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HEATHER MILLER

Citizenship	USA

Research Interests

Concurrent, distributed, eventually-consistent (edge computing), data-centric, and data-intensive (big data) programming, from the perspective of programming languages. I work on both theoretical ideas & implementations typically in/for the Scala programming language. **My goal is to reduce the burden of building distributed systems.**

Education

EPFL, *Lausanne, Switzerland*   *2009 – 2015*
Ph.D. in Computer Science
Advisor: Martin Odersky   *2011 – 2015*

University of Miami, *Coral Gables, FL*   *2006 – 2009*
BSEE in Electrical Engineering, Audio Engineering, *with honors, May 2009*

Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, *New York, NY*   *2004 – 2006*

Employment

Carnegie Mellon University, *Pittsburgh, PA, USA*   *8/2018 –*
Assistant Professor
School of Computer Science, Institute for Software Research

Northeastern University, *Boston, MA, USA*   *9/2016 – 7/2018*
Assistant Clinical Professor
College of Computer and Information Science

Scala Center, EPFL, *Lausanne, Switzerland*   *10/2015 – 7/2018*
Executive Director, Research Scientist
Founded a new not-for-profit center dedicated to research,
open source development, and education surrounding the Scala
programming language.

Databricks, *Berkeley, CA, USA*   *8/2014 – 11/2014*
Research Intern
Supervisor: Matei Zaharia
Integrated Scala Pickling, our framework for fast, boilerplate-free, extensible
serialization focused on distributed programming (OOPSLA'13), into Spark.
Developed new function-passing programming model and framework, can be
thought of as a generalization of Spark/MapReduce programming model (JFP'18).

Teaching Experience (Classroom)

Co-Instructor,   *Spring 2020*
10-405/10-605: Machine Learning with Large Datasets   *Carnegie Mellon*

Co-Instructor,   *Spring 2019 & Spring 2020*
17-356: Software Engineering for Startups   *Carnegie Mellon*

Instructor, Designer,   *Spring 2018*
CS4240: Large-Scale Parallel Data Processing   *Northeastern*

Instructor, Designer,   *Fall 2016*
CS7680: Programming Models for Distributed Computation   *Northeastern*

Co-Instructor, Co-Designer, (*with Viktor Kunčak & Martin Odersky*)   *Spring 2016*
CS 206: Parallelism & Concurrency   *EPFL*

Co-Instructor, Co-Designer, (*with Viktor Kunčak & Martin Odersky*)   *Spring 2015*
CS 212: Reactive Programming & Parallelism   *EPFL*

(Lead) Teaching Assistant,   *Fall 2011-2014*
CS 201: Functional Programming   *EPFL*

Teaching Experience (MOOCs)

Instructor, Designer, *Big Data Analysis with Scala and Spark*   *2017 –*
Popular Coursera MOOC on big data analysis using Spark.   *Coursera*

- Designed lectures and produced lecture videos. Designed exercises
  and developed cloud-hosted automated graders.
- Between March-November 2017, over 120,000 registered learners.

Lead, *Scala Specialization (mini-degree)*   *2015 –*
Responsible for EPFL's offering of a Scala *mini-degree* on Coursera.   *Coursera*

- Assembled offering of 4 Scala MOOCs, topped off with a capstone
  project. Taught and produced 1 course in the specialization and
  managed the development of the remaining 3 courses and the project.

Lead, *Functional Programming Principles in Scala*   *2012 – 2014*
Popular Coursera MOOC on functional programming in Scala.   *Coursera*

- Lead teaching staff member, organized a team of graduate
  students, managed content production, designed course exercises
  with cloud-hosted grading, production of lecture videos, etc.
- >400,000 learners across iterations & largest completion
  rate for a course its size (~19%)

Book

Distributed Programming   *MIT Press TBD*
Heather Miller, Nat Dempkowski, James Larisch,
Christopher Meiklejohn, and Philipp Haller

A textbook about the building blocks we use to build distributed systems. These range
from the small, RPC, futures, actors, to the large; systems built up of these components
like MapReduce and Spark. We explore issues and concerns central to distributed sys-
tems like consistency, availability, and fault tolerance, from the lens of the programming
models and frameworks that the programmer uses to build these systems.
Source (draft)

Publications: Journals

A Reduction Semantics for Direct-Style Asynchronous Observables *JLAMP 2019*
Philipp Haller, Heather Miller
Journal of Logical and Algebraic Methods in Programming, Volume 105, p75-111.

A Programming Model and Foundation for Lineage-Based Distributed *JFP 2018*
Computation
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Normen Müller
Journal of Functional Programming, Volume 28, e7.
Special Issue: Programming Languages for Big Data

Publications: Conferences

Partisan: Scaling the Distributed Actor Runtime *USENIX ATC 2019*
Christopher Meiklejohn, Heather Miller, Peter Alvaro
USENIX Annual Technical Conference

Scala Implicits are Everywhere: A Large-Scale Study of the Use *OOPSLA 2019*
of Implicits in the Wild
Filip Křikava, Heather Miller, Jan Vitek
ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Object Oriented Programming, Systems,
Languages and Applications

Simplicitly: Foundations and Applications of Implicit Function Types *POPL 2018*
Martin Odersky, Olivier Blanvillain, Fengyun Liu, Aggelos Biboudis
Heather Miller, Sandro Stucki
ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages

Function Passing: A Model for Typed, Distributed Functional *SPLASH 2016*
Programming
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Normen Müller, Joceyln Boullier
ACM SIGPLAN International Symposium on New Ideas, New Paradigms,
and Reflections on Programming & Software

Spores: A Type-Based Foundation for Closures in the Age of *ECOOP 2014*
Concurrency and Distribution
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Martin Odersky
European Conference on Object Oriented Programming

Functional Programming For All! Scaling a MOOC for Students *ICSE 2014*
And Professionals Alike
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Lukas Rytz, Martin Odersky
ACM SIGSOFT International Conference on Software Engineering

Instant Pickles: Generating Object-Oriented Pickler *OOPSLA 2013*
Combinators for Fast and Extensible Serialization
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Eugene Burmako, Martin Odersky
ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Object Oriented Programming, Systems,
Languages and Applications

Publications:
Workshops

Checking-in on Network Functions   *ANRW 2019*
Zeeshan Lakhani, Heather Miller
ACM/IRTF Applied Networking Research Workshop

Towards a Solution to the Red Wedding Problem   *USENIX HotEdge 2018*
Christopher Meiklejohn, Heather Miller, Zeeshan Lakhani
USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Edge Computing

Distributed Programming via Safe Closure Passing   *PLACES 2015*
Philipp Haller, Heather Miller
Programming Language Approaches to Communication
and Concurrency Centric Systems

RAY: Integrating Rx and Async for Direct-Style Reactive Streams   *REM 2013*
Philipp Haller, Heather Miller
ACM SPLASH Workshop on Reactivity, Events and Modularity

FlowPools: A Lock-Free Deterministic Concurrent   *LCPC 2012*
Dataflow Abstraction
Aleksandar Prokopec, Heather Miller, Tobias Schlatter,
Philipp Haller, Martin Odersky
International Workshop on Languages and Compilers for Parallel Computing

Invited to Revised Selected Papers on the 25th International Workshop on
Languages and Compilers for Parallel Computing, Lecture Notes in Computer
Science, Vol. 7760, 2013

Tools and Frameworks for Big Learning in Scala: Leveraging the   *BigLearn 2011*
Language for High Productivity and Performance
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Martin Odersky
NIPS Workshop on Parallel and Large-Scale Machine Learning

Parallelizing Machine Learning – Functionally: A Framework   *Scala 2011*
and Abstractions for Parallel Graph Processing
Philipp Haller, Heather Miller
Scala Workshop

Submitted/In
Preparation

Monotonicity Types
Kevin Clancy, Heather Miller, Christopher Meiklejohn

The Essence of Coordination-Free Distributed Computation
Christopher Meiklejohn, Kevin Clancy, Heather Miller

Selected
Tech Reports

The Function Passing Model: Types, Proofs, and Semantics   *May 2016*
Philipp Haller, Normen Müller, Heather Miller

Specialising Parsers for Queries   *April 2016*
Manohar Jonnalagedda, Jorge Vicente Cantero, Heather Miller, Martin Odersky

Improving Human-Compiler Interaction Through Customizable   *December 2014*

Type Feedback
Hubert Plociniczak, Heather Miller, Martin Odersky

Self-Assembly: Lightweight Language Extension and Datatype Generic Programming, All-in-One!   *August 2014*
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller, Bruno C. d. S. Oliveira

Spores, Formally   *December 2013*
Heather Miller, Philipp Haller

FlowPools: A Lock-Free Deterministic Concurrent Dataflow Abstraction – Proofs   *June 2012*
Aleksandar Prokopec, Heather Miller, Philipp Haller

External Service

General Chair and/or Program Chair:
Curry On (**Curry On**)   *2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019*
ICSE Software Engineering in Practice (**ICSE SEIP**)   *2022*
Workshop on Principles and Practice of Consistency for Distributed Data (**PaPoC**)   *2019*
Trends in Functional Programming in Education (**TFPIE**)   *2018*
Scala Symposium (**Scala**)   *2013, 2014, 2017*
Programming Models & Languages for Distributed Computation (**PMLDC**)   *2016, 2017*

Organizing Committee Member:
Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (**OOPSLA**)   *2018*
European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (**ECOOP**)   *2015 – 2019*

Program Committee Member:
International Conference on Software Engineering (**ICSE**)   *2021*
USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Cloud Computing (**USENIX HotCloud**)   *2020*
USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Edge Computing (**USENIX HotEdge**)   *2020*
Workshop on Principles and Practice of Consistency for Distributed Data (**PaPoC**)   *2020*
Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (**OOPSLA**)   *2019*
European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (**ECOOP**)   *2019*
Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (**POPL**)   *2019*
International Conference on Functional Programming (**ICFP**)   *2018*
Off the Beaten Track (**OBT**)   *2018*
Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (**OOPSLA**)   *2017*
Scala Symposium (**Scala**)   *2016*
Symposium on Trends in Functional Programming (**TFP**)   *2016*
Software Language Engineering (**SLE**)   *2016*
Symposium on Applied Computing (**SAC**)   *2016*
Programming Language Evolution (**PLE**)   *2015*
Domain-Specific Language Design and Implementation (**DSLDI**)   *2015*

External Review Committee Member:
PLDI 2020, PLDI 2018, ECOOP 2016, ECOOP 2013, Scala 2013

Artifact Evaluation Committee: POPL 2015

Diversity & Outreach

ScalaBridge Organizer
Organizer of free full-day workshops on the weekends aimed at teaching women

and underrepresented minorities in computing how to think computationally and how to program in Scala.

ScalaBridge Chapters: Basel (CH), Zürich (CH), Copenhagen (DK), Boston (US).

Open Source
    Scala Programming Language, *member of the Scala team*   *2011 –*

- **Scala Spores** (Scala Improvement Proposal SIP-21), ***project lead***
  novel type-based abstraction for using closures safely
  in concurrent and distributed environments

- **Scala Pickling**, ***project lead***
  novel framework for fast, boilerplate-free, extensible serialization.
  Adopted by sbt, the most widely-used build tool for Scala. Popular
  open-source project on GitHub with >820 stars & dozens of contributors

- **Scala Futures & Promises** (Scala Improvement Proposal SIP-14), ***team member***
  unified non-blocking concurrency substrate for
  Scala, Akka, Play, and others

- **Scala Documentation**, ***creator, writer, lead maintainer***
  a central website for community-driven documentation for
  the Scala programming language and core libraries

- **Scaladoc**, ***co-maintainer***
  documentation tool for Scala's official API documentation

Honors

ACM SIGPLAN Programming Languages Software Award (for Scala)	*2019*
US National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	*2011 – 2014*
EPFL Outstanding Teaching Award	*2012*
EPFL Computer Science Fellowship	*2009 – 2010*
Most Outstanding Audio Engineering Student, University of Miami	*2009*
Most Outstanding Eta Kappa Nu Student, University of Miami	*2009*
Information Technology Scholarship, University of Miami	*2006 – 2009*
John Farina Family Scholarship, University of Miami	*2006 – 2009*
Eta Kappa Nu	*2008*
Tau Beta Pi	*2008*
SMART US Department of Defense Scholarship Alternate	*2007*
Cooper Union Full Tuition Scholarship	*2004 – 2006*

Selected Talks

Open Source Numbers Everybody Should Know   *BOBKonf 2020*
Berlin, Germany. February 28, 2020   *(keynote)*

The Times They Are a-Changin': A Data-Driven Portrait of   *Scale By the Bay 2019*
New Trends in How We Build Software, Open Source,   *(keynote)*
& What Even is Entry-Level Now
Oakland, CA, USA. November 14, 2019

Scala Implicits are Everywhere: A Large-Scale Study of the Use   *OOPSLA 2019*
Athens, Greece. October 24, 2019

We're Building On Hollowed Foundations: Worrying Trends in   *Programming 2019*

Open Source and What We Can Actually Do About It *(keynote)*
Genoa, Italy. April 4, 2019

Towards Language Support for Distributed Systems *Code Mesh 2018*
London, UK. November 9, 2018 *(invited)*

What Happened to Distributed Programming Languages? *SPLASH-I 2018*
Boston, MA, USA. November 6, 2018 *(invited)*

Towards Language Support for Distributed Systems *Strange Loop 2018*
St. Louis, MO, USA. September 27, 2018

I'm a Young Assistant Professor: AMA. + Heather's Unsolicited *PLMW 2018*
Advice About Grad School *(invited)*
St. Louis, MO, USA. September 23, 2018

We're Building On Hollowed Foundations: Worrying Trends in *Lambda Days 2018*
Open Source and What You Can Actually Do About It *(keynote)*
Krakow, Poland. February 22, 2018

The Dramatic Consequences of the Open Source Revolution: *Devoxx 2017*
Unrecognized Challenges & Some Modest Attempts at *(invited)*
Solutions in Scala
Paris, France. April 7, 2017

The Dramatic Consequences of the Open Source Revolution *Scala Exchange 2016*
& How the Scala Center Hopes to Help *(keynote)*
London, UK. December 9, 2016

Function Passing: A Model for Typed, Distributed Functional *SPLASH 2016*
Programming
Amsterdam, The Netherlands. November 2, 2016

Introducing the Scala Center *Scala Days 2016*
New York, NY, US. May 10, 2016 & Berlin, Germany. June 16, 2016 *(keynote)*
(total ~1700 attendees)

Function Passing Style: Typed, Distributed *Strange Loop 2014*
Functional Programming
St. Louis, MO, USA. September 19, 2014

Spores: A Type-Based Foundation for Closures in the Age of *ECOOP 2014*
Concurrency and Distribution
Uppsala, Sweden. August 1, 2014

Functional Programming For All! Scaling a MOOC for *ICSE 2014*
Students and Professionals Alike
Hyderabad, India. June 4, 2014

Academese to English: Scala's Type System, Dependent Types *NEScala 2014*

and What It Means To You
New York, NY, USA. March 1, 2014

Instant Pickles: Generating Object-Oriented Pickler   *OOPSLA 2013*
Combinators for Fast and Extensible Serialization
Indianapolis, IN, USA. October 30, 2013

PL Abstractions for Distributed Programming: *Indiana University (invited)*
Pickle Your Spores!
Bloomington, IN, USA. October 25, 2013

Spores: Distributable Functions in Scala   *Strange Loop 2013*
St. Louis, MO, USA. September 19, 2013

Open Issues in Dataflow Programming   *LaME 2013 (invited)*
Montpellier, France. July 1, 2013

Scala as a Research Tool   *ECOOP 2013 Tutorial*
Montpellier, France. July 1, 2013

On Pickles & Spores: Improving Scala's Support   *ScalaDays 2013*
for Distributed Programming
New York, NY, USA. June 12, 2013

Futures & Promises in Scala 2.10   *PhillyETE 2013 (invited)*
Philadelphia, PA, USA. April 2, 2013

I am also a frequent speaker in industry, at industrial conferences, developer "meet-ups",
and everything in between. Some such events include:

Scala Italy (9/2018, Florence, Italy), **LxScala** (6/2018, Lisbon, Portugal), **Open Source**
Summit (12/2017, Paris, France), **Scala World** (9/2017, Lake District, UK), LxScala (5/2017,
Lisbon, Portugal), **Lambda Days** (2/2017, Krakow, Poland), PhillyETE (4/2016, Philadel-
phia, USA), **Code Mesh** (11/2015, London, UK), **Scalar** (4/2015, Warsaw, Poland), f(by)
(11/2014, Minsk, Belarus), SF Scala (11/2014, SF, USA), Scalapeño (9/2014, Tel Aviv,
Israel), SoundCloud TechTalks (7/2014, Berlin, Germany), **Scala Days** (6/2014, Berlin,
Germany), NEScala (3/2014, NYC, USA), amongst others.

External Activities	**Scalawags Monthly Podcast**, co-host	*2014 – 2016*
Students Supervised	**Matthew Weidner**, *TBD*	*2019 –*
	PhD thesis	*Carnegie Mellon*
	Christopher Meiklejohn, *TBD*	*2018 –*
	PhD thesis	*Carnegie Mellon*
	Joceyln Boullier, *Evaluating the Efficiacy of the Function Passing Model*	*2/2016 – 8/2016*
	M.Sc. thesis	*EPFL*
	Jorge Vicente Cantero, *Implementing the Function Passing Model*	*2/2016 – 6/2016*
	B.Sc. thesis	*EPFL*
	Thaddée Yann Tyl, *Learning Scala Style*	*2/2013 – 6/2013*
	M.Sc. thesis	*EPFL*

References

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