

Catherine Tong

Contact Details

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Education

2017–2021 **Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil)**, *University of Oxford, Computer Science.*

Supervised by Associate Prof. Nicholas D. Lane.

Thesis: Machine Learning on Human Behavioural Data.

President of Oxford Women in Computer Science Society, 2020.

Google Generation Scholar, 2021.

2013–2017 **Master of Physics (MPhys)**, *University of Oxford, Physics.*

Focus: Theoretical Physics and Atmospheric Physics.

Graduated with First Class Honours.

Research Interests

Ubiquitous Sensing · ML for health · Multi-modal learning · Graph Neural Networks

My current research focuses on developing machine learning methods which model varieties of behavioural data collected through everyday sensing devices. I am particularly interested in developing solutions to the sparse data problem in human activity recognition, through leveraging multiple modalities and domain knowledge.

Journal and Conference Papers

*Equal Contributions

- 2020 Christian Schroeder de Witt*, **Catherine Tong***, Valentina Zantedeschi, Daniele De Martini, Alfredo Kalaitzis, Matthew Chantry, Duncan Watson-Parris and Piotr Biliński. [RainBench: Towards Data-Driven Global Precipitation Forecasting from Satellite Imagery](#) In *the 35th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*.
- 2020 Hyeokhyen Kwon*, **Catherine Tong***, Harish Haresamudram, Yan Gao, Gregory D. Abowd, Nicholas D. Lane, and Thomas Plötz. [IMUTube: Automatic Extraction of Virtual on-body Accelerometry from Video for Human Activity Recognition](#) In *Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (IMWUT), Volume 4 Issue 4*.
- 2019 **Catherine Tong**, Matthew Craner, Matthieu Vegreville, and Nicholas D. Lane. [Tracking Fatigue and Health State in Multiple Sclerosis Patients Using Connected Wellness Devices](#) In *IMWUT, Volume 3 Issue 3*. Also in *MobiUK '19*.
- 2018 Valentin Radu, **Catherine Tong**, Sourav Bhattacharya, Nicholas D. Lane, Cecilia Mascolo, Mahesh K. Marina, and Fahim Kawsar. [Multimodal Deep Learning for Activity and Context Recognition](#) In *IMWUT Volume 1 Issue 4*. Also in *MobiUK '18*.
- 2018 Vincent WS. Tseng, Sourav Bhattacharya, Javier Fernández Marqués, Milad Alizadeh, **Catherine Tong**, and Nicholas D. Lane. [Deterministic Binary Filters for Convolutional Neural Networks](#) In *The 27th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI '18)*.

Workshops, Posters and Others

- 2021 **Catherine Tong***, Emma Rocheteau*, Petar Veličković, Nicholas D. Lane and Pietro Liò. [Predicting Patient Outcomes with Graph Representation Learning](#) In *International Workshop on Health Intelligence (W3PHIAI '21) in conjunction with AAAI '21*. **Best Short Paper Runner-up Award**.
- 2020 Valentina Zantedeschi*, Daniele De Martini*, **Catherine Tong***, Christian Schroeder de Witt, Alfredo Kalaitzis, Matthew Chantry, Duncan Watson-Parris and Piotr Biliński. [Towards Data-Driven Physics-Informed Global Precipitation Forecasting from Satellite Imagery](#) In *Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning (NeurIPS 2020 Workshop)*.
- 2020 **Catherine Tong***, Christian Schroeder de Witt*, Valentina Zantedeschi, Daniele De Martini, Alfredo Kalaitzis, Matthew Chantry, Duncan Watson-Parris and Piotr Biliński. [RainBench: Enabling Data-Driven Precipitation Forecasting on a Global Scale](#) In *Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning (NeurIPS 2020 Workshop)*.
- 2020 **Catherine Tong**, Shyam A. Tailor, and Nicholas D. Lane. [Are Accelerometers for Activity Recognition a Dead-end?](#) In *The 21st International Workshop on Mobile Computing Systems and Applications (Hotmobile '20)*.
- 2018 **Catherine Tong**, Gabriella M. Harrari, Angela Chieh, Otmane Bellahsen, Matthieu Vegreville, Eva Roitmann and Nicholas D. Lane. [Poster: Inference of Big-Five Personality Using Large-scale Networked Mobile and Appliance Data](#) In *The 15th ACM International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications, and Services (MobiSys '18)*.
- 2017 **Catherine Tong**, Omar A. Guerrero, Eduardo Lopez and Felix Reed-Tsochas. [Diffusing Workers in a Multiplex World](#). Master's thesis

Experience

- Aug 2020 – 2021 **Oxford Women in Computer Science Society, President**.
I oversee the workings of the society – I work with the committee to organize outreach, academic and industry events, liaise with University departments and external sponsors, and represent the society in general.
- June – Aug 2020 **Frontier Development Lab, Machine Learning Researcher**.
Focus: Enabling global medium-range precipitation forecasts from satellite imagery.
I am part of the Digital Twin Earth team.
We are developing a novel multi-modal system which incorporate physical understanding into a deep learning approach for skillful forecasts across the globe.
- June – Sep 2019 **Microsoft Research, Cambridge, Research Intern**.
Focus: Understanding the behaviours of mental health patients on an online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy platform.
I was part of Project Talia in the Healthcare Intelligence group.
We developed a deep learning framework to analyze and predict health outcomes (as measured by depression scores) by modelling patients' browsing trajectories and relevant site content.
- June – Sep 2017 **Nokia Bell Labs, Cambridge, Research Intern**.
Focus: Analyzing multi-modal deep learning models for activity and context recognition.
We compared the performance of different multi-modal setups. We also trained machine learning models to analyze health-related data collected by smart appliances in the *Withings* range.

- May – July 2017 **Centre for Agent-Based Dynamic Networks, University of Oxford, Research Assistant.**
Focus: Modelling the labour economy using methods from Statistical Physics.
We formulated and solved an agent-based Markov model on multiplex networks to describe the movement of labour across the economy. We analyzed the approach on UK labour survey data.
- May – July 2020 **Ufonia, Part-time Researcher.**
Focus: Automating post-surgery phone conversations with NHS patients.
I helped develop a knowledge-graph-based approach to structure incoming conversation data.

Volunteer Activities

- 2021 **Co-Founder**, GirlsWhoML
- 2019-2021 **Membership Co-Chair**, N2Women Board
- 2017-Present **Committee**, Oxford Women in Computer Science Society
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**, *Foundamentals of Sensing*
- 2014-2017 **Undergraduate Mentor**, Oxford Women in Physics Society
- 2014-2015 **Volunteer Tutor**, Jacari Oxford (Registered charity)

Awards

- 2021-2022 Google Generation Scholarship
- 2017-2022 EPSRC DPhil (PhD) Scholarship
- 2018, 2020 ACM Student Travel Award
- 2016 Examiners' Commendation for Best Practical Work in Physics
- 2013-2017 College Scholarship for Outstanding Performance in Physics Exams