

KANISHKA MISRA

PhD candidate interested in Natural Language Understanding and Cognitive Science

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Last Updated: October 19, 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

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| 2021–present | Research Assistantship funded through NSF EAGER Grant number 2039605.
Title: <i>AI-based Humor-integrated Social Engineering Training</i> . 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: <i>Computational Analysis of Online Predatory Texts</i> . Contribution: Wrote the grant in its entirety. Mentor: Julia Taylor Rayz. |

Peer-reviewed Publications

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| 2021 | Kanishka Misra , Allyson Ettinger, Julia Taylor Rayz. Do Language Models learn typicality judgments from text? <i>43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Conference</i> . (Oral Presentation ; 14% acceptance rate) [preprint] |
| 2021 | Kanishka Misra , Julia Taylor Rayz. Finding fuzziness in Neural Network models of Language Processing. <i>Annual Meeting of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society 2021</i> . (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

- 2021 **Kanishka Misra** On Semantic Cognition, Inductive Generalization, and Language Models. *AAAI 2022 Doctoral Consortium*. (under review)
- 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 (≈ 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/Research Intern - *Pythonic AI***
Integrating Medical Knowledge into Language Models.
Host: Baoqiang Cao, CTO and Co-founder.

Spring 2018	<p>Undergraduate Research Assistant - <i>Purdue University</i> 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.</p>
Summer 2017	<p>Data Scientist Intern - <i>Perscio</i>, 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.</p>
Spring 2017	<p>Undergraduate Research Assistant - <i>Purdue University</i> Using Statistical models to understand and predict deviant behavior in the cyberspace. Mentor: Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar.</p>

Mentorship

2018-19	John Phan (Undergraduate). Topic: <i>Gender Bias in Word Embeddings</i> . Awarded NSF REU scholarship. Outcome: Two poster presentations.
2019	Addison Farinas (Undergraduate). Topic: <i>Analysis and Annotation of Humorous News Headlines</i> . Outcome: Humor dataset curation.
2020	Qingyuan “Carol” Hu and Yi Zhang (Undergraduates). Topic: <i>Exploring Lexical Irregularities in Hypothesis-only Models of Natural Language Inference</i> . Outcome: Publication in <i>IEEE ICC* CI 2020</i> , and a presentation at <i>PURC 2020</i> , which was awarded second place across all students from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.
2021	Sameer Rai Singhal and Priyen Shah (Undergraduates). Topic: <i>Statistical correlates of World Knowledge in Language Models</i> .

Reviewing

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

Service

- **Program Committee:** CoNLL 2021
- **Local Arrangements 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), L ^A T _E X
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: Dr. Baoqiang Cao, Matt Younkle, Kent Hiller, Bob Boehnlein