

Dr. Lara J. Martin

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CSEE • UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY (UMBC)

Information Technology and Engineering (ITE) Building, Room 216

[✉ laramar@umbc.edu](mailto:laramar@umbc.edu) | [🏠 laramartin.net](http://laramartin.net)

[Google Scholar](#) | [Github](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Q Research Interests

Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing/Generation, Neurosymbolic Methods for NLP, Computational Creativity, Automated Story Generation & Understanding, Tabletop Roleplaying Agents, Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC), Assistive Technologies (AT), Speech Processing, Affective Computing

🎓 Education

Georgia Institute of Technology

PH.D. IN HUMAN-CENTERED COMPUTING

Aug. 2015 - May 2021

Atlanta, GA

+ Advisor: Dr. Mark O. Riedl

+ Thesis: [Neurosymbolic Automated Story Generation](#)

+ Teaching Certification: [Tech to Teaching](#) (Summer 2018)

Carnegie Mellon University

M.S. IN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES

Aug. 2013 – May 2015

Pittsburgh, PA

+ Advisor: Dr. Alan W Black

Rutgers University — New Brunswick

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE & LINGUISTICS (DOUBLE MAJOR)

Sep. 2009 – May 2013

Piscataway, NJ

+ Advisor: Dr. Matthew Stone

💻 Research Experience

Assistant Professor

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (CSEE) DEPARTMENT

Aug 2023 – Present

Baltimore, MD

Computing Innovation Fellow (CI Fellow) Postdoctoral Researcher

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA – COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Jan 2021 – Aug 2023

Philadelphia, PA

Graduate Research Assistant

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF INTERACTIVE COMPUTING

Aug 2015 – Dec 2020

Atlanta, GA

Applied Scientist Intern

AMAZON.COM INC., ALEXA SMART HOME MACHINE LEARNING

May 2017 – Aug 2017

Seattle, WA

Graduate Research Assistant

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES INSTITUTE

Sept 2013 – Aug 2015

Pittsburgh, PA

▢ Teaching

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

CMSC 491/691 Interactive Fiction and Text Generation

Fall 2025 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Fall 2024 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

CMSC 473/673 Natural Language Processing

Spring 2025 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Spring 2024 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

CMSC 671 Principles of Artificial Intelligence

Fall 2023 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIS 700 Interactive Fiction and Text Generation

Spring 2022 – Co-INSTRUCTOR, Co-taught with Dr. Chris Callison-Burch

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Clarks Scholars Summer Python Bootcamp

Summer 2019 – COURSE MATERIALS, Co-created syllabus/lesson plan with Dr. Cassandra Kent

CS 3790 Introduction to Cognitive Science

Summer 2018 – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Projects

 **Human-AI Communication and Computational Creativity.** Collaboration between people and AI, primarily through storytelling.

	Story understanding	[3, 6, 17]	2021 – Present
	D&D-Playing and Strategic Agents	[2, 5, 7, 15, 16, 19, 32]	2018 – Present
	Story generation	[1, 8–11, 14, 18, 20, 21, 29, 31]	2015 – Present
	Schemas	[4, 10, 11]	2023
	Conversational agents	[25], See also: Amazon & USC ICT internships	2011, 2017, 2022
	Language learning	[23]	2014

 **Human-Human Communication.** Analysis of human-human communication or computer-mediated communication.

	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)	[28, 30]	2022 – Present
	Emotion recognition & affective computing	[13, 24, 26, 27, 30]	2013 – Present
	Online communities	[6, 22]	2014, 2023
	Translation	[12]	2015

Publications

PHD DISSERTATION

- [1] **L. J. Martin.** “Neurosymbolic Automated Story Generation”. Doctoral dissertation. Georgia Institute of Technology, 2021. URL: <https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/64643>.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS *equal contribution, †presented

- [2] A. Zhu[†], **L. J. Martin**[†], A. Head, and C. Callison-Burch. “CALYPSO: LLMs as Dungeon Master’s Assistants”. In: *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)*. Vol. 19. 1. Salt Lake City, UT: AAAI, Oct. 2023, pp. 380–390. doi: [10.1609/aiide.v19i1.27534](https://doi.org/10.1609/aiide.v19i1.27534). arXiv: [2308.07540](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.07540). URL: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AIIDE/article/view/27534>. [~59% acceptance rate].
- [3] Y. R. Dong, **L. J. Martin**, and C. Callison-Burch. “CoRRPUS: Code-based Structured Prompting for Neurosymbolic Story Understanding”. In: *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*. Toronto, Canada: ACL, July 2023, pp. 13152–13168. arXiv: [2212.10754](https://aclanthology.org/2023.findings-acl.832/). URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.findings-acl.832/>. [18.4% acceptance rate].
- [4] T. Zhang^{*†}, I. Tham^{*}, Z. Hou^{*}, J. Ren, L. Zhou, H. Xu, L. Zhang, **L. J. Martin**, R. Dror, S. Li, H. Ji, M. Palmer, S. Brown, R. Suchocki, and C. Callison-Burch. “Human-in-the-Loop Schema Induction”. In: *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. Vol. 3: System Demonstrations. Toronto, Canada: ACL, July 2023, pp. 1–10. arXiv: [2302.13048](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.13048). URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.acl-demo.1/>. [37% acceptance rate].
- [5] A. Zhu[†], K. Aggarwal, A. Feng, **L. J. Martin**, and C. Callison-Burch. “FIREBALL: A Dataset of Dungeons and Dragons Actual-Play with Structured Game State Information”. In: *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. Vol. 1: Long Papers. Toronto, Canada: ACL, July 2023, pp. 4171–4193. arXiv: [2305.01528](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.01528). URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.acl-long.229/>. [23.5% acceptance rate].
- [6] S. Giorgi, K. Zhao, A. H. Feng, and **L. J. Martin**[†]. “Author as Character and Narrator: Deconstructing Personal Narratives from the *r/AmTheAsshole* Reddit Community”. In: *17.1* (June 2023), pp. 233–244. arXiv: [2301.08104](https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.08104). URL: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/22141>. [~20% acceptance rate].

- [7] C. Callison-Burch*, G. S. Tomar*†, **L. J. Martin**, D. Ippolito, S. Bailis, and D. Reitter. “Dungeons and Dragons as a Dialogue Challenge for Artificial Intelligence”. In: *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: ACL, Dec. 2022, pp. 9379–9393. arXiv: 2210.07109. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2022.emnlp-main.637>. [22.1% acceptance rate].
- [8] P. Ammanabrolu†, E. Tien, W. Cheung, Z. Luo, W. Ma, **L. J. Martin**†, and M. O. Riedl. “Story Realization: Expanding Plot Events into Sentences”. In: *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*. Vol. 34. 5. New York, NY: AAAI, Apr. 2020, pp. 7375–7382. doi: 10.1609/aaai.v34i05.6232. arXiv: 1909.03480. URL: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AAAI/article/view/6232>. [20.6% acceptance rate].
- [9] P. Tambwekar*, M. Dhuliawala*†, **L. J. Martin**†, A. Mehta, B. Harrison, and M. O. Riedl. “Controllable Neural Story Plot Generation via Reward Shaping”. In: *International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*. Macao, China, July 2019, pp. 5982–5988. doi: 10.24963/ijcai.2019/829. arXiv: 1809.10736. URL: <https://www.ijcai.org/proceedings/2019/829>. [17.9% acceptance rate].
- [10] **L. J. Martin**†, P. Ammanabrolu, X. Wang, W. Hancock, S. Singh, B. Harrison, and M. O. Riedl. “Event Representations for Automated Story Generation with Deep Neural Nets”. In: *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*. Vol. 32. 1. New Orleans, LA: AAAI, Feb. 2018, pp. 868–875. ISBN: 978-1-57735-800-8. doi: 10.1609/aaai.v32i1.11430. arXiv: 1706.01331. URL: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AAAI/article/view/11430>. [24.6% acceptance rate].
- [11] **L. J. Martin**†, B. Harrison, and M. O. Riedl. “Improvisational Computational Storytelling in Open Worlds”. In: *International Conference on Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS)*. Ed. by F. Nack and A. Gordon. Vol. 10045. Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS). Los Angeles, CA: Springer, Oct. 2016, pp. 73–84. ISBN: 978-3-319-48278-1. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-48279-8_7. URL: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-48279-8_7. [36% acceptance rate].
- [12] **L. J. Martin**†, A. Wilkinson†, S. S. Miryala, V. Robison, and A. W. Black. “Utterance Classification in Speech-to-Speech Translation for Zero-Resource Languages in the Hospital Administration Domain”. In: *2015 IEEE Workshop on Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding (ASRU)*. Scottsdale, AZ: IEEE, Dec. 2015, pp. 303–309. doi: 10.1109/ASRU.2015.7404809. URL: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7404809>. [47.8% acceptance rate].
- [13] **L. J. Martin**†, M. Stone, F. Metze, and J. Mostow. “A Methodology for Using Crowdsourced Data to Measure Uncertainty in Natural Speech”. In: *2014 IEEE Spoken Language Technology Workshop (SLT)*. South Lake Tahoe, NV: IEEE, Dec. 2014, pp. 95–99. doi: 10.1109/SLT.2014.7078556. URL: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7078556>. [48.6% acceptance rate].

REFEREED WORKSHOP PAPERS *equal contribution, †presented

- [14] R. Chambers†, N. Tack, E. Pearson, **L. J. Martin**, and F. Ferraro. “BERALL: Generating Retrieval-augmented State-based Interactive Fiction Games”. In: *4th Wordplay: When Language Meets Games Workshop @ACL 2024*. Bangkok, Thailand, Aug. 2024. URL: <https://wordplay-workshop.github.io/pdfs/21.pdf>.
- [15] C. Callison-Burch*†, G. S. Tomar*, **L. J. Martin**, D. Ippolito, S. Bailis, and D. Reitter. “Dungeons and Dragons as a Dialogue Challenge for Artificial Intelligence”. In: *NAACL 2022 Third Wordplay: When Language Meets Games Workshop*. Virtual/Seattle, WA, July 2022. URL: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=EKwH-BMlkzq>.
- [16] S. Papazov†, W. Gill, M. Garcia Ferreiro, A. Zhu, **L. J. Martin**, and C. Callison-Burch. “Using Language Models to Convert Between Natural Language and Game Commands”. In: *NAACL 2022 Third Wordplay: When Language Meets Games Workshop*. Virtual/Seattle, WA, July 2022. URL: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=jQSShWtMDN>.
- [17] B. Li†, **L. J. Martin**, and C. Callison-Burch. “CIS²: A Simplified Commonsense Inference Evaluation for Story Prose”. In: *ACL 2022 Workshop on Commonsense Representation and Reasoning (CSRR)*. Virtual/Dublin, Ireland, Mar. 2022. arXiv: 2202.07880. URL: https://openreview.net/forum?id=Se-xHMYg_bc.
- [18] P. Ammanabrolu†, E. Tien, W. Cheung, Z. Luo, W. Ma, **L. J. Martin**, and M. O. Riedl. “Guided Neural Language Generation for Automated Storytelling”. In: *ACL 2019 Second Workshop on Storytelling (StoryNLP)*. Florence, Italy: ACL, Aug. 2019, pp. 46–55. doi: 10.18653/v1/W19-3405. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/W19-3405/>.
- [19] **L. J. Martin**†, S. Sood, and M. Riedl. “Dungeons and DQNs: Toward Reinforcement Learning Agents that Play Tabletop Roleplaying Games”. In: *Joint AI/DE Workshop on Intelligent Narrative Technologies and Workshop on Intelligent Cinematography and Editing (INT-WICED)*. Ed. by H.-Y. Wu, M. Si, and A. Jhala. Edmonton, AB, Canada: <http://ceur-ws.org>, Nov. 2018. URL: <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2321/paper4.pdf>.
- [20] **L. J. Martin**†, P. Ammanabrolu, X. Wang, S. Singh, B. Harrison, M. Dhuliawala, P. Tambwekar, A. Mehta, R. Arora, N. Dass, C. Purdy, and M. O. Riedl. “Improvisational Storytelling Agents”. In: *NeurIPS 2017 Workshop on Machine Learning for Creativity and Design*. Long Beach, CA, Dec. 2017. URL: https://nips2017creativity.github.io/doc/Improvisational_Agents.pdf.
- [21] **L. J. Martin**†, P. Ammanabrolu, W. Hancock, S. Singh, B. Harrison, and M. O. Riedl. “Event Representations for Automated Story Generation with Deep Neural Nets”. In: *KDD 2017 Workshop on Machine Learning for Creativity*. Halifax, NS, Canada, 2017. URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.01331v2>. [38% acceptance rate].
- [22] S. Moon†, S. Potdar, and **L. J. Martin**. “Identifying Student Leaders from MOOC Discussion Forums through Language Influence”. In: *EMNLP 2014 Workshop on Analysis of Large Scale Social Interaction in MOOCs*. Doha, Qatar, Oct. 2014, pp. 15–20. doi: 10.3115/v1/W14-4103. URL: <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W14-4103>.
- [23] N. Wolfe†, V. V. Vemuri, **L. J. Martin**†, F. Metze, and A. W. Black. “Applause: A Learning Tool for Low-Resource Languages”. In: *CHI 2014 Designing Speech and Language Interactions Workshop (DSL)*. Toronto, ON, Canada, Apr. 2014. URL: <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/dsli2014/submissions/applause-chi-paper-photo-ready.pdf>.
- [24] S. Cosentino†, S. Burger, **L. J. Martin**, F. Metze, T. Kishi, K. Hashimoto, S. Sessa, M. Zecca, and A. Takanishi. “A multisensory non-invasive system for laughter analysis”. In: *36th Annual International Conference of the IEEE En-*

gineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC). Chicago, IL, 2014. URL: <https://laramartin.net/pub/EMBC14-Laughter.pdf>.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- [25] A. Panagopoulou, M. Arora, L. Zhang, D. Cugini, W. You, Y. Yang, L. Zhou, Y. Wang, Z. Hou, A. Hwang, **L. J. Martin**, S. Shi, C. Callison-Burch, and M. Yatskar. "QuakerBot: A Household Dialog System Powered by Large Language Models". In: *1st Alexa Prize TaskBot (Alexa Prize 2021)*. May 2022. URL: <https://www.amazon.science/alexa-prize/proceedings/quakerbot-a-household-dialog-system-powered-by-large-language-models>.
- [26] S. Yu, L. Jiang, Z. Xu, Z. Lan, S. Xu, X. Chang, X. Li, Z. Mao, C. Gan, Y. Miao, X. Du, Y. Cai, **L. J. Martin**, N. Wolfe, A. Kumar, H. Li, M. Lin, Z. Ma, Y. Yang, D. Meng, S. Shan, P. D. Sahin, S. Burger, F. Metze, R. Singh, B. Raj, T. Mitamura, R. Stern, and A. Hauptmann. "CMU informedmedia@TrecVID 2015 MED/SIN/LNK/SED". In: *TREC Video Retrieval Evaluation 2015*. Gaithersburg, MD, Nov. 2015. URL: <https://research.monash.edu/en/publications/cmu-informedmediatrecvid-2015-medsinlnksed>.
- [27] S. Yu, L. Jiang, Z. Mao, X. Chang, X. Du, C. Gan, Z. Lan, Z. Xu, X. Li, Y. Cai, A. Kumar, Y. Miao, **L. J. Martin**, N. Wolfe, S. Xu, H. Li, M. Lin, Z. Ma, Y. Yang, D. Meng, S. Shan, P. Duygulu Sahin, S. Burger, F. Metze, R. Singh, B. Raj, T. Mitamura, R. Stern, and A. Hauptmann. "Informedmedia@TRECVID 2014 MED and MER". In: *TRECVID Video Retrieval Evaluation Workshop, NIST*. Gaithersburg, MD, Nov. 2014. URL: <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/AD1024376>.

PREPRINTS

- [28] **L. J. Martin** and M. Nagalakshmi. *Aging Up AAC: An Introspection on Augmentative and Alternative Communication Applications for Autistic Adults*. Apr. 2024. arXiv: [2404.17730](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.17730). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.17730>.
- [29] A. Alabdulkarim, W. Li, **L. J. Martin**, and M. O. Riedl. *Goal-Directed Story Generation: Augmenting Generative Language Models with Reinforcement Learning*. Dec. 2021. arXiv: [2112.08593](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.08593). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.08593>.

IN SUBMISSION

- [30] S. Choudhury, A. Kumar, and **L. J. Martin**. "GPT is Devastated and LLaMA is Content: Emotion Representation Alignment in LLMs for Keyword-based Generation". In: *submission*. 2025. arXiv: [2503.11881](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.11881). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.11881>.
- [31] R. Huang, **L. J. Martin**, and C. Callison-Burch. "WHAT-IF: Exploring Branching Narratives by Meta-Prompting Large Language Models". In: *submission*. 2025. doi: [10.48550/arXiv.2412.10582](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.10582). arXiv: [2412.10582](https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.10582). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.10582>.
- [32] N. Sivakumar and **L. J. Martin**. "Simulating National Negotiations: Comparing the Strategies of MCTS and LLMs". In: *submission*. 2025.

Grants and Awards

GRANTS

UMBC COEIT Interdisciplinary Proposals

"INVESTIGATING THE SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE ASPECTS OF LARGE-LANGUAGE MODEL-BASED

2024 – 2025

\$20,000

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS"

UMBC

Foad Hamidi (Co-PI), Lara J. Martin (Co-PI)

UMBC Summer Research Faculty Fellowship (SuRFF)

"REINFORCEMENT LEARNING FOR PLAYING DUNGEONS & DRAGONS"

2024

\$8,000

Lara J. Martin

UMBC

National Science Foundation & Computing Research Association

COMPUTING INNOVATION POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

2021 – 2023

\$200,000

Lara J. Martin (Postdoc), Chris Callison-Burch (Faculty Mentor)

University of Pennsylvania

AWARDS

James D. Foley GVU Center Endowment

2019

FOLEY SCHOLAR AWARD

\$5,000

Lara J. Martin

Georgia Institute of Technology

Institutional Service

ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing

September 10-12, 2025

UMBC REPRESENTATIVE

COEIT Research Day

Spring 2025

WORKING GROUP MEMBER

UMBC

Language Technology Seminar Series (LaTeSS)

CREATOR & ORGANIZER

Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on AI Integration in the Classroom

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Teaching about LLMs to Faculty Learning Committees (FLCs)

VOLUNTEER

Teaching in the era of AI FLC (11/17/2023, 4/19/2024)

AI in the Classroom FLC (12/8/2023)

Fall 2024 – Present

UMBC

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

UMBC

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

UMBC

◆ Departmental Service

CSEE Research Day Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Fall 2025 – Present

UMBC

Inclusive Excellence Committee

CO-FOUNDER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Spring 2025 – Present

UMBC

Department Library Liaison

Fall 2024 – Present

UMBC

Graduate Admissions Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Fall 2023 – Present

UMBC

◆ Professional Activities

SUMMARY

10	Organizer/Guest Editor
12	Area Chair/Senior Area Chair Positions
4	Grant Reviewer
36	Program Committee Member/Reviewer, including Journal Reviewer
67	Total Participation

ORGANIZER AND GUEST EDITOR POSITIONS

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

ETHICS CHAIR

November 10-14, 2025

Edmonton, Canada

5th Wordplay: When Language Meets Games Workshop at EMNLP 2025

CO-ORGANIZER

November 9, 2025

Suzhou, China

IEEE Transactions on Games: Special Issue on Large Language Models and Games

GUEST EDITOR

May 2025

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

ETHICS & CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE CHAIR

November 18-22, 2024

Lexington, KY

4th Wordplay: When Language Meets Games Workshop at ACL 2024

CO-ORGANIZER

August 16, 2024

Bangkok, Thailand

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM CHAIR

October 11-15, 2021

Virtual

3rd Workshop on Narrative Understanding at NAACL 2021

CO-ORGANIZER

June 11, 2021

Virtual

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

PUBLICITY CO-CHAIR

October 19-23, 2020

Virtual

1st Workshop on Narrative Understanding, Storylines, and Events (NUSE) at ACL 2020

CO-ORGANIZER

July 9, 2020

Virtual

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAIR

October 8-12, 2019

Atlanta, GA

OTHER CHAIR POSITIONS

International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG)

AREA CHAIR

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

SESSION CHAIR

International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG)

AREA CHAIR

International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG)

AREA CHAIR

International Conference for Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS)

ASSOCIATE PROGRAM CHAIR – TECHNOLOGIES TRACK

October 29-November 2, 2025

Hanoi, Vietnam

October 8-12, 2023

Salt Lake City, UT

September 11-15, 2023

Prague, Czechia

September 20-24, 2021

Aberdeen, UK

December 5-8, 2018

Dublin, Ireland

GRANT REVIEWER

2025 **National Science Foundation (IIS)**

2025 **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft**

2025 **National Science Foundation**

2022 **Army Research Office**

JOURNAL REVIEWER

2024 **IEEE Transactions on Games**

2023 **IEEE Transactions on Games**

2021 **Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (Springer)**

2020 **IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing**

2020 **ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR)**

ACL ROLLING REVIEW

May 2025 **Senior Area Chair – EMNLP 2025**

March 2025 **Reviewer – ACL 2025**

February 2024 **Area Chair – ACL 2024**

December 2023 **Area Chair – NAACL 2024**

October 2023 **Area Chair – EACL 2024**

August 2023 **Area Chair**

April 2023 **Area Chair**

December 2022 **Area Chair**

October 2022 **Reviewer**

July 2022 **Reviewer**

April 2022 **Reviewer**

January 2022 **Reviewer**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER (REVIEWER)

International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing & Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (IJCNLP-AACL)

STUDENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP (SRW) MENTOR

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

Computational Models of Narrative Workshop

AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES)

AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG)

December 20-24, 2025

Mumbai, India

November 10-14, 2025

Edmonton, Canada

May 28-30, 2025

Geneva, Switzerland

October 20-22, 2025

Madrid, Spain

November 18-22, 2024

Lexington, KY

September 23-27, 2024

Tokyo, Japan

Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play (CHI PLAY)	<i>October 14-17, 2024</i>
Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)	<i>Tampere, Finland</i>
STUDENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP	<i>August 11-16, 2024</i>
AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)	<i>Bangkok, Thailand</i>
UNDERGRADUATE CONSORTIUM	<i>February 20-27, 2024</i>
AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)	<i>Vancouver, Canada</i>
RESEARCH TRACK – BEST REVIEWER NOMINEE	<i>October 8-12, 2023</i>
Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)	<i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>
STUDENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP	<i>July 10-12, 2023</i>
Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)	<i>Toronto, Canada</i>
DIALOGUE AND INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS TRACK	<i>December 7-11, 2022</i>
AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)	<i>Abu Dhabi, UAE</i>
SOFTWARE TRACK	<i>October 24-28, 2022</i>
ACM Conference on Creativity & Cognition (C&C)	<i>Pomona, CA</i>
POSTERS TRACK	<i>June 20-23, 2022</i>
AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)	<i>Venice, Italy</i>
	<i>February 22-March 1, 2022</i>
	<i>Virtual</i>
AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)	<i>October 11-15, 2021</i>
RESEARCH TRACK	<i>Virtual</i>
IEEE Conference on Games (CoG)	<i>August 17-20, 2021</i>
NARRATIVE AND INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT SHORT PAPERS	<i>Copenhagen, Denmark/Virtual</i>
Interactive Narrative Technologies (INT) Workshop at AIIDE	<i>October 19-20, 2020</i>
	<i>Virtual</i>
Procedural Content Generation (PCG) Workshop at Foundations of Digital Games (FDG)	<i>September 14, 2020</i>
	<i>Bugibba, Malta</i>
International Conference for Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS)	<i>November 19-23, 2019</i>
HUMAN FACTORS	<i>Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT</i>
Procedural Content Generation (PCG) Workshop at Foundations of Digital Games (FDG)	<i>August 26, 2019</i>
	<i>San Luis Obispo, CA</i>
Workshop on Storytelling at ACL	<i>August 1, 2019</i>
	<i>Florence, Italy</i>
Workshop on Narrative Understanding at NAACL	<i>June 7, 2019</i>
	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
Knowledge Extraction from Games (KEG) Workshop at AAAI	<i>January 27, 2019</i>
	<i>Honolulu, HI</i>
AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE)	<i>November 13-17, 2018</i>
ARTIFACT EVALUATION	<i>Alberta, Canada</i>
Workshop on Storytelling at NAACL-HLT	<i>June 5, 2018</i>
	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>

Invited Talks and Panels

SUMMARY

- 6 **Special Conference Presentations**
- 15 **On-Campus Invited Speaker Presentations**
- 3 **Panels**
- 28 **Total Presentations**

SPECIAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Aging Up AAC: An Introspection on Augmentative and Alternative Communication Applications for Autistic Adults”

CCC Computing Futures Symposium – Washington, D.C.	<i>May 15-16, 2025</i>
CIFellows Symposium – Washington, D.C.	<i>May 13-14, 2025</i>

“Digital Bards: How Dungeons & Dragons will Make for Better AI”

NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks Spring Conference at Northeastern University – Boston, MA.....

April 21, 2023

↳ Keynote Speaker

“Using Storytelling to Understand the Technological and Experiential Requirements of Interactive Improvisational Agents”

Tapia Doctoral Consortium – San Diego, CA.....

September 18, 2019

↳ Winner of Best Doctoral Consortium Presentation Award.

“Secrets of Computer Science Revealed”

STARS Alliance Celebration – Atlanta, GA

August 17, 2013

“CS Outreach Amongst Piscataway Youth”

STARS Alliance Celebration – Atlanta, GA

August 16, 2013

INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

“Leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) to Create Personalized Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems (AACs)”

University of Maryland, Baltimore County - COEIT Research Day – Baltimore, MD

April 11, 2025

“Bridging the Social & Technical Divide in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Applications for Autistic Adults”

University of Maryland, Baltimore County - CSEE Research Day – Baltimore, MD

May 3, 2024

“Neurosymbolic AI or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Large Language Model”

Human Language Technology Center of Excellence (HLTCOE) – Baltimore, MD

April 18, 2024

University of Maryland, Baltimore County - HCC Group FIKA – Baltimore, MD

March 4, 2024

Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore, MD

February 16, 2024

University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

February 27, 2023

Drexel University – Philadelphia, PA

February 15, 2023

“Neurosymbolic Storytelling or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Large Language Model”

University of Maryland, College Park - CLIP Colloquium – College Park, MD

October 4, 2023

“Dungeons and Discourse: Using Computational Storytelling to Look at Natural Language Use”

University of Southern California - NL Seminar – Los Angeles, CA/Virtual

May 22, 2022

University of California, Santa Cruz - Computational Media Seminar – Santa Cruz, CA/Virtual

November 29, 2021

Georgia Institute of Technology - NLP Seminar – Atlanta, GA/Virtual

September 11, 2020

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – Livermore, CA/Virtual

June 11, 2020

“Dungeons and Discourse: Using Computational Storytelling & Speech to Look at Natural Language Use”

University of Pennsylvania - CLUNCH (Computational Linguistics Lunch) Seminar – Philadelphia, PA/Virtual

January 25, 2021

University of Utah – Salt Lake City, UT/Virtual

April 20, 2020

“Using Storytelling to Understand the Technological and Experiential Requirements of Interactive Improvisational Agents”

Georgia Tech - GVU Brown Bag – Atlanta, GA

January 23, 2020

PANELIST

Doctoral Consortium Advice Panel

AIIDE CONFERENCE - DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

October 9, 2023

Salt Lake City, UT

Computer Science PhD Panel

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - FEMMEHACKS

February 11, 2023

Philadelphia, PA

💡 Advising Summary

5	PhD Thesis Advisees
5	MS Thesis Advisees
8	Other PhD Advisees
24	Other MS Advisees
11	Undergrad Advisees
53	Total Advisees

💡 PhD Advising

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Ray Groshan	Fall 2025 – Present
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Tianyi Zhang	Fall 2025 – Present
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Marcus McAllister	Spring 2025 – Present
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Co-Advised with Dr. Cynthia Matuszek	
Arya Honraopatil	Summer 2024 – Present
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Patty Delafuente	Spring 2024 – Present
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE	

💡 Masters Thesis Advising

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Naren Sivakumar	Spring 2024 – Spring 2025
MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → PHD AT UMBC	
Thesis: Emulating Rational Decisions with Traditional and Contemporary AI	
Shadab Choudhury	Spring 2024 – Spring 2025

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE
Thesis: Connecting Language and Emotion in Large Language Models for Human-AI Collaboration

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

River Yijiang Dong	Summer 2022 – Spring 2023
BA MATHEMATICS/MS DATA SCIENCE → PHD AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY	
Thesis: COTTAGE: Coherent Text Adventure Games Generation	
Anna Orosz	Spring 2021 – Fall 2021
MS DATA SCIENCE → MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER AT LINKEDIN	
Thesis: Generating Text-based Adventure Games	
Sri Sanjeevini Devi Ganni	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
MS DATA SCIENCE → SDE AT AMAZON	
Thesis: Narratology and Fanfiction	

✍ Other Mentorship

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Lahari Vuppala	Fall 2025 – Present
MS COMPUTER SCIENCE	

Paul Abili	BS COMPUTER SCIENCE	Summer 2025 – Present
AJ Boyd	BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → DATA ENGINEER AT VISA	Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
Asha Kumar	PHD HUMAN-CENTERED COMPUTING	Summer 2024 – Fall 2024
Dedeepya Palakurthi	MPS DATA SCIENCE → SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT CVS HEALTH	Fall 2024
Saksham Kumar Sharma	MS COMPUTER SCIENCE	Fall 2024
Ashish Athimamula	MS COMPUTER SCIENCE	Fall 2024
June Young	MS COMPUTER SCIENCE	Spring 2024 – Fall 2024
Shawn Bray	PHD COMPUTER ENGINEERING	Spring 2024 – Fall 2024
Arya Honraopatil	MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → PHD STUDENT AT UMBC	Spring 2024
Tori Saylor	BS COMPUTER SCIENCE	Spring 2024
Runsheng “Anson” Huang	MS DATA SCIENCE AT UPENN	Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
Christopher Cui	MS COMPUTER SCIENCE AT GEORGIA TECH → PHD STUDENT AT UC SAN DIEGO	Summer 2023 – Fall 2023

OUTREACH

Mark McGovern	Summer 2022
OUT IN TECH U'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM	

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Malathy Nagalakshmi	Summer 2022 – Summer 2023
MS COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE → SDE AT AMAZON	
Andrew Zhu	Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
PHD COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE	
Tianyi Zhang	Fall 2022
MS DATA SCIENCE → PHD STUDENT AT UMBC	
Karmanya Aggarwal	Fall 2022
MS DATA SCIENCE → ML SCIENTIST AT NABLA BIO, INC.	
Alexander Feng	Summer 2022 – Fall 2022
MS DATA SCIENCE → RESEARCH DATA SCIENTIST AT BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON	
Manni Arora	Summer 2022
MS COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE → SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT SIRI NL	
Pooja Dattatri	Summer 2022
MS COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE → APPLICATION DEVELOPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	
Shifan “Tim” Dong	Summer 2022
BS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS → SOFTWARE DEVELOPER AT DRW	
Salvatore Giorgi	Summer 2022
PHD COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE	
Ke “Coco” Zhao	Summer 2022
BA COGNITIVE SCIENCE & COMPUTER SCIENCE → SDE AT AMAZON	
Bryan Li	Spring 2021 – Spring 2022
PHD COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE	

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Siyan “Sylvia” Li

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → MS STUDENT AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Spring 2020 – Fall 2020

Sruthi Sudhakar

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → PHD STUDENT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Spring 2020

Kimberly Caras

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → D&A MODELER AT KPMG DIGITAL LIGHTHOUSE

Spring 2020

Winston Li

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH ENGINEER AT CITADEL

Fall 2019 – Fall 2020

Andrew Silva

PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fall 2019

Srijan Sood

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → RESEARCH ENGINEER AT JP MORGAN

Summer 2018 – Summer 2019

Jainesh Doshi

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER AT JP MORGAN

Spring 2019

Taha Merghani

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → AI & DEEP LEARNING ENGINEER AT DECOODA

Summer 2018 – Fall 2018

Ethan Tien

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → CS MS STUDENT AT GEORGIA TECH

Spring 2018

Prithviraj Ammanabrolu

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → CS PHD STUDENT AT GEORGIA TECH

Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Pradyumna Tambwekar

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → CS PHD STUDENT AT GEORGIA TECH

Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Richa Arora

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → GOOGLE ANALYTICS

Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Xinyu “Lily” Wang

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → MS LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES STUDENT AT CARNEGIE MELLON

Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Nathan Dass

BS COMPUTER SCIENCE → MS STUDENT AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Spring 2017 – Fall 2017

Murtaza Dhuliawala

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT IBM RESEARCH

Spring 2017

Koustuv Saha

PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fall 2016

Yuval Pinter

PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fall 2016

Shruti Singh

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER AT AMAZON

Spring 2016 – Fall 2016

Will Hancock

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE → PHD STUDENT AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2016 – Fall 2016

Thesis Committee Member

PHD

	<u>Defense Date / Advisor</u>
Sai Vallurupalli	<i>Expected 2026</i>
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE AT UMBC	Dr. Frank Ferraro
Amal Alabdulkarim	<i>Expected 2026</i>
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE AT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	Dr. Mark Riedl
Shahin Hossain	<i>Expected Fall 2025</i>
PHD LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND CULTURE AT UMBC	Dr. Ramon Goings

MASTERS

	<u>Defense Date / Advisor</u>
Kaoru Seki	<i>November 5, 2025</i>
MS HUMAN-CENTERED COMPUTING AT UMBC	Dr. Yasmine Kotturi
Santiago Góngora	<i>August 11, 2025</i>
MS COMPUTER SCIENCE AT UNIVERSIDAD DE LA REPÚBLICA, URUGUAY	Dr. Luis Chiruzzo

¶ Career Development

Fall 2025 – Present Faculty Learning Committee on *Designing Humanizing Assignments in the Age of AI*
Summer 2024 NCFDD Faculty Success Program

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

February 20-23, 2024	CRA Career Mentoring Workshops (CMW)
September 18-21, 2019	ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing
April 15-16, 2016	CRA-Women Graduate Cohort Workshop
October 2-5, 2013	Anita Borg Institute's Grace Hopper Celebration
August 16-17, 2013	CRA STARS Alliance Celebration

█ Media Coverage

Jul 11, 2025	“Interactive Storytelling with AI – Dr. Lara Martin”	Tingenuity AI (podcast)
Aug 19, 2023	“Hallucinating ChatGPT finds a role playing Dungeons & Dragons”	The Register
Fall 2022	“Next-Gen Innovators: Penn Engineering Postdoctoral Fellows Lead the Way on Groundbreaking Research”	Penn Engineering Magazine
Autumn 2021	“Lara Martin: “How can I get a system to tell a story about anything I want?””	TANK Magazine, Issue 88 (Narrative)
Mar 15, 2021	“Lara Martin on teaching AI to tell stories”	BBC Science Focus Podcast
Feb 17, 2021	“Alexa, tell me a story”	BBC Science Focus Magazine
Apr 16, 2020	“Meet ML@GT: Lara J. Martin Trains AI Agents to Become Storytellers”	Georgia Tech Machine Learning, Memos from MLGT
Feb 28, 2020	“Forget Chess—the Real Challenge Is Teaching AI to Play D&D”	Wired
Feb 4, 2020	“Changing the Conversation: Georgia Tech Researchers Provide New Approach to Automated Story Generation”	Georgia Tech School of Interactive Computing
Feb 6, 2019	“Pictionary-Playing AI Sketches the Future of Human-Machine Collaborations” (mention)	IEEE Spectrum
Feb 2, 2018	“Georgia Tech Artificial Intelligence Research Includes Collaborative Approaches with Humans, Automating Content, and More”	Georgia Tech GVU Center