

# John P. Lalor

College of Information and Computer Sciences  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
✉ [lalor@cs.umass.edu](mailto:lalor@cs.umass.edu)  
📄 [jplalor.github.io](https://jplalor.github.io)

## Research Interests

- Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Health Informatics, Recommender Systems, Computer Science Education

## Education

- 2015- **Ph.D. Computer Science**, *University of Massachusetts*, Amherst, MA.
  - Advisor: Hong Yu
- 2013-2015 **M.S. Computer Science**, *DePaul University*, Chicago, IL.
  - Graduated with Distinction
- 2007-2011 **B.B.A. IT Management**, *University of Notre Dame*, South Bend, IN.
  - Minor: Irish Language and Literature
  - Graduated Cum Laude

## Professional Experience

- 2015- **Research Assistant**, *BioNLP Group*, Amherst, MA.
  - Supervisor: Hong Yu
- Summer 2017 **Applied Scientist Intern**, *Amazon Alexa*, Cambridge, MA.
  - Supervisors: Imre Kiss and Francois Mairesse
- Summer 2016 **Graduate Intern**, *ESPN Advanced Technology Group*, Bristol, CT.
  - Supervisor: Zvi Topol
- Fall 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, *Introduction to Computer Science*, *Amherst College*, Amherst, MA.
  - Professor: Crystal Valentine
- 2013-2015 **Software Developer**, *Eze Software Group*, Chicago, IL.
- 2011-2013 **Advisory Sr. Associate**, *KPMG*, Philadelphia, PA, Chicago, IL.

## Publications

- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, L. Chen, K. Mazor, H. Yu. ComprehENotes, an Instrument for Assessing Patient Electronic Health Record Note Reading Comprehension: Development and Validation. *J Med Internet Res* (forthcoming). doi:10.2196/jmir.9380
- T. Munkhdalai, **J.P. Lalor**, H. Yu. Citation Analysis with Neural Attention Models. *LOUHI 2016 : The Seventh International Workshop on Health Text Mining and Information Analysis*, Austin, Texas, USA, November 2016.
- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. Building an Evaluation Scale using Item Response Theory. *EMNLP 2016: Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, Austin, Texas, USA, November 2016.
- C. Miller, A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**. Learning Object-Oriented Programming in Python: Towards an Inventory of Difficulties and Testing Pitfalls. *SIGITE 2015: The Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, October 2015
- A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. Evaluating a Linked-Courses Learning Community for Development Majors. *SIGITE 2015: The Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, October 2015

- A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. A Computer Science Linked-Courses Learning Community. *ITiCSE 2015: The 20th Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education*. Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2015
- A. Settle, **J.P. Lalor**, T. Steinbach. Reconsidering the Impact of CS1 on Novice Attitudes. *SIGCSE 2015: The ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education*. Kansas City, Missouri, March 2015

## Posters and Abstracts

- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. Modeling Difficulty to Understand Deep Learning Performance. *Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop (NLDL)*, 2018.
- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. CIFT: Crowd-Informed Fine-Tuning to Improve Machine Learning Ability. *Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP) Works-in-Progress*, 2017.
- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, L. Chen, K. Mazor, H. Yu. Generating a Test of Electronic Health Record Narrative Comprehension with Item Response Theory. *American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium* Podium Abstract, 2017.

## Preprints

- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, H. Yu. CIFT: Crowd-Informed Fine-Tuning to Improve Machine Learning Ability.
- **J.P. Lalor**, H. Wu, T. Munkhdalai, H. Yu. An Analysis of Machine Learning Ability.

## Invited Talks

- Building Better Evaluations using Item Response Theory. *University of Notre Dame Natural Language Processing Group*, 09/29/2017.
- Building Evaluation Scales for NLP using Item Response Theory. *UMass CICS Machine Learning and Friends Lunch series*, 12/08/2016.

## Awards

- Recipient: UMass CICS Travel Grant, January 2018
- Recipient: DePaul University Graduate Assistantship
- Member: DePaul UPE Honor Society
- Dean's List 4 semesters at Notre Dame

## Service

- Organizer, UMass CICS Machine Learning and Friends Lunch. 2018-Present
- Mentor, UMass CICS Industry Mentor Program. Spring 2018
- Reviewer, American Journal of Preventative Medicine (AJPM). 2018-Present
- Reviewer, American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA). 2018-Present
- Reviewer, Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR). 2016-Present
- DePaul University Graduate Ambassador for prospective students
- DePaul Tutor for undergraduate students as part of my Graduate Assistantship