

Etsuko Ishii

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EDUCATION

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Hong Kong

Ph.D Candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering with Hong Kong PhD Fellowship

September 2019 – Present

Supervisor: Prof. Pascale Fung, Research Topic: Dialogue Systems, QA, NLP

The University of Tokyo

Tokyo, Japan

Bachelor of Engineering in Applied Mathematics in the Department of Mathematical Engineering

April 2015 – July 2019

Supervisor: Prof. Kazuyuki Aihara, Thesis: “Mathematical Analysis on Echo State Networks for Time Series Prediction.”

Member of the Freshmen Orientation Committee, member of the 66th Komaba Campus Festival Committee, and Section Head of the 91st May Festival Committee.

Koen Girls' Junior & Senior High School

Tokyo, Japan

Graduated with top honors, Leader of Student Discipline Committee, Member of Kendo Club.

April 2009 – March 2015

EXPERIENCE

Kyoto University

Kyoto, Japan

Visiting Researcher, Host Lab: Prof. Tatsuya Kawahara, School of Informatics

January 2021

Implemented and evaluated the dialogue system which is specialized for the people under self-quarantine on humanoid ERICA.

IBM Research

Tokyo, Japan

Research Intern

May 2018 – September 2018 and April 2019 – July 2019

Participated in projects on multimodal documents for better image auto-insertion and captioning reflecting textual context.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Hong Kong

Research Intern, Advisor: Prof. Pascale Fung, Department of Electronical and Computer Engineering

January – March 2018

Conducted a research on emotional classification of paintings based on their texture and contents.

Rice University

Houston, TX, U.S.A.

Undergraduate Research Intern, Advisor: Prof. Devika Subramanian, Department of Computer Science

Summer 2017

Analyzed Houston flooding using unsupervised machine learning with LIDAR data.

GROHE AG

Hemer, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Supply Chain Management Intern

August 2016

Supported stock management and supplier management using POOL4TOOL (SAP backend).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS – (FULL LIST AVAILABLE IN MY GOOGLE SCHOLAR)

[**ACL2021-DialDoc**]: Yan Xu, [Etsuko Ishii](#), Genta Indra Winata, Zhaojiang Lin, Andrea Madotto, Zihan Liu, Peng Xu, Pascale Fung. CAIRE in DialDoc21: Data Augmentation for Information-Seeking Dialogue System. Accepted at DialDoc-21 Workshop.

[**SIGDIAL2021-Demo**]: [Etsuko Ishii](#), Genta Indra Winata, Samuel Cahyawijaya, Lala Divesh, Tatsuya Kawahara, Pascale Fung. ERICA: An Empathetic Android Companion for COVID-19 Quarantine. Accepted at SIGDIAL 2021 Demo.

[**SIGDIAL2021**]: Yejin Bang, Nayeon Lee, [Etsuko Ishii](#), Andrea Madotto, Pascale Fung. Assessing Political Prudence of Open-domain Chatbots. Accepted at SIGDIAL 2021.

[**AAAI2021-CONSTRAINT**]: Yejin Bang, [Etsuko Ishii](#), Samuel Cahyawijaya, Ziwei Ji, Pascale Fung. Model Generalization on COVID-19 Fake News Detection. Accepted at CONSTRAINT-2021 Workshop.

[**EMNLP2020-Findings**]: Andrea Madotto, [Etsuko Ishii](#), Zhaojiang Lin, Sumanth Dathathri, Pascale Fung. Plug-and-Play Conversational Models. Accepted at EMNLP 2020 Findings.

[**LREC2020**]: Masayasu Muraoka, Ryosuke Kohita, [Etsuko Ishii](#). Image Position Prediction in Multimodal Documents. Accepted at LREC 2020.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong: Total of ≈\$40,200 USD (HKD 313,800) per year for top 250 full-time PhD students in Hong Kong: September 2019 – August 2023.

International Visiting Internship Student Program Sponsorship, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology: Total of ≈\$2,600 USD for selected international interns: February – March 2018 (HKD2,000).

Nakatani RIES: Research and International Experiences for Japanese Students Fellowship, Nakatani Foundation: Total of \approx \$10,000 USD for research internship at Rice University: Summer 2017.

Go Global Scholarship Program, The University of Tokyo Foundation: Total of \approx \$7,000 USD for study abroad: February – March 2018 (JPY140,000), August 2016 (JPY500,000), and January 2016 (JPY80,000)

ACTIVITIES

DialDoc-21 in ACL-2021: Winning 3rd place in Subtask 2 in 1st DialDoc Workshop’s Shared Task which focuses on building goal-oriented information-seeking dialogue systems.

Voluntary Works: Served as an EMNLP-IJCNLP 2019 Student Volunteer.

Teaching Assistant: ELEC4240 Deep Learning in Computer Vision (Prof. Qifeng Chen) in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020. Delivered three lectures per semester and graded assignments and exams of over 80 undergraduate students per semester.

German-English Translator: Supported German-English translation of discrete mathematics literature; Contributed in Satoru Iwata & Yu Yokoi. A Blossom Algorithm for Maximum Edge-Disjoint T-Paths. Accepted at Proceedings of the 2020 ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, and Satoru Iwata & Yu Yokoi. Combinatorial Algorithms for Edge-Disjoint T-Paths and Integer Free Multiflow. arXiv:1909.07919.

SKILLS

Languages: Japanese (Native Speaker), English (Fluent), German (Intermediate), Chinese (Elementary)

Programming: Python, Machine Learning Tools (PyTorch, TensorFlow, etc.), C, ArcGIS, R, \LaTeX