Chen Cecilia Liu

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Research Interests

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

Education

University of Cambridge   Cambridge, United Kingdom
Postdoc @ Language Technology Lab   2026 - Current
Advisor: Prof. Anna Korhonen

Technische Universität Darmstadt (TU Darmstadt)   Darmstadt, Germany
Computer Science   2021 - 2025
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-), 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

14. Tonga Junior Cedric, **Chen Liu**, Iryna Gurevych, and Fajri Koto. LLMs as Cultural Archives: Cultural Commonsense Knowledge Graph Extraction. EACL (To appear), 2026.

13. **Chen Liu***, Hiba Arnaout*, Nils Kovačić, Dana Atzil-Slonim, and Iryna Gurevych. Tailored Emotional LLM-Supporter: Enhancing Cultural Sensitivity. EACL (To appear), 2026.

12. **Chen Liu**, Anna Korhonen and Iryna Gurevych. Cultural Learning-Based Culture Adaptation of Language Models. ACL, 2025.

11. Muhammad Farid Adilazuarda, **Chen Liu**, Iryna Gurevych and Alham Fikri Aji. From Surveys to Narratives: Rethinking Cultural Value Adaptation in LLMs. EMNLP, 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-Opinioned 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

ElementAI (ServiceNow)	Toronto, Canada
Staff Applied NLP Scientist	Dec 2020 - June 2021

Wattpad, (acquired by NAVER WEBTOON)	Toronto, Canada
Staff Product & Research Data Scientist	Oct 2020 - Dec 2020
Senior Product & Research Data Scientist, Tech Lead	May 2017 - Oct 2020

Spotify	Boston, USA
Machine Learning Engineer	Sep 2016 - May 2017

Meta, (acquired by Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)	Toronto, Canada
Machine Learning Engineer	Mar 2014 - Aug 2016