

Wei Xu

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RESEARCH	Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Social Media	
EXPERIENCE	Assistant Professor, Ohio State University , Columbus, OH <i>Department of Computer Science and Engineering</i>	Aug 2016 – present
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Computer Science, New York University , New York, NY Advisor: Ralph Grishman; Committee: Satoshi Sekine, Ernest Davis, Bill Dolan (Microsoft Research), Luke Zettlemoyer (University of Washington/Facebook AI)	2014
	B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science, Tsinghua University , Beijing, CHINA	2004/2007
EXPERIENCE	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania , Philadelphia, PA <i>Computer Information and Science Department</i> (Advisor: Chris Callison-Burch)	Feb 2014 – Aug 2016
	Visiting Student, University of Washington , Seattle, WA <i>Computer Science and Engineering Department</i>	Jan 2012 – Dec 2013
	Intern, Microsoft Research , Seattle, WA <i>Internet Services Research Center</i>	Jun – Sep 2011
	Intern, Educational Testing Service , Princeton, NJ <i>Natural Language and Speech Group</i>	Mar – Dec 2010
	Intern, Amazon , Seattle, WA <i>Catalog Quality</i>	May – Sep 2010
AWARDS, GRANTS, GIFTS	Best Paper Award, COLING , 2018 CrowdFlower AI for Everyone Award , 2018 (\$25,000) Criteo Faculty Research Award , 2018 (\$20,000 PI) NSF CRII Award , 2018 (\$175,000 PI) <i>Robust Intelligence: Learning a Timely Semantic Resource from Social Media Data</i> NSF Grant , 2018 – 2021 (\$375,732 PI) <i>Collaborative Research: Automatic Text-Simplification and Reading-Assistance to Support Self-Directed Learning by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Computing Workers</i> DARPA Grant , 2017 – 2021 (\$600,000 co-PI 50%) <i>Computational Simulation of Online Social Behavior</i> NYU MacCracken PhD Fellowship , 2007 – 2012 (\$230,000) Ohio Supercomputer Center Computing Support , 2018 NVIDIA Academic Hardware Gift , 2018 Microsoft Research Gift for WNUT Workshop , 2015	
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	(Note: <u>Underline</u> is used to indicate student advisees at the Ohio State University.) <i>A Word-Complexity Lexicon and A Neural Readability Ranking Model for Lexical Simplification</i> <u>Mounica Maddela</u> , Wei Xu Proceedings of EMNLP 2018, long paper, oral presentation (acceptance rate 25.8%) <i>Neural Network Models for Paraphrase Identification, Semantic Textual Similarity, Natural Language Inference, and Question Answering</i> <u>Wuwei Lan</u> , Wei Xu Proceedings of COLING 2018, long paper (Best Paper Award ; selection rate $8/1017 = 0.79\%$) <i>Taking the First Essential Steps in Automating the Wet Laboratory: Annotating a Corpus of Protocols for Reproducibility</i> <u>Chaitanya Kulkarni</u> , Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Raghu Machiraju NAACL 2018, short paper (acceptance rate 29%) <i>The Importance of Subword Embeddings in Sentence Pair Modeling</i> <u>Wuwei Lan</u> , Wei Xu NAACL 2018, short paper (acceptance rate 29%)	

A Continuously Growing Dataset of Sentential Paraphrases

Wuwei Lan, Siyu Qiu, Hua He, Wei Xu

EMNLP 2017, long paper (acceptance rate 25.8%)

A Minimally Supervised Method for Recognizing and Normalizing Time Expressions in Twitter

Jeniya Tabassum, Alan Ritter, Wei Xu

EMNLP 2016, long paper (acceptance rate 26%)

Optimizing Statistical Machine Translation for Simplification

Wei Xu, Courtney Napoles, Ellie Pavlick, Quanze Chen, Chris Callison-Burch

TACL 2016, long paper, oral presentation at ACL 2016

Discovering User Attribute Stylistic Differences via Paraphrasing

Daniel Preotiuc, Wei Xu, Lyle Ungar

AAAI 2016, long paper, oral presentation (acceptance rate 26%)

Results of the WNUT16 Named Entity Recognition Shared Task

Benjamin Strauss, Bethany Toma, Alan Ritter, Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, Wei Xu

COLING 2016 Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (shared-task overview)

Problems in Current Text Simplification Research: New Data Can Help

Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch, Courtney Napoles

TACL 2015, long paper, oral presentation at EMNLP 2015

Cost Optimization for Crowdsourcing Translation

Mingkun Gao, Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch

NAACL 2015, long paper (acceptance rate 29%)

SemEval-2015 Task 1: Paraphrase and Semantic Similarity in Twitter

Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch, William B. Dolan

SemEval 2015 (shared-task overview)

Extracting Lexically Divergent Paraphrases from Twitter

Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Chris Callison-Burch, William B. Dolan, Yangfeng Ji

TACL 2014, long paper, oral presentation at NAACL 2015

Infusion of Labeled Data into Distant Supervision for Relation Extraction

Maria Pershina, Bonan Min, Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman

ACL 2014, short paper (acceptance rate 25.2%)

Filling Knowledge Base Gaps for Distant Supervision of Relation Extraction

Wei Xu, Raphael Hoffmann, Le Zhao, Ralph Grishman

ACL 2013, short paper (acceptance rate 24%)

Paraphrasing for Style

Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Bill Dolan, Ralph Grishman, Colin Cherry

COLING 2012, long paper (acceptance rate 25%)

Exploiting Syntactic and Distributional Information for Spelling Correction with Web-Scale N-grams Models

Wei Xu, Joel Tetreault, Martin Chodorow, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao

EMNLP 2011, long paper (acceptance rate 23.7%)

Passage Retrieval for Information Extraction using Distant Supervision

Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao

IJCNLP 2011, long paper

Extractive Summarization using Inter- and Intra- Event Relevance

Wenjie Li, Wei Xu, Mingli Wu, Chunfa Yuan, Qin Lu

ACL 2006, long paper, oral presentation (acceptance rate 23%)

SERVICE

Workshop Chair: ACL (2017)

Publicity Chair: EMNLP (2019), NAACL (2018, 2016)

Area Chair: ACL (2019), NAACL (2019), COLING (2018), EMNLP (2018, 2016)

NSF Review Panelist: CISE (2017)

Journal Reviewer: TACL, JAIR

Program Committee: ACL (2018, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013), EMNLP (2017, 2015, 2014), NAACL (2018, 2015), WWW (2017, 2016, 2015), AAAI (2016, 2015, 2012), KDD (2015), COLING (2014)

Organizer: Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (EMNLP 2018 & 2017, COLING 2016, ACL 2015); Shared-task on Paraphrase Identification and Semantic Similarity in Twitter (SemEval 2015)

INVITED TALKS	<i>Learning Large-scale Paraphrases for Natural Language Understanding and Generation</i>	Nov 2017 - 2018
	Midwest Machine Learning Symposium, Chicago; Facebook, Menlo Park; Twitter, San Francisco; IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, New York	
	<i>How AI Understand Language?</i>	Mar 2018
	Women in Analytics Conference, Columbus, OH	
	<i>Can Paraphrase be a Ultimate Solution for NLU and NLG?</i>	July 2017
	Google Research, New York	
	<i>Paraphrase \approx Monolingual Translation</i>	Aug 2016
	Amazon, Berlin, Germany	
	<i>Multiple Instance Learning from Unlimited Text</i>	Oct 2015 – Dec 2016
	Microsoft Research Asia; University of Delaware; University of Edinburgh; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Arizona State University; Vanderbilt University; Imperial College London; University of Waterloo; Indiana University, Bloomington; Washington University, St Louis; Simon Fraser University; University of Alberta; Yale University; University of Maryland	
TEACHING	<i>Learning and Generating Paraphrases from Twitter and Beyond</i>	Feb 2015
	Carnegie Mellon University; Columbia University; Johns Hopkins University	
	<i>Paraphrases in Twitter</i>	Feb 2015
	Twitter, San Francisco	
	<i>Modeling Lexically Divergent Paraphrases in Twitter (and Shakespeare!)</i>	Aug 2014 – Mar 2015
	City University of New York; IBM Research, Almaden; University of California, Berkeley; University of Texas, Austin; Yahoo!, New York; Carnegie Mellon University; Microsoft Research, Redmond	
	<i>CSE 5522 Artificial Intelligence II: Advanced Techniques</i>	Spring 2018, Autumn 2018
	https://cocoxu.github.io/courses/5522_autumn18.html	
	Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level, teaching evaluation 4.85/5.00 (Autumn 2018), 4.50/5.00 (Spring 2018).	
	<i>CSE 5525 Speech and Language Processing</i>	Spring 2017
Outreach	https://cocoxu.github.io/courses/5525_spring17.html	
	Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level, teaching evaluation 3.80/5.00.	
	<i>CSE 5539 Social Media and Text Analytics</i>	Summer 2016, Autumn 2016, Autumn 2017
	http://socialmedia-class.org/	
	Designed a new course integrated with research, covering from basic to state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms. The course material I created has been used by other universities (e.g., University of Utah CS 1060, Georgia Tech CS 6452, Iowa State University MIS 546). Teaching evaluation 5.72/6.00 (Summer 2015), 4.60/5.00 (Autumn 2016), 4.40/5.00 (Autumn 2017).	
	Panelist: Women in Analytics Conference (2018), CogFest - Cognitive Science Festival (2018)	
	Mentor: Women and Underrepresented Minorities in NLP Workshop (2017, 2018)	
	Judge: HackOHIO (2018), OHIO High School Hackathon (2017)	
	Instructor: North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (2016)	
	Organizer: Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (2016)	
Students	Current Ph.D. Advisees: Wuwei Lan, Mounica Maddela, Chao Jiang, Jeniya Tabassum (2/4 are woman)	
	Current Undergrad Advisees: Lillian Chow, Sydney Lee, Rita Tong, Raleigh Potluri (3/4 are woman)	
REFERENCES	Former Student Advisees: Siyu Qiu, Mingkun Gao, Jim Chen, Ray Lei, Maria Pershina, Wenchao Du, Chaitanya Kulkarni, Piyush Ghai, Pravar Mahajan (2/9 are women)	
	Chris Callison-Burch (✉ ccb@cis.upenn.edu)	
	Associate Professor, Computer and Information Science Department	
	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	
	Sloan Research Fellow (2014), Chair of the NAACL Executive Board (2012-2013)	
	Raymond J. Mooney (✉ mooney@cs.utexas.edu)	
	Professor, Computer Science Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX	
	ACL fellow (2014), ACM fellow (2010), AAAI fellow (2005)	
	Bill Dolan (✉ billdol@microsoft.com)	
	Research Manager/Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA	
	Manager of the Natural Language Processing Group	

Joel Tetreault (✉ joel.tetreault@grammarly.com)

Director of Research, Grammarly, New York, NY

Treasurer of NAACL (2013-2016)

Ralph Grishman (✉ grishman@cs.nyu.edu)

Professor, Computer Science Department, New York University, New York, NY

ACL Fellow (2017), President of ACL (1991), Department Chairman (1986-1988)