

Elena Sizikova

Moore Sloan Faculty Fellow/Assistant Professor, Center for Data Science, New York University (NYU)

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Date Prepared: June 18, 2021

Education

Princeton University, Department of Computer Science

PhD Student and National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellow advised by Prof. Thomas Funkhouser

Princeton, NJ

2013 - 2019

University of Oxford

BA Mathematics and Computer Science

Oxford, UK

2010 - 2013

Work Experience

New York University

Moore Sloan Faculty Fellow/Assistant Professor

New York, NY

September 2019 - Present

New York University

Postdoctoral Associate, Denis Pelli Lab, Department of Psychology

New York, NY

September 2019 - Present

Siemens Healthcare, Vision Technologies and Solutions (VTS) Group

Research Intern

Princeton, NJ

June 2015 - April 2016, June 2017 - November 2017

Adobe Research, Creative Technologies Lab (CTL)

Research Intern

Seattle, WA

June 2016 - September 2016

Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS)

Intern Software Developer

Heidelberg, Germany

June 2013 - October 2013

Art of Problem Solving Inc.

Instructor Contractor

Remote

August 2011 - August 2019

Codecademy

Teaching Assistant Contractor

Princeton, NJ and New York, NY

Fall 2014

UCLA IPAM Research in Industrial Projects for Students Program (RIPS)

Team Project Manager

Los Angeles, CA

June 2012 - August 2012

Hein Lab, Oxford University

Computational Biology Summer School Participant and Research Assistant

Oxford, UK

August 2011 - September 2012

Manuscripts and Work in Progress

- A. Subramanian*, O. Kumbhar*, **E. Sizikova**, N.J. Majaj, D. G. Pelli: Using Dynamic Neural Networks to Model the Speed-Accuracy Trade-Off in People. Under Review. 2021.
- H. V. Vo* , **E. Sizikova**, P. Perez, J. Ponce: Large-Scale Unsupervised Object Discovery. arXiv:2106.06650. 2021.
- J. Haddock, L. Kassab*, S. Li, A. Kryshchenko, R. Grotheer, **E. Sizikova**, C. Wang, T. Merkh, R. W. M. A. Madushani, M. Ahn, D. Needell, K. Leonard. Semi-supervised NMF Models for Topic Modeling in Learning Tasks. arXiv:2010.07956. 2020.
- S. Siddiqui*, **E. Sizikova**, G. Roig, N. J. Majaj, D. G. Pelli: Using Human Psychophysics to Evaluate Generalization in Scene Text Recognition Models. arXiv:2007.00083. 2020.
- **E. Sizikova**, J. Vendrow*, R. Grotheer, J. Haddock, L. Kassab, A. Kryshchenko, T. Merkh, M. Rajapaksha, H. V. Vo, C. Wang, K. Leonard, D. Needell: Weakly-Supervised Object Localization using Semi-Supervised Non-Negative Matrix Factorization. In Preparation.

- O. Kumbhar*, **E. Sizikova**, N.J. Majaj, D. G. Pelli: Anytime Prediction as a Model of Human Reaction Time. arXiv:2011.12859. 2020.

* - denotes student author.

Publications

- T. Chu*, X. Li*, H. V. Vo*, R. M. Summers, **E. Sizikova**: Improving Weakly Supervised Lesion Segmentation using Multi-Task Learning. Medical Imaging with Deep Learning (MIDL) Conference 2021. * - equal contribution.
- F. Wei*, **E. Sizikova**, A. Sud, T. Funkhouser, S. Rusinkiewicz: Learning to Infer Semantic Parameters for 3D Shape Editing. International Conference on 3D Vision (3DV) 2020.
- M. Ahn, N. Eikmeier, J. Haddock, L. Kassab*, A. Kryshchenko, K. Leonard, D. Needell, R. W. M. A. Madushani, **E. Sizikova**, C. Wang: On Large-Scale Dynamic Topic Modeling with Nonnegative CP Tensor Decomposition. Women in Data Science and Mathematics (WiSDM) Workshop Proceedings, "Advances in Data Science", AWM-Springer series, 2020.
- **E. Balashova**, J. Wang, V. Singh, B. Georgescu, B. Teixeira*, A. Kapoor: 3D Organ Shape Reconstruction from Topogram Images. International Conference on Information Processing in Medical Imaging (IPMI) 2019.
- **E. Sizikova**: Shape Synthesis Using Structure-Aware Reasoning. PhD Thesis, Princeton University, 2019.
- I. Demir, C. Hahn, K. Leonard, G. Morin, D. Rahbani, A. Panotopoulou, A. Fondevilla, **E. Balashova**, B. Durix, A. Kortylewski: SkelNetOn 2019 Dataset and Challenge on Deep Learning for Geometric Shape Understanding. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2019 Workshops.
- I. Amerini, **E. Balashova**, S. Ebrahimi, K. Leonard, A. Nagrani, A. Salvador: WiCV 2019: The Sixth Women In Computer Vision Workshop. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2019 Workshops.
- **E. Balashova**, A. Bermano, V. Kim, S. DiVerdi, A. Hertzmann, T. Funkhouser: Learning a Stroke-Based Representation for Fonts. Computer Graphics Forum (CGF) 2018.
- **E. Balashova**, V. Singh, B. Teixeira*, J. Wang, T. Chen, T. Funkhouser: Structure-Aware Shape Synthesis. International Conference on 3D Vision (3DV) 2018. **Spotlight Presentation.**
- B. Teixeira*, V. Singh, K. Ma, B. Tamersoy, T. Chen, Y. Wu, **E. Balashova**, D. Comaniciu: Generating Synthetic X-ray Images of a Person from the Surface Geometry. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2018. **Spotlight Presentation.**
- **E. Sizikova**, T. Funkhouser: Fresco Reconstruction Using a Genetic Algorithm. ACM Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage (JOCCH) 2018.
- A. Stank, D.B. Kokh, M. Horn, **E. Sizikova**, R. Neil, J. Panecka, S. Richter, R.C. Wade: TRAPP webserver: predicting protein binding site flexibility and detecting transient binding pockets. Journal of Nucleic Acids Research 2017.
- **E. Sizikova**, V. K. Singh, B. Georgescu, M. Halber, K. Ma, T. Chen: Enhancing Place Recognition using Joint Intensity - Depth Analysis and Synthetic Data. European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV) Workshop on Virtual/Augmented Reality for Visual Artificial Intelligence (VARVAI), 2016. **Best Paper Award.**
- **E. Sizikova**, T. Funkhouser: Fresco Reconstruction Using a Genetic Algorithm. EUROGRAPHICS Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage (GCH), 2016. **Best Paper Award.**
- O. Fried*, S. Di Verdi, M. Halber, **E. Sizikova**, A. Finkelstein: IsoMatch: Creating Informative Grid Layouts. EUROGRAPHICS 2015.
- R. Lyngsø, J. Anderson, **E. Sizikova**, A. Badugu, T. Hyland and J. Hein. Frnakenstein: Multiple target inverse RNA folding. BMC Bioinformatics, 2012. **High access factor noted by BMC Bioinformatics.**

* - denotes student author.

Conference Abstracts

- **E. Sizikova**, C. Long*, O. Kumbhar*, N. Majaj, D. G. Pelli: Word Recognition in Humans and Deep Neural Networks. Cold Spring Harbor Lab (CSHL) 2020 From Neuroscience to Artificially Intelligent Systems (NAISys) Virtual Conference 2020.
- **E. Sizikova**, C. Long*, O. Kumbhar*, N. Majaj, D. G. Pelli: Comparing Word Recognition by Humans and Deep Neural Networks. Vision Sciences Society (VSS) Meeting 2020.
- **E. Sizikova**, T. Funkhouser: Automatically Assembling Frescos from Noisy Pairwise Fragment Measurements. Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA), 2015. Oral Presentation.
- C. Quaranta*, I. A. Ibarra*, E. Schwartz*, **E. Sizikova***: Improving Cross-lingual Search Quality. Joint Mathematical Meetings (JMM) 2013. Invited Talk. (* denotes equal contribution.)

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Teaching

Instructor for Introduction to Computer Vision

NYU Department of Computer Science, with Prof. Jean Ponce

Spring 2021

Instructor for Capstone Project and Presentation Course

NYU Center for Data Science (CDS)

Fall 2020

Instructor for Capstone Project and Presentation Course

NYU Center for Data Science (CDS)

Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant for COS424: Fundamentals of Machine Learning

Princeton University, Department of Computer Science

Princeton, NJ

February 2016 - June 2016

Teaching Assistant for COS226: Data Structures and Algorithms

Princeton University, Department of Computer Science

Princeton, NJ

September 2015 - January 2016

Awards and Honors

Rising Star in Engineering in Health

Awarded by the School of Engineering and College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University

December 2020

Moore Sloan Fellowship

Research support for data science research at the NYU Center for Data Science.

2019 - 2021

ECCVW Best Paper Award, sponsored by Xerox Research Europe and Facebook AI Research

Awarded for Enhancing Place Recognition Project

October 2016

EUROGRAPHICS GCH Best Paper Award

Awarded for Fresco Project

October 2016

NSF Graduate Fellowship

Support of graduate research and tuition for the period of three years

June 2014 - June 2018

St. Annes College Exhibition

Awarded for excellent performance in Moderations and Part A exams

October 2011, October 2012

Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM) Essay Contest

Honorable Mention

April 2009

1st Place in Intl. Caucus for Women in Stat. Poster Competition

Poster titled: Potential Risk Factors for Drug Addiction

February 2009

USA Mathematical Talent Search Silver and Bronze Medalist

USAMTS is a prestigious nationwide competition in mathematics

September 2007 - May 2009

Invited Talks

March 2021: Improving Weakly Supervised Lesion Segmentation using Multi-Task Learning, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

October 2020: Weakly Supervised Localization for COVID-19 Analysis, NYU COVID-19 Research Meeting

October 2020: Comparing Word Recognition by Humans and Deep Neural Networks and Application of Understanding Dyslexia, Academic Data Science Alliance (ADSA) Annual Meeting

July 2020: Comparing Humans and Neural Networks with Applications to Studying Dyslexia, Summer Incubator Lunch and Learn (NYU Data Science)

April 2020: Shape Synthesis Using Structure-Aware Reasoning and Medical Applications, California State University, Channel Islands (CSU-CI)

November 2019: Structure-Aware Reasoning and Learning, Samsung Research NY

October 2019: Shape Synthesis Using Structure-Aware Reasoning and Medical Applications (NYU Data Science)

June 2019: Structure-Aware Shape Analysis in Medical Imaging, NYU School of Medicine, Radiology Seminar

May 2019: Learning A Stroke-Based Representation for Fonts, EUROGRAPHICS 2019

July 2018: Structure-Aware Shape Synthesis, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (MPI)

September 2018: Structure-Aware Shape Synthesis, 3DV 2018

October 2016: Wall Painting Reconstruction Using a Genetic Algorithm, EUROGRAPHICS Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage (GCH) 2016

March 2015: Automatically Assembling Frescos From Noisy Pairwise Fragment Measurements, Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) 2015

January 2013: Improving Cross-lingual Search Quality, Joint Mathematical Meetings (JMM) 2013

Grants and Funding

NYU Center For Data Science/DS3/Moore Sloan Foundation	\$5,000
<i>Funding for project titled "Interpretable Tensor Factorization Methods for COVID-19 Progression Analysis"</i>	May 2020
NSF Graduate Fellowship	\$132,000
<i>Support of graduate research and tuition for the period of three years</i>	June 2014 - June 2018

Travel Scholarships and Grants

NYU Center for Data Science Grace Hopper Support	
<i>Support to attend the Virtual Grace Hopper Conference</i>	September 2020
Elsevier/Vision Research Travel Award	
<i>Travel grant to present a poster at the Vision Science Society (VSS) Meeting</i>	May 2020
Moore Sloan Data Science (MSDS) Summit	
<i>Travel grant to attend and present a poster at the annual summit in Santa Fe, NM</i>	November 2019
Women in Data Science and Mathematics (WiSDM) 2019 Travel Grant	
<i>Travel grant to attend the workshop in Brown University, Providence Rhode Island</i>	July 2019
AWM SIAM Travel Grant	
<i>Support to the attend AWM Workshop at the 2018 SIAM Annual Meeting and present a poster</i>	July 2018
French-American Doctoral Exchange Program (FADEx) Scholarship	
<i>Support to attend an AI doctoral exchange program in Sophia-Antipolis, Grenoble, and Paris, France</i>	June 2018
CRA-W/Princeton Travel Grant	
<i>Support to attend the CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshop</i>	April 2016
School of Eng. and Appl. Science (SEAS) Fellowship	
<i>Support to attend the Grace Hopper Conference in Phoenix, AZ</i>	October 2014, October 2015
Center for Digital Humanities (CDH) Fellowship	
<i>Support to Computer Appl. in Archaeology (CAA) Conference in Siena, Italy</i>	December 2014
MAA Undergraduate Student Poster Session Travel Grant	
<i>Awarded to support travel to JMM in San Diego, California</i>	November 2012
Women in Machine Learning (WIML) Travel Scholarship	
<i>Awarded to support travel to the 2012 WIML at Lake Tahoe, NV</i>	October 2012

Service and Mentoring Activities

NYU Center for Data Science (CDS) Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Faculty Fellow Rep.

Fall 2020

NYU Center for Data Science (CDS) Summer Incubator Internship Program

Mentor

Summer 2020

CVPR Women in Computer Vision (WICV) Workshop

Mentor

June 2020

Try AI, Diversity and Inclusion Event at AAAI 2020

Mentor

February 2020

Deep Learning for Geometric Shape Understanding (SkelNetOn)

Program Committee/Point SkelNetOn Keeper

November 2018 - June 2019

Women in Computer Vision Workshop (WiCV) for CVPR 2019

Organizer

October 2018 - June 2019

Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (GWISE) - NYU High School Conference

Mentor

November 2018

AI-4ALL Summer camp

Princeton, NJ

Part-time mentor for the self-driving cars team.

August 2018

Princeton University Math Club Mentoring Mobius

Princeton, NJ

Mentor to 4 undergraduate students

October 2016 - December 2016

Coalition for Queens (C4Q)

Brooklyn, NY

Teaching Assistant for Access Code Program HTML/CSS Workshop

February 2015

University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

Math and CS Representative, Math Undergraduate Representative Committee (MURC)

October 2010 - June 2013

University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

Oxford Salsa Society Webmaster

October 2010 - May 2013

Paper Reviewing

- ICCV 2021
- CVPR 2021
- Journal of Vision 2021: Exceptional JOV Review Writer
- MDPI Sensors 2021
- Cognitive Science Society Conference (CogSci) 2021
- Heritage 2020
- Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage (JOCCH), 2020
- Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020
- Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshop on Deep Learning for Geometric Computing (DLGC), 2020
- Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques (SIGGRAPH), 2020
- British Machine Learning Conference (BMVC), 2019
- Pacific Graphics (PG), 2018
- International Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV), 2017
- Journal of Computers & Graphics (CAG), 2016
- Shape Modelling International (SMI), 2014

Students Supervised

- Isaac Lopez (University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez) and Sheikh-Sedat Touray (University of Rhode Island), Undergraduate Level, via NYU CURP Internship, Spring 2021. Project: “Self-supervised learning for animal pose prediction”, joint with Prof. Carlos Fernandez-Granda.
- Evanjelin Mahmoodi (University of California, Santa Cruz), Ashia Lewis (University of Alabama), Undergraduate Level, via NYU CURP Internship, Spring 2021, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Project: “3D CT Reconstruction from X-Ray for Automatic Tuberculosis Prediction”, joint with Prof. Megan Coffee.
- Yuyue Zhou (Independent Study, Masters Level), Spring 2021, NYU. Project: “Automatic Image Translation for X-Ray Generation”.
- Tianshu Chu and Xinmeng Li (NYU, Masters Level). Summer Incubator Internship. Summer 2020, Fall 2020, NYU Project: “Improving Weakly Supervised Lesion Segmentation using Multi-Task Learning”.
- Kuan-Lin Liu (Independent Study, Masters Level), Summer 2020, NYU, joint with Denis Pelli. Project: “A Computational Model of Dyslexia”.
- Zane Dennis (Summer COVID-19/X-ray Internship, Masters Level), Summer 2020, NYU. Project: “Interpretable Tensor Factorization Methods for COVID-19 Progression Analysis”.
- Sahar Siddiqui (Independent Study, Masters Level), Spring 2020, NYU Project: “Using Human Psychophysics to Evaluate Generalization in Scene Text Recognition Models”.
- Diksha Meghwal (Independent Study, Masters Level), Spring 2020, NYU Project: “Structure Aware Image Reconstruction”.
- Jatin Khilnani (CDS Inference and Representation (Masters) Course), Fall 2019, NYU Project: “Shape-Synthesis Analysis”.
- Shuting Gu, Anshan He, Weiyang Wen, Bing Zou (CDS Capstone Project Masters) Course, Fall 2019, NYU), joint with Anastasios Noulas Project: “Exploiting Google Street View to Generate Global-scale Datasets for Training Next Generation Cyberphysical Systems”.