Kanishka Misra

PhD Student interested in Natural Language Understanding and Cognitive Science
Email: kmisra@purdue.edu **Website:** https://kanishka.xyz/
Last Updated: May 10, 2021

Education

Purdue University, West Lafayette
Ph.D. Natural Language Understanding, 2018–*present*
Applied Knowledge Representation and Language Understanding (AKRaNLU) Lab
Close collaboration with Allyson Ettinger (UChicago Linguistics)
Research Interests: Concepts and categories in Language models, Lexical Semantics, Inductive Reasoning from Text, NLP Model evaluation.
Advisor: Julia Taylor Rayz

Purdue University, West Lafayette
M.S. Natural Language Understanding, 2020, **GPA:** 4.0
Advisor: Julia Taylor Rayz
Thesis: *Exploring Lexical Sensitivities in Word Prediction Models: A case study on BERT* [link]

Purdue University, West Lafayette
B.S. *with distinction.* Computer Information Technology, 2014–2018, **GPA:** 3.72
Minor in Statistics

Research Fellowships and Assistantships

2021–present 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 grant in its entirety. **Mentor:** Julia Taylor Rayz.

Peer-reviewed Publications

2021 **Kanishka Misra**, Allyson Ettinger, Julia Taylor Rayz. Do Language Models learn typicality judgments from text? ***(forthcoming)*** *43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Conference.* (22% acceptance rate) [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* [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]

Honors and Awards

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 ($\approx$ 70 students on average across three semesters).
Instructor Rating: 4.8 (on average across three semesters)

Volunteer Lecturer - *Natural Language Technologies* (CNIT 58101NLT)
Timeline: Fall 2019, Fall 2020
Course Professor: Dr. Julia Taylor Rayz
- Two lectures on Neural Network models of Natural Language Processing
- Developing two assignments on neural networks and language models.

Work Experience

Summer 2021	**NLP Engineering Intern - *Pythonic AI*** Details TBD. **Host:** Baoqiang Cao, CTO and Co-founder.
Spring 2018	**Undergraduate Research Assistant - *Purdue University*** Using Machine Learning models to estimate levels of contact offence through online chat conversations. Funded by Office of Undergraduate Research, Purdue University. **Mentor:** Julia Taylor Rayz.

Summer 2017	**Data Scientist Intern - *Perscio*, Indianapolis, IN.** Data Analysis on Healthcare Data. Collaboration with SPEA (at Indiana University) to work on Opioid Prescription Trends in Indiana. **Mentor:** Kent Hiller, CTO.
Spring 2017	**Undergraduate Research Assistant - *Purdue University*** Using Statistical models to understand and predict deviant behavior in the cyberspace. **Mentor:** Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar.

Mentorship

2018-19	John Phan (Undergraduate). **Topic:** *Gender Bias in Word Embeddings.* Awarded NSF REU scholarship. **Outcome:** Two poster presentations.
2019	Addison Farinas (Undergraduate). **Topic:** *Analysis and Annotation of Humorous News Headlines.* **Outcome:** Humor dataset curation.
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.
2021	Sameer Rai Singhal and Priyen Shah (Undergraduates). **Topic:** *Statistical correlates of World Knowledge in Language Models.*

Reviewing

Primary	CogSci (2020, 2021)
Secondary	EMNLP 2020; IJCAI 2020; *SEM 2019; IEEE-IRC 2019.
Book	Chapman & Hall/CRC Press Statistics Series (2020, 2021).

Service

- **Local Chair**, *Annual Meeting of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society 2021 (NAFIPS 2021) held at Purdue University.*
- **Graduate Student Advisor**, *Purdue CIT Student Council.*
- **Lab Management**: AKRaNLU lab, Purdue CIT.
- **Organizer**, Undergraduate Research Panel, Purdue CIT.

Skills

Programming	R (expert), Python (expert), SQL (proficient), LaTeX
Libraries	pytorch, tidyverse(R), tidymodels(R), tensorflow, Rcpp, gensim

Statistics	Probability Theory, GLMs, LMEMs, Bayesian Models
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: Kent Hiller, Bob Boehnlein