

JENNIFER C. WHITE

Cambridge, UK

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

October 2020 - June 2025

PhD Computer Science

Co-supervised by Simone Teufel (University of Cambridge) and Ryan Cotterell (ETH Zurich)

ESRC Scholarship

Working on Natural Language Processing, focusing on measuring the inductive biases of language models and how to measure and improve models' abilities to generalise compositionally.

University of Cambridge

October 2019 - June 2020

MPhil Advanced Computer Science

Classification: Distinction

Cambridge Trust DeepMind Scholar

Dissertation: Using kernel methods to introduce non-linearities into linear probes without increasing probe complexity (Accepted to NAACL 2021)

University of Warwick

September 2012 - July 2016

MMathPhys Mathematics and Physics

Classification: 1st Class

Master's Project: Implemented a module in Macaulay2 (a Computer Algebra System) to generate Normal Toric Varieties with Picard number 3, based on an existing classification.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Microsoft

May 2025 - Present

Postdoctoral Resident

Working on controllable world models as part of Gaming Intelligence team

Microsoft

June 2024 - August 2024

Research Intern

Worked on compression of prompts to improve efficiency of Large Language Model prompts

Meta

June 2022 - September 2022

FAIR Research Intern

Worked with Adina Williams on a project investigating translation models' abilities to incorporate relevant context when resolving ambiguities.

Apple

July 2021 - September 2021

AI/ML Intern

Worked on methods to assist in evaluation and data augmentation for semantic parsing tasks.

ETH Zurich

August 2020 - September 2020

Research Intern

Worked with Ryan Cotterell on a project investigating novel methods for investigating inductive biases of language models.

DSTL

September 2016 - September 2019

Software Engineer

Worked within an Agile framework, to research and implement possible uses for machine learning and data science in defence using C++, Python, Java and Matlab. Acted as technical partner to industry offering guidance, monitoring deliverables and building relationships. Evaluated industry bids for funding for technical projects and made recommendations for funding decisions.

Google

June 2014 - September 2014

Software Engineering Intern

Worked with the Text-to-Speech speech team on a 12 week project focusing on prosody of speech, using C++. Produced a prototype of an internal product for use in speech synthesis.

PUBLICATIONS

Jiaoda Li, *Jennifer C. White*, Mrinmaya Sachan, Ryan Cotterell. 2024. A Transformer with Stack Attention. *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2024*.

Kevin Du, Vsteinn Snbjarnarson, Niklas Stoehr, *Jennifer C. White*, Aaron Schein, Ryan Cotterell. 2024. Context versus Prior Knowledge in Language Models. *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2024)*.

Jennifer C. White and Ryan Cotterell. 2022. Schrödinger's Bat: Diffusion Models Sometimes Generate Polysemous Words in Superposition. *Pre-print*.

Jennifer C. White and Ryan Cotterell. 2022. Equivariant Transduction through Invariant Alignment. In *Proceedings of the 29th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2022)*.
Awarded Outstanding Paper

Jennifer C. White and Ryan Cotterell. 2021. Examining the Inductive Bias of Neural Language Models with Artificial Languages. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2021)*.

Jennifer C. White, Tiago Pimentel, Naomi Saphra, and Ryan Cotterell. 2021. A Non-Linear Structural Probe. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL 2021)*.

Tian Xu, *Jennifer C. White*, Sinan Kalkan, and Hatice Gunes. 2020. Investigating Bias and Fairness in Facial Expression Recognition. In *Proceedings of the 16th European Conference on Computer Vision Workshops*.

Ekaterina Vylomova, *Jennifer C. White*, Elizabeth Salesky, Sabrina J Mielke, Shijie Wu, Edoardo Ponti, Rowan Hall Maudslay, Ran Zmigrod, Josef Valvoda, Svetlana Toldova, Francis Tyers, Elena Klyachko, Ilya Yegorov, Natalia Krizhanovsky, Paula Czarnowska, Irene Nikkarinen, Andrew Krizhanovsky, Tiago Pimentel, Lucas Torroba Hennigen, Christo Kirov, Garrett Nicolai, Adina Williams, Antonios Anastasopoulos, Hilaria Cruz, Eleanor Chodroff, Ryan Cotterell, Miikka Silfverberg and Mans Hulden. 2020. SIGMORPHON 2020 Shared Task 0: Typologically Diverse Morphological Inflection. In *Proceedings of the 17th SIGMORPHON Workshop on Computational Research in Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology*.

OTHER SKILLS

Languages

Good French (DELF B2, December 2016),
Intermediate Japanese (JLPT N3, December 2018),
Basic German and Russian

ACHIEVEMENTS

Awarded Outstanding Paper at COLING 2022 (for Equivariant Transduction through Invariant Alignment)

Awarded Kate Bertram Prize by Lucy Cavendish College for achieving a Pass with Distinction in MPhil Advanced Computer Science

Awarded DSTL Thank You Award for taking on additional work at short notice in order to help team meet a deadline (2018)

Awarded Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement at Fort Pitt Grammar School (2012)