

Yiorgos (Georgios) Chochlakis [ˈjorɣos xoˈxlakis]

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

modeling subjective language tasks with LLMs; scalable multimodal & multilingual affective analysis on social media; language grounding and grounding language; scientific rigor

EDUCATION

University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA 08/2021 – Present
MSc & PhD in Computer Science (Expected Graduation: 05/2026)

GPA: **4.0**/4.0

Advisor: Prof. Shri Narayanan

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Athens, Greece 09/2015 – 10/2020
BSc & MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering (5-year joint degree)

GPA: **9.56**/10.0 (98th percentile)

Thesis advisor: Prof. Alexandros Potamianos

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Applied Science Intern, AWS, Bellevue, WA 05/2024 – 08/2024
Developed methods for robustness in audio-textual representation learning

Applied Science Intern, AWS, Santa Clara, CA 05/2023 – 08/2023
Developed methods for robustness in audio-visual representation learning

Machine Learning Engineer, Behavioral Signals, Los Angeles, CA 12/2020 – 07/2021
Improved speaker identification, caller matching and diarization; tested models for deployment

Machine Learning Intern, SCiO, Lefkippos Attica Technology Park, Greece 07/2019 – 08/2019
Built dataset with relevant features and model for rice cultivation in India

PROJECTS

DARPA INCAS, Information Science Institute, USC, Los Angeles, CA 09/2021 – Present
Identifying meaningful early indicators of influence campaigns from social media
Developing SOTA models to handle multilingual data, and a novel annotation scheme

DARPA NEAT, USC, Los Angeles, CA 05/2023 – Present
Developing cognitive science tool to identify people at risk of suicide by preconscious brain signals
Studying how linguistic stimuli modulate brain responses

Everyday Respect, USC, Los Angeles, CA 12/2022 – Present
Measuring & improving police officer communication during motor vehicle stops

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, SAIL, USC, Los Angeles, CA 05/2021 – Present
Conducting research in multilingual and multimodal affective analysis on social media
Developing scalable, generalizable, and robust models for emotion recognition

Undergraduate Research Assistant, SLP group, NTUA, Greece 03/2020 – 11/2020
Developed novel framework for generative zero-shot learning for my diploma thesis

Research Intern, IIT, NCSR Demokritos, Greece 10/2019 – 06/2020
Published research on elevation surface reconstruction using deep learning

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

G. Chochlakis, A. Potamianos, K. Lerman, S. Narayanan. *The Strong Pull of Prior Knowledge in Large Language Models and Its Impact on Emotion Recognition*. ACII, 2024.

G. Chochlakis, G. Mahajan, S. Baruah, K. Burghardt, K. Lerman, S. Narayanan. *Using Emotion Embeddings to Transfer Knowledge between Emotions, Languages, and Annotation formats*. ICASSP, 2023.

T. Srinivasan, T.Y. Chang, L.L.P. Alva, **G. Chochlakis**, M. Rostami, J. Thomason. *CLiMB: A Continual Learning Benchmark for Vision-and-Language Tasks*. NeurIPS, 2022.

HONORS & AWARDS

Gerondelis Foundation Scholarship	2023-2024
Top Reviewer , NeurIPS	2022
Highest GPA in school of ECE Award , Thomaidis Foundation Grant, NTUA	2019-2020
Publication Award , Thomaidis Foundation Grant, NTUA	2020

ACADEMIC SERVICE

SAIL, USC, Los Angeles, CA
Founded and currently running the lab's 17-member reading group
Mentoring undergraduate and graduate students

IEEE K-12 Outreach program, USC, Los Angeles, CA
Served as *team lead* for Fall 2022 USC campus visit for approx. 90 students
Presented introduction and a demo in Spring 2022 USC campus visit to approx. 90 students

Google ExploreCSR program, USC, Los Angeles, CA
Served as *student mentor* for Spring 2023 for approx. 50 students

Peer-reviewing
ICASSP 2024, 2023
NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks track 2024, 2023, 2022