Designed an architecture for the generation of author-specific stylized text aided by incorporating specific linguistic reward mechanisms.
- Accepted for publication at AAAI '20, and subsequent patent filing.

### Google Summer of Code '18

May - Aug 18 | Student Developer

- Built the **first-ever** semantic role labeler (SRL) system for a historical language, Sumerian and facilitated the creation of gold semantic role data for the research community at the *Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative* (CDLI)
- Complete details @ <https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com/archive/2018/projects/6336913732534272/>

## SELECTED PROJECTS



## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Syed, Bakhtiyar, Gaurav Verma, et al. (2020). "Adapting Language Models for Non-Parallel Author-Stylized Rewriting". In: *AAAI*.
- Syed, Bakhtiyar, Vijayasaradhi Indurthi, et al. (2019). "Inductive Transfer Learning for Detection of Well-Formed Natural Language Search Queries". In: *ECIR*.
- Vadapalli, Raghuram, Syed, Bakhtiyar<sup>1</sup>, et al. (2018). "When science journalism meets artificial intelligence : an interactive demonstration". In: *EMNLP*.
- Vadapalli, Raghuram, Syed, Bakhtiyar<sup>1</sup>, et al. (2018). "Sci-Blogger : A step towards automated science journalism". In: *CIKM*.

\*Full publication list (including workshops) is at <https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=sLTchcMAAAAJ>

<sup>1</sup>Equal Contribution

## EDUCATION

### IIIT Hyderabad

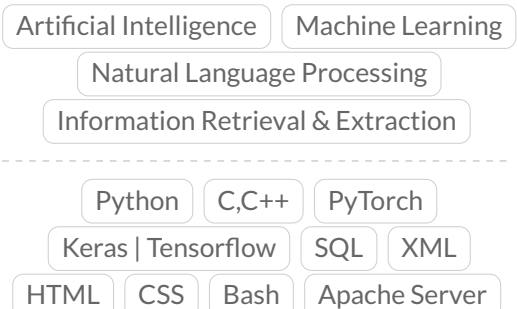
Bachelors in Computer Science  
and M.S. in Computational Linguistics  
CGPA: 8.57

2015 - 2020 (Expected)

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Winner - Google ML Hackathon 2018**  
Best solution and first position on the Kaggle leaderboard.
- Winning Team: SemEval 2019**  
First positions in Question Discernment in QA forums & Hate Speech Detection tasks.
- Top Solution - Clickbait Challenge**  
Best current solution for clickbait intensity prediction on <https://www.clickbait-challenge.org/>
- AAAI 19 - Affective Content Analysis Workshop**  
Runner-up : Identifying ingredients for happiness constructs.
- Microsoft Research Grant**  
Grants for travel to ECIR 2019.
- Dean's List Awards -2016, 2017, 2018**  
Awarded for academic excellence.
- Convenor - Students' Parliament**  
4-time elected representative of the campus student body.

## SKILLS



## ACTIVITIES

Program Committee  
ICWSM (AAAI-19)

Teaching Assistant  
Information Retrieval & Extraction  
Introduction to Linguistics

Web Chair  
CODS-COMAD 2020