

Wei Xu

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(Last updated: August 10, 2020)

RESEARCH	Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Social Media	
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Computer Science, New York University , New York, NY	2014
	Thesis: <i>Data-driven Approaches for Paraphrasing Across Language Variations</i>	
	Advisor: Ralph Grishman; Committee: Satoshi Sekine, Ernest Davis, Bill Dolan (Microsoft Research), Luke Zettlemoyer (University of Washington/Facebook AI Research)	
	B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science, Tsinghua University , Beijing, CHINA	2004/2007
	Thesis: <i>Event-relevance Based Summarization</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	United States	
APPOINTMENTS	Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology , Atlanta, GA	Aug 2020 – present
	<i>School of Interactive Computing</i>	
	Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University , Columbus, OH	Aug 2016 – July 2020
	<i>Department of Computer Science and Engineering</i>	
	Visiting Faculty, Carnegie Mellon University , Pittsburgh, PA	Summer 2019
	<i>Language Technologies Institute</i> (Host: Graham Neubig)	
	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania , Philadelphia, PA	Feb 2014 – Aug 2016
	<i>Computer Information and Science Department</i> (Advisor: Chris Callison-Burch)	
	Visiting PhD Student, University of Washington , Seattle, WA	Jan 2012 – Dec 2013
	<i>Computer Science and Engineering Department</i>	
	Research Intern, Microsoft Research , Seattle, WA	Summer 2011
	<i>Internet Services Research Center</i>	
	Research Intern, Educational Testing Service , Princeton, NJ	Mar – May, Sep – Dec 2010
	<i>Natural Language and Speech Group</i>	
	Engineer Intern, Amazon.com , Seattle, WA	Summer 2010
	<i>Catalog Quality Group</i>	
	Research Intern, Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Sep 2005 – Feb 2006
	<i>Department of Computing</i>	
AWARDS	Best Paper Award, COLING , 2018	
	Criteo Faculty Research Award (\$20,000), 2018	
	CrowdFlower AI for Everyone Award (\$25,000), 2018	
	NSF CRII Award , 2018	
	NYU MacCracken PhD Fellowship , 2007 – 2012	
GRANTS	NSF Grant Collaborative Research: Automatic Text-Simplification and Reading-Assistance to Support Self-Directed Learning by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Computing Workers	2018 – 2021
	PI (100%), total \$375,732 (including \$8,000 REU supplement)	
	NSF CRII RI: Learning a Timely Semantic Resource from Social Media Data	2018 – 2021
	PI (100%), total \$183,000 (including \$8,000 REU supplement)	
	IARPA Research Grant Better Extraction from Text Towards Enhanced Retrieval	2019 – 2023
	co-PI (50%), total \$850,000 (prime: Brown University)	
	DARPA Research Grant Computational Simulation of Online Social Behavior	2017 – 2021
	co-PI (50%), total \$600,000 (prime: Leidos)	
SERVICES	Best Paper Award Committee: EMNLP (2018)	
	Area Chair/Senior Area Chair: ACL (2020, 2019), AAAI (2020), NAACL (2019), COLING (2018), EMNLP (2020, 2018, 2016)	
	Program Committee: ACL (2018, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013), EMNLP (2017, 2015, 2014), NAACL (2015) WWW (2017, 2016, 2015), AAAI (2016, 2015, 2012), KDD (2015), COLING (2014)	
	Publicity Chair: EMNLP (2019), NAACL (2018, 2016)	
	Workshop Chair: ACL (2017)	
	Steering Committee: SemEval (2017)	
	NSF Review Panelist: CISE (2017)	

Journal Reviewer: Transactions of the Association for Computational (TACL), Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR)

Organizer: Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (<http://noisy-text.github.io/>) at EMNLP (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017), COLING (2016), ACL (2015); Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (2016); SemEval Task 1: Paraphrase Identification and Semantic Similarity in Twitter (2015)

PUBLICATIONS

(Underline is used to indicate student advisees at the Ohio State University. TACL is one of the most selective venues for NLP publications, which allows authors to choose any of the ACL/NAACL/EMNLP conferences to present the paper.)

Neural CRF Model for Sentence Alignment in Text Simplification

Chao Jiang, Mounica Maddela, Wuwei Lan, Yang Zhong, Wei Xu

ACL 2020, long paper (acceptance rate 25.2%)

An Empirical Study of Named Entity Recognition in StackOverflow

Jeniya Tabassum, Mounica Maddela, Wei Xu, Alan Ritter

ACL 2020, long paper (acceptance rate 25.2%)

Generalizing Natural Language Analysis through Span-relation Representations

Zhengbao Jiang, Wei Xu, Jun Araki, Graham Neubig

ACL 2020, long paper (acceptance rate 25.2%)

Learning Relation Entailment with Structured and Textual Information

Zhengbao Jiang, Jun Araki, Donghan Yu, Ruohong Zhang, Wei Xu, Yiming Yang, Graham Neubig

AKBC 2020, long paper

Discourse Level Factors for Sentence Deletion in Text Simplification

Yang Zhong, Chao Jiang, Wei Xu, Junyi Jessy Li

AAAI 2020, long paper (acceptance rate 20.6%; oral presentation)

Multi-task Pairwise Neural Ranking for Hashtag Segmentation

Mounica Maddela, Wei Xu, Daniel Preotiuc-Pietro

ACL 2019, long paper (acceptance rate 25.7%)

A Word-Complexity Lexicon and A Neural Readability Ranking Model for Lexical Simplification

Mounica Maddela, Wei Xu

EMNLP 2018, long paper (acceptance rate 25.8%; oral presentation)

Neural Network Models for Paraphrase Identification, Semantic Textual Similarity, Natural Language Inference, and Question Answering

Wuwei Lan, Wei Xu

COLING 2018, long paper (**Best Paper Award**; selection rate $8/888 = 0.90\%$)

An Annotated Corpus for Machine Reading of Instructions in Wet Lab Protocols

Chaitanya Kulkarni, Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Raghu Machiraju

NAACL 2018, short paper (acceptance rate 29%)

Character-based Neural Networks for Sentence Pair Modeling

Wuwei Lan, 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%)

From Shakespeare to Twitter: What are Language Styles all about?

Wei Xu

EMNLP 2017 Workshop on Stylistic Variation

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%; oral presentation)

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-Pietro, Wei Xu, Lyle Ungar

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

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, long paper (shared-task overview)

Shared Tasks of the 2015 Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text: Twitter Lexical Normalization and Named Entity Recognition
 Timothy Baldwin, Marie Catherine de Marneffe, Bo Han, Young-Bum Kim, Alan Ritter, Wei Xu
 ACL 2015 Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (shared-task overview; author ordered alphabetically)

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%; oral presentation)

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%)

Gathering and Generating Paraphrases from Twitter with Application to Normalization
 Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Ralph Grishman
 ACL Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora 2013

A Preliminary Study of Tweet Summarization using Information Extraction
 Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman, Adam Meyers, Alan Ritter
 NAACL Workshop on Language Analysis in Social Media 2013

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%)

New York University 2011 System for KBP (Knowledge Base Population) Slot Filing
 Ang Sun, Ralph Grishman, Wei Xu, Bonan Min
 TAC 2011 (best performance system in NIST KBP-2011 evaluation)

Passage Retrieval for Information Extraction using Distant Supervision
 Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao
 IJCNLP 2011, long paper (acceptance rate 36%)

Who, What, When, Where, Why? Comparing Multiple Approaches to the Cross-Lingual 5W Task
 Kristen Parton, Kathleen McKeown, Bob Coyne, Mona Diab, Ralph Grishman, Dilek Hakkani-Tür, Mary Harper, Heng Ji, Weiyun Ma, Adam Meyers, Sara Stolbach, Ang Sun, Gokhan Tur, Wei Xu, Sibel Yaman
 ACL 2009, long paper (acceptance rate 21%; oral presentation)

A Parse-and-Trim Approach with Information Significance for Chinese Sentence Compression
 Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman
 ACL Workshop on Language Generation and Summarisation 2009

Transducing Logical Relations from Automatic and Manual Annotation
 Adam Meyers, Michiko Kosaka, Heng Ji, Nianwen Xue, Mary Harper, Ang Sun, Wei Xu, Shasha Liao
 ACL Workshop on Linguistic Annotation 2009

Automatic Recognition of Logical Relations for English, Chinese and Japanese in the GLARF Framework
 Adam Meyers, Michiko Kosaka, Nianwen Xue, Heng Ji, Ang Sun, Shasha Liao, Wei Xu
 SemEval 2009, long paper

Extractive Summarization using Inter- and Intra- Event Relevance
 Wenjie Li, Wei Xu, Mingli Wu, Chunfa Yuan, Qin Lu

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

Using Non-Local Features to Improve Named Entity Recognition Recall

Xinnian Mao, Wei Xu, Yuan Dong, Haila Wang

PACLIC 2007, long paper

Deriving Event Relevance from the Ontology Constructed with Formal Concept Analysis

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

CICLing 2006, long paper (acceptance rate 30.4%; oral presentation)

Building Document Graph for Text Summarization: An Event-based Approach

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

ICCPOL 2006

The THU/PolyU System at MSE 2006: An Event-relevance based Approach

Wei Xu, Chunfa Yuan, Mingling Wu, Wenjie Li

MSE 2006

STUDENTS

Mounica Maddela (PhD student at GaTech)	2017 – present
Chao Jiang (PhD student at GaTech)	2018 – present
Wuwei Lan (PhD student at OSU)	2016 – present
Jeniya Tabassum (PhD student at OSU - co-advisor: Alan Ritter)	2016 – present
Yang Zhong (PhD student at OSU)	2019 – present
Sarah Flanagan (undergraduate at OSU)	2018 – present
Sam Stevens (undergraduate at OSU)	2019 – present
Yulu Qin (undergraduate at OSU)	Summer 2020 – present
Kenneth Koepcke (undergraduate at OSU)	Summer 2020 – present
Brian Seeds (undergraduate at OSU)	Summer 2020 – present
Panya Bhinder (high school intern at OSU)	Summer 2020 – present
Solomon Wood (high school intern at OSU)	Spring 2020
Ethan Lee (undergraduate at OSU)	2019 – 2020
Daniel Szoke (undergraduate at OSU)	2019 – 2020
Jaewook Lee (undergraduate at OSU)	2019 – 2020
Raleigh Potluri (undergraduate student at OSU)	2018 – 2019
Lillian Chow (undergraduate student at OSU)	2018 – 2019
Sydney Lee (completed undergraduate at OSU, now at Capital One)	2018 – 2020
Rita Tong (completed undergraduate student at OSU, now a masters student at UWisconsin)	2018 – 2019
Pravar Mahajan (completed Masters student at OSU, now at Google)	2016 – 2017
Piyush Ghai (completed Masters student at OSU, now at Amazon)	Autumn 2017
Mingkun Gao (completed Masters student at UPenn, now a PhD student at UIUC)	2015
Siyu Qiu (completed Masters student at UPenn, now at Hulu)	2015
Jim Chen (completed undergraduate student at UPenn, now a PhD student at UW)	2014 – 2015
Ray Lei (completed undergraduate student at UPenn, now at Microsoft)	2014
Chaitanya Kulkarni (PhD student at OSU - advisor: Raghu Machiraju)	2017 – 2018
Sanqiang Zhao (PhD student at UPitt - phd thesis committee)	2019
Kai Cao (completed PhD student at NYU - phd thesis committee)	2017
Maria Pershina (completed PhD student at NYU, now at Bloomberg - phd thesis committee)	2014

TEACHING

CSE 5539 Social Media and Text Analytics (<http://socialmedia-class.org/>)

A new course integrated with research, covering from basic to state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms (teaching evaluation: 4.13/5.00 Autumn 2019, 4.40/5.00 Autumn 2017, 4.60/5.00 Autumn 2016; 5.72/6.00 at NASSLLI 2015)

CSE 5522 Artificial Intelligence II: Advanced Techniques

Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level

(teaching evaluation: Spring 2020, 4.85/5.00 Autumn 2018, 4.50/5.00 Spring 2018)

CSE 5525 Speech and Language Processing

Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level (teaching evaluation 3.80/5.00 Spring 2017)

INVITED

TALKS

Understanding and Generating Human Language

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Feb 2020

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Jan 2020

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Dec 2019

Learning for Unlimited Human Language

Peking University, Beijing, China

Dec 2018

Learning Large-scale Paraphrases for Natural Language Understanding and Generation

	Midwest Machine Learning Symposium, Chicago, IL	Jun 2018
	Facebook, Menlo Park, CA	May 2018
	Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, CA	May 2018
	Twitter, San Francisco, CA	May 2018
	IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, New York, NY	Nov 2017
	How does AI Understand Language?	
	Women in Analytics Conference, Columbus, OH (Main Stage Panel)	Mar 2018
	Can Paraphrase be a Ultimate Solution for NLU and NLG?	
	Google Research, New York, NY	Jul 2017
	Paraphrase \approx Monolingual Translation	
	Amazon, Berlin, Germany	Aug 2016
	Multiple Instance Learning from Unlimited Text	
	Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China	Dec 2016
	University of Delaware, Newark, DE	Sep 2016
	University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom	May 2016
	Ohio State University, Columbus, OH	Apr 2016
	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC	Apr 2016
	Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ	Mar 2016
	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN	Mar 2016
	Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom	Mar 2016
	University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada (CS Seminar)	Mar 2016
	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (Computer Science Colloquium Series)	Feb 2016
	Washington University, St Louis, MI (Computer Science & Engineering Colloquia Series)	Feb 2016
	Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada	Feb 2016
	University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada	Feb 2016
	Yale University, New Haven, CT (CS Talk)	Feb 2016
	University of Maryland, College Park, MD (CLIP Colloquium)	Oct 2015
	Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (Clippers Seminar)	Oct 2015
	Large-scale Paraphrase Acquisition from Twitter	
	DARPA's DEFT Project Meeting, Boulder, CO	May 2015
	Learning and Generating Paraphrases from Twitter and Beyond	
	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA	Apr 2015
	Columbia University, New York, NY (NLP Talk)	Apr 2015
	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (CLSP Colloquium)	Feb 2015
	Paraphrases in Twitter	
	Twitter, San Francisco, CA	Feb 2015
	Modeling Lexically Divergent Paraphrases in Twitter (and Shakespeare!)	
	The City University of New York, New York, NY (NLP Seminar)	Mar 2015
	IBM Research - Almaden, San Jose, CA	Feb 2015
	University of California, Berkeley, CA	Feb 2015
	The University of Texas, Austin, TX (Forum for Artificial Intelligence)	Feb 2015
	Yahoo!, New York, NY	Dec 2014
	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (CL+NLP Lunch Seminar)	Nov 2014
	Microsoft Research, Seattle, WA (Visiting Speaker Series)	Aug 2014
	Incremental Information Extraction	
	Stanford Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA	Apr 2012
	IARPA's KDD Project Meeting, San Diego, CA	May 2011
	Information Extraction Research	
	University of Washington, Seattle, WA	Jan 2011
	Event-based Summarization	
	Thomson Reuters, Eagan, Minnesota, MN	Nov 2009
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	Mentor, Group Mentoring Sessions for undergraduate/master students at ACL 2020	July 2020
	Speaker/Judge, Ohio High School Hackathon	Mar 2019
	Speaker, Franklin Friday art and science festival in Columbus Ohio	Mar 2019
	Panelist, CogFest - Cognitive Science Festival	Apr 2018
	Mentor, Women and Underrepresented Minorities in NLP Workshop	Jun 2018
	Mentor, OSU's AI Hackathon	Apr 2018
	Speaker/Panelist, Women in Analytics Conference	Mar 2018

	Speaker, OSU's AI Club	Feb 2018
	Judge, HackOhio	Oct 2017
	Mentor, Women and Underrepresented Minorities in NLP Workshop	Jul 2017
	Judge, Ohio High School Hackathon	Mar 2017
	Presenter, Philadelphia Science Festival	Apr 2015
OPEN SOURCE CODE / DATA	<i>#HashtagMaster: A Semantic Analysis Tool for Hashtags</i> https://mounicam.github.io/hashtag_master	Jun 2019
	<i>Pairwise Neural Ranking Model and SimplePPDB++</i> https://github.com/lanwuwei/SPM_toolkit	Oct 2018
	<i>SPM Toolkit for Sentence Pair Modeling</i> https://github.com/lanwuwei/SPM_toolkit	Aug 2018
	<i>LanguageNet: Large-scale Paraphrase Corpus</i> https://github.com/lanwuwei/paraphrase-dataset	Sep 2017
	<i>Syntax MT-based Text Simplification System and SARI Evaluation Metric</i> https://github.com/cocoxu/simplification/ (contribution to the Joshua Machine Translation Toolkit)	May 2015
	<i>NEWSELA Text Simplification Corpus</i> https://newsele.com/data/ (widely adopted as the benchmark for text simplification research)	Sep 2015
	<i>Multiple-instance Learning Paraphrase Model</i> https://github.com/cocoxu/multip	Dec 2014
	<i>Twitter Paraphrase Corpus</i> (shared-task at SemEval-2015) http://alt.qcri.org/semeval2015/task1/	Oct 2014
	<i>Event-based Twitter Summarization System</i> https://github.com/cocoxu/twittersummarization/	Nov 2013
	<i>Twitter Normalization Phrase Table</i> https://github.com/cocoxu/twitterparaphrase/	Oct 2014
	<i>Parallel Shakespeare Corpus and Model</i> https://github.com/cocoxu/Shakespeare/	Jul 2012

REFERENCES

Chris Callison-Burch

Associate Professor, Computer and Information Science Department
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Sloan Research Fellow (2014), Chair of the NAACL Executive Board (2012-2013)
✉ ccb@cis.upenn.edu
<http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~ccb/>

Ralph Grishman

Professor, Computer Science Department, New York University, New York, NY
ACL Fellow (2017), President of ACL (1991), Department Chairman (1986-1988)
✉ grishman@cs.nyu.edu
<http://cs.nyu.edu/grishman/>

Mitch Marcus

Professor Emeritus, Computer and Information Science Department
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
ACL fellow (2011), AAAI fellow (1992), President of ACL (1997), Department Chairman
✉ mitch@cis.upenn.edu
<https://www.cis.upenn.edu/~mitch/home.html>

Raymond Mooney

Professor, Computer Science Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX
ACL fellow (2014), ACM fellow (2010), AAAI fellow (2005)
✉ mooney@cs.utexas.edu
<https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~mooney/>

Luke Zettlemoyer

Associate Professor, Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington, Seattle, WA / Facebook AI Research
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<https://www.cs.washington.edu/people/faculty/lsz>