KANISHKA MISRA

PhD candidate interested in Natural Language Understanding and Cognitive Science
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Education

Purdue University, West Lafayette
Ph.D. in Computer Information Technology, 2018–2023 (expected)
Dissertation: *On Semantic Cognition, Inductive Generalization, and Language Models*
Advisor: Julia Taylor Rayz
Committee: Dr. Allyson Ettinger, Dr. Victor Raskin, Dr. Jin Wei Kocsis, Dr. John Springer

Purdue University, West Lafayette
M.S. in Computer Information Technology, 2020
Thesis: *Exploring Lexical Sensitivities in Word Prediction Models: A case study on BERT* [link]
Advisor: Julia Taylor Rayz
Note: Work performed alongside requirements for Ph.D.

Purdue University, West Lafayette
B.S. *with distinction*. Computer Information Technology, 2014–2018
Minor in Statistics

Fellowships and Assistantships

2023–2024   **Bilsland Fellowship**. Dissertation Fellowship awarded by Purdue University.

2022–2023   **Purdue Graduate Student Mentoring Fellowship**. Selected to understand and improve the advising relationship between faculty and students at Purdue University. **Award:** $5,000 in research and travel funds.

2021–2022   **Research Assistantship** funded through NSF EAGER Grant number 2039605. **Title:** *AI-based Humor-integrated Social Engineering Training*. **Contribution:** Co-wrote the "Technical Contribution" section, and served as key personnel. **PI:** Julia Taylor Rayz, **Co-PI:** Ida B. Ngambeki

2018–2019   **Purdue Research Foundation (PRF) Fellowship. Title:** *Computational Analysis of Online Predatory Texts*. **Contribution:** Wrote the proposal in its entirety. **Mentor:** Julia Taylor Rayz.

Industry Experience

Fall 2022
Google Research - *Research Intern*
Project: Triggering Multi-Hop Reasoning in LLMs with Soft-prompts.
Host(s): Siamak Shakeri and Cicero Nogueira dos Santos.

Summer 2021	**Pythonic AI - *NLP Engineering/Research Intern***
	Project: Integrating Biomedical Commonsense into Language Models.
	Host: Baoqiang Cao, CTO and Co-founder.

Work In Progress

2023   **Kanishka Misra** and Najoung Kim. On Lexical Category Abstraction in Pre-trained Language Models. *Work in Progress*.

2023   Mourad Heddaya, **Kanishka Misra**, and Allyson Ettinger. On Meaning and Prediction in Language Models and Humans. *Work in Progress*.

2022   **Kanishka Misra**. `minicons`: Enabling Flexible Behavioral and Representational Analyses of Transformer Language Models. Demo Paper. [`preprint`]

Peer-reviewed Publications

2023   **Kanishka Misra**, Cicero Nogueira dos Santos, Siamak Shakeri. Triggering Multi-hop reasoning in language models using soft-prompts and random walks. *Findings of ACL 2023*

2023   Koustuv Sinha, Jon Gauthier, Aaron Mueller, **Kanishka Misra**, Keren Fuentes, Roger Levy, Adina Williams. Language model acceptability judgments are not always robust to context. *ACL 2023*.

2023   Freda Shi, Xinyun Chen, **Kanishka Misra**, David Dohan, Ed Chi, Nathan Scharli, Denny Zhou. Large Language Models are sensitive to Irrelevant Facts. *ICML 2023*.

2023   **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz, Allyson Ettinger. COMPS: Conceptual Minimal Pair Sentences for Testing Robust Property Knowledge and its Inheritance in Pre-trained Language Models. *EACL 2023*. (**Best Paper Award**).

2022   **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz, Allyson Ettinger. A Property Induction Framework for Neural Language Models. *44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2022   **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz. LMs Go Phishing: Adapting Pre-trained Language Models to Detect Phishing Emails. *IEEE/ACM Web Intelligence Conference* (***Oral Presentation***).

2022   **Kanishka Misra**. On Semantic Cognition, Inductive Generalization, and Language Models. *AAAI 2022 Doctoral Consortium*, Vancouver, Canada. [`preprint`]

2021   **Kanishka Misra**, Allyson Ettinger, Julia Taylor Rayz. Do Language Models learn typicality judgments from text? *43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. (***Oral Presentation***) [`preprint`]

2021   **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz. Finding fuzziness in Neural Network models of Language Processing. *Annual Meeting of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society 2021*. (**Honorable Mention for Best Student Paper**). [`preprint`]

2020   **Kanishka Misra**, Allyson Ettinger, Julia Taylor Rayz. Exploring BERT's Sensitivity to Lexical Cues using Tests from Semantic Priming. *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2020*. [`link`]

2020   Qingyuan Hu, Yi Zhang, **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz. Exploring Lexical Irregularities in Hypothesis-Only Models of Natural Language Inference. *2020 IEEE 19th International Conference on Cognitive Informatics & Cognitive Computing (ICCI* CC)*. [`link`]

2020   **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz. An Approximate Perspective on Word Prediction in Context: Ontological Semantics meets BERT. *Annual meeting of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society 2020*. Online. [`preprint`]

2019   **Kanishka Misra**, Hemanth Devarapalli, Tatiana Ringenberg, Julia Taylor Rayz. Authorship Analysis of Online Predatory Conversations using Character Level Convolution Neural Networks. *2019 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC).*, Bari, Italy. [`link`]

2019   Tatiana Ringenberg, **Kanishka Misra**, Julia Taylor Rayz. Not So Cute but Fuzzy: Estimating Risk of Sexual Predation in Online Conversations. *2019 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC).*, Bari, Italy. **(joint first author)** [`link`]

2019   Qiaofei Ye, **Kanishka Misra**, Hemanth Devarapalli, Julia Taylor Rayz. A Sentiment Based Non-Factoid Question-Answering Framework. *2019 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC).*, Bari, Italy. [`link`]

2019   **Kanishka Misra**, Hemanth Devarapalli, Julia Taylor Rayz. Measuring the Influence of L1 on Learner English Errors in Content Words within Word Embedding Models. *17th International Conference on Cognitive Modelling 2019.*, Montréal, Canada. [`link`]

2019   Tatiana Ringenberg, **Kanishka Misra**, Kathryn C. Seigfried-Spellar, Julia Taylor Rayz. Exploring Automatic Identification of Fantasy-Driven and Contact-Driven Sexual Solicitors. *2019 Third IEEE International Conference on Robotic Computing (IRC).*, Naples, Italy. [`link`]

2019   Kathryn C. Seigfried-Spellar, Marcus K Rogers, Julia T Rayz, Shih-Feng Yang, **Kanishka Misra**, Tatiana Ringenberg. Chat analysis triage tool: Differentiating contact-driven vs. fantasy-driven child sex offenders. *Forensic Science International, 2019*. [`link`]

Peer-reviewed Abstracts

2020   **Kanishka Misra**, Allyson Ettinger, Julia Taylor Rayz. Exploring BERT's lexical relations using Semantic Priming. *CogSci 2020* [`poster`] [`link`]

2019   **Kanishka Misra**, Hemanth Devarapalli, Julia Taylor Rayz. L1 Influence on Content Word errors in Learner English Corpora: Insights from Distributed Representation of Words. *CogSci 2019*, Montréal, Canada. [`poster`] [`link`]

Presentations and Invited Talks

Spring 2023   *On the synthetic semantic cognition of language models* (Invited Talk)
MIT EvLab and LINGO lab.

Fall 2022	*Conceptual Minimal Pairs for testing Robust Property Knowledge and its Inheritance in Pre-trained Language Models* (Invited Talk) CompLing Lab, University of Chicago Human and Machine Learning Lab. New York University Computation and Psycholinguistics Lab. New York University CompLang/Ev Lab joint meeting. MIT Language Evolution, Acquisition and Processing Workshop. University of Chicago
Fall 2022	*Triggering Multi-Hop Reasoning in LLMs using Soft-Prompts* Prompt-tuning sync. Google Research.
Spring 2022	*On Semantic Cognition, Inductive Generalization, and Language Models* AAAI 2022 Doctoral Consortium. Vancouver (held online).
Fall 2021	*Finding fuzziness in Neural Network Models of Language Processing* NAFIPS 2021 (held online).
Summer 2021	*Do Language Models Learn Typicality Judgments from Text?* CogSci 2021 Main Conference (held online).

Honors and Awards

2023 **Best Paper Award**. *EACL 2023*.

2022 **Best Student Poster (runner-up)** *PPI Holistic Safety and Security Research Impact area.* **Amount:** $250.

2022 **Fellow**, *Purdue Graduate Student Mentoring Fellows Program.* **Amount:** $5,000 in research funds.

2021 **Honorable Mention for Best Student Paper**, *North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society.* **Amount:** $100.

2019 **Holistic Safety and Security Research Travel Grant**, *Purdue Polytechnic Institute.* **Amount:** $500.

2019 **CIT Research Travel Grant Award**, *Purdue CIT.* **Amount:** $1200 (CogSci 2019), $600 (IEEE-SMC 2019).

2019 **Best HSS Poster Presentation**, *CERIAS Symposium.* Award presented by committee on Holistic Safety and Security (HSS) research impact area. [link].

2019 **Conference Travel Award**, *Chicago R Unconference.* **Amount:** $150.

2018 **PRF Fellowship**, *Purdue Research Foundation.* Covered two semesters worth of graduate school, in addition to stipend.

2018 **Best Poster Award - PPI**, *Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research Expo.* **Amount:** $250. [link]

2018 **Research Scholarship**, *Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research.* **Amount:** $500.

2017 **First Place**. *Indy Civic Hackathon.* **Amount:** $2000 split across 4 team members.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant - *Database Fundamentals* (CNIT 272)
Timeline: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020
Course Professor: Dr. Dawn D. Laux
Developed lecture videos and taught fundamentals of relational databases and SQL to three lab sections
(≈ 70 students on average across three semesters).
Instructor Rating: 4.8 (on average across three semesters)

Guest Lecturer - *Natural Language Technologies* (CNIT 519)
Timeline: Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2022
Course Professor: Dr. Julia Taylor Rayz
- Two lectures on Neural Network models of Natural Language Processing
- Developed two assignments on language model interpretability and evaluation.

Mentorship

2022	Sam Huang (UChicago Undergraduate). **Topic:** *Assessing reasoning behavior in LMs in presence of distraction.*
2020	Qingyuan "Carol" Hu and Yi Zhang (Undergraduates). **Topic:** *Exploring Lexical Irregularities in Hypothesis-only Models of Natural Language Inference.* **Outcome:** Publication in *IEEE ICCC* CI 2020*, and a presentation at *PURC 2020*, which was awarded second place across all students from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.
2018–19	John Phan (Undergraduate). **Topic:** *Gender Bias in Word Embeddings.* Awarded NSF REU scholarship. **Outcome:** Two poster presentations.

Reviewing

Conference	ACL (2023); EACL (2023); CogSci (2020, 2021, 2022); CoNLL (2021, 2022); ARR (2021, 2022); *SEM 2022; EMNLP 2020; IJCAI 2020; *SEM 2019; IEEE-IRC 2019.
Journal	*Cognitive Science* (2023)
Book	Chapman & Hall/CRC Press Statistics Series (2020, 2021).

Service

- **Organizer**, *Neural Nets for Cognition*. Discussion group at CogSci 2022.

- **Local Arrangements Chair**, *Annual Meeting of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society 2021 (NAFIPS 2021) held at Purdue University.*

- **Program Committee:** CoNLL (2021, 2022).

- **Volunteer**, *36th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence.*

- **Graduate Student Advisor**, *Purdue CIT Student Council.*

- **Organizer**, *Undergraduate Research Panel*, Purdue CIT.

Skills

Programming	Python, R, pytorch, jax, SQL, LaTeX
Natural Languages	English, Hindi, Gujarati, Odiya

Software Developed

`minicons` A toolkit to facilitate behavioral and representational analyses of transformer-based language processing models. [`github`]

Professional Affiliations

- Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL)

- Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)

- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)

- Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS)

- Society for Mathematical Psychology (MathPsych)

References

NLP Research: Dr. Julia Taylor Rayz, Dr. Allyson Ettinger, Dr. Victor Raskin
Teaching: Dr. Dawn Laux
Industry: Dr. Cicero Nogueira dos Santos, Dr. Baoqiang Cao.