

# Chen Cecilia Liu

Email: chen.liu AT tu-darmstadt DOT de

Website: ccliu2.github.io

Scholar: eNFB3fgAAAAJ

## Research Interests

Cultural NLP, Multilinguality, Generalization, Pragmatics-related tasks, Multimodality

## Education

**Technische Universität Darmstadt** (TU Darmstadt) Darmstadt, Germany  
Computer Science 2021 - Present  
European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) PhD in NLP (~5% acceptance)  
Advisors: Prof. Iryna Gurevych (TU Darmstadt) / Prof. Anna Korhonen (University of Cambridge)

**University of Cambridge** Cambridge, United Kingdom  
Visiting Research Student @ Language Technology Lab 2024  
Advisor: Prof. Anna Korhonen

**University of Toronto** Toronto, Canada  
Master of Applied Science, Electrical Engineering 2011 - 2013  
Advisor: Prof. Brendan Frey  
Bachelor of Applied Science (with Honours), Mechanical Engineering 2006 - 2010

## Honours & Scholarships

ELIZA Scholarship, DAAD (€ 8700) 2024  
Travel Grant, European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (€ 3000) 2022  
Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA), NSERC (2x, total \$8000) 2008, 2009  
Dean's List, University of Toronto (8x) 2007 - 2010  
General Motors of Women in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Award, University of Toronto (3x, total over \$10k) 2007 - 2009  
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Admission Scholarship, University of Toronto 2006  
Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering Admission Scholarship, University of Toronto 2006

## Services

Reviewer/Program committee:  
NLP EMNLP (2020, 2022), ACL (2020, 2023), EACL (2021), NAACL (2021), ACL Rolling Review (2022-)  
ML/AI NeurIPs (2023-), ICLR (2024, 2025), ICML (2024), COLM (2024, 2025), AAAI (2024)  
Workshops RepL4NLP (2024, 2025), WiNLP@EMNLP (2024), Social Sim@COLM (2025)  
Women in Data Conference, Invited Industry Mentor, Toronto 2019  
Google Go North Conference, Invited Industry Mentor, Toronto 2017  
ECE Department Annual Graduate Students Conference, Organizer, University of Toronto 2012  
Graduate Student Union Student Representative, University of Toronto 2012 - 2013

## Presentations & Talks

---

Seminar, Invited Talk (Cultural NLP), Ontario Tech University and University of Toronto	2024
Seminar, Invited Talk (PEFT & Cross-lingual Transfer), Berliner Hochschule für Technik	2024
CHIA Annual Conference on AI for Good, Poster Presentation, University of Cambridge	2024
Women in Data Science Conference, Invited Talk, Toronto	2019
Vector Institute Endless Summer School, Invited Talk, University of Toronto	2018

## Teaching Experience

---

Deep Learning for Natural Language Processing, Guest Lecture (Cultural NLP), TU Darmstadt	2025
Current Topics in Natural Language Processing, Guest Lecture (Cultural NLP), MBZUAI	2025
Literature Management for PhD Students, Seminar, TU Darmstadt	2024
Electrical Fundamentals (ECE101), Tutorial, University of Toronto	2011
Fundamentals of Computer Programming (APS106), Lab, University of Toronto	2010
Grade 12 Physics / Chemistry, William International College, Toronto	2007

## Mentorship

### TU Darmstadt:

Nehath Nils Mia, MSc Thesis	Culturally-aware Multilingual Social Interactions
Nils Kovačić, BSc Thesis (jointly with Dr. Hiba Arnaout)	Culturally-aware NLP for Emotion Support
Kai Li, BSc Thesis	Multimodal Culturally-aware NLP
Jonas Stadtmüller, MSc Thesis	Multimodal Continual Learning
Laurenz Kammeyer, BSc Thesis	Prompting

### University of Toronto:

Amir Ganiev, BAsC Professional Experience Year	Software & Data Engineer
Amanda Steinhauer, BAsC Professional Experience Year	Software & Data Engineer

## Selected Publications

- 
12. **Chen Liu**<sup>\*</sup>, Hiba Arnaout<sup>\*</sup>, Nils Kovačić, Dana Atzil-Slonim, and Iryna Gurevych. Tailored Emotional LLM-Supporter: Enhancing Cultural Sensitivity. *Submitted - under review*, 2025.
  11. **Chen Liu**, Anna Korhonen and Iryna Gurevych. Cultural Learning-Based Culture Adaptation of Language Models. *ACL*, 2025.
  10. **Chen Liu**, Iryna Gurevych and Anna Korhonen. Culturally Aware and Culturally Adapted NLP: A Taxonomy and Survey. *TACL* (presented at *ACL*), 2025.
  9. **Chen Liu** and Iryna Gurevych. Early Period of Training Impacts Out-of-Distribution Generalization. *Preprint - under review*, 2024. (A workshop version was accepted at *HiLD@ICML* 2024)
  8. **Chen Liu**, Fajri Koto, Timothy Baldwin, and Iryna Gurevych. Are Multilingual LLMs Culturally-Diverse Reasoners? An Investigation into Multicultural Proverbs and Sayings. *NAACL-HLT*, 2024.
  7. **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, Ivan Vulić, and Iryna Gurevych. Improving Generalization of Adapter-Based Cross-lingual Transfer with Scheduled Unfreezing. *NAACL-HLT*, 2024.
  6. **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, Anna Korhonen, Ivan Vulić, and Iryna Gurevych. Delving Deeper into Cross-lingual Visual Question Answering. *EACL - Findings*, 2023.

5. Gregor Geigle, **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, and Iryna Gurevych. One does not fit all! On the Complementarity of Vision Encoders for Vision and Language Tasks. RepL4NLP@ACL, 2023.
4. **Chen Liu**\*, Gregor Geigle\*, Robin Krebs, and Iryna Gurevych. FigMemes: A Dataset for Figurative Language Identification in Politically-Opinionated Memes. EMNLP, 2022.
3. Amir Ganiev, Colton Chapin, Anderson De Andrade, and **Chen Liu**. An Architecture for Accelerated Large-Scale Inference of Transformer-Based Language Models. NAACL - *Industry Track*, 2021.
2. **Chen Liu**, Anderson De Andrade, and Muhammad Osama. 2019. Exploring Multilingual Syntactic Sentence Representations. W-NUT@EMNLP, 2019.
1. **Chen Liu**, Muhammad Osama, and Anderson De Andrade. DENS: A Dataset for Multi-class Emotion Analysis. EMNLP, 2019.

## Relevant Industry Experience

---

<b>ElementAI (ServiceNow)</b> <i>Staff Applied NLP Scientist</i>	Toronto, Canada Dec 2020 - June 2021
<b>Wattpad, (acquired by NAVER WEBTOON)</b> <i>Staff Product &amp; Research Data Scientist</i> <i>Senior Product &amp; Research Data Scientist, Tech Lead</i>	Toronto, Canada Oct 2020 - Dec 2020 May 2017 - Oct 2020
<b>Spotify</b> <i>Machine Learning Engineer</i>	Boston, USA Sep 2016 - May 2017
<b>Meta, (acquired by Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)</b> <i>Machine Learning Engineer</i>	Toronto, Canada Mar 2014 - Aug 2016