

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Michigan</b> Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering, Advisor: Rada Mihalcea	Ann Arbor, MI Expected 2023
<b>University of Michigan</b> M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 4.0	Ann Arbor, MI May 2020
<b>Carleton College</b> B.A. in Computer Science, GPA: 3.85	Northfield, MN June 2016

## PUBLICATIONS

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<sup>†</sup>joint first authorship

- [1] **L. Biester**, C. Banea, and R. Mihalcea, “Building Location Embeddings from Physical Trajectories and Textual Representations”, in *2020 AAACL-IJCNLP*, Dec. 2020.
- [2] **L. Biester**<sup>†</sup>, K. Matton<sup>†</sup>, J. Rajendran, E. Mower Provost, and R. Mihalcea, “Quantifying the Effects of COVID-19 on Mental Health Support Forums”, in *1st Workshop on NLP for COVID-19 (Part 2) at EMNLP*, Nov. 2020.

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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<b>IBM</b> Research Intern	Remote Summer 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Matching patient descriptions to clinical trials (2021 TREC Clinical Trials challenge)</li><li>– Part of the EMRA (electronic medical records analysis) team, mentored by Bharath Dandala</li></ul>	
<b>Pinterest</b> Software Engineer	San Francisco, CA August 2016 - August 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Database sharding strategies/implementation for advertiser data</li><li>– Inconsistency detection framework for distributed graph databases</li></ul>	
<b>Gumroad</b> Software Engineering Intern	San Francisco, CA Summer 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– API to allow creators to track sales data</li><li>– Feature to auto-populate mp3 metadata</li><li>– Feature to allow users to display their Gumroad site on their own domain</li></ul>	

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

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- **Instructor of Record** at University of Michigan  
*Discover Computer Science (EECS 198)* Fall 2019, Fall 2020
- **Prefect** at Carleton College Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Winter 2016

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*Data Structures (CS 201)*

## Mentorship

- Yujian Liu (Master's Student at University of Michigan) Winter 2021-Present  
*Temporal Effects in Depression Classification Methods*
- Axel Avram (High School Student) Summer 2020-Fall 2020  
*Inter-country Sentiment During COVID-19*
- Shiyu Qu (Undergraduate at University of Michigan) Fall 2019-Winter 2020  
*Location Embeddings from Reddit*
- Camilo Muñoz (Master's Student at The University of Waterloo) Winter 2018  
*Ads API Team Intern at Pinterest*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Poster Presentations and Flash Talks

- Self-Reported Mental Health Status for Classification Labels: Effects of Data Collection April 2021  
*CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women Workshop*
- Changes on Mental Health Forums during the COVID-19 Pandemic October 2020  
*Michigan AI Symposium*
- Quantifying the Effects of COVID-19 on Mental Health Support Forums July 2020  
*NLP COVID-19 Workshop at ACL*
- The Applicability of Embeddings to Location Time Series Data May 2019  
*Midwest Speech and Language Days*

### Program Committee Member

- ACL 2021
- NLP for Positive Impact Workshop (@ACL) 2021
- SocialNLP Workshop (@NAACL) 2021
- Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science Workshop (@EMNLP) 2020

### Subreviewer

- ACH 2021

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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- ECSEL+ Treasurer Fall 2021-Present  
*As a board member of ECSEL+ (Ensemble of CSE Ladies+), managed the group's finances and completed budget requests.*
- ECSEL+ Professional Development Chair Fall 2020-Summer 2021  
*As a board member of ECSEL+ (Ensemble of CSE Ladies+), organized practice prelim talks for students in CSE at the University of Michigan.*
- AI4All Instructor July 2020  
*Taught Python programming to twenty high school students, with a focus on applications in artificial intelligence.*

- AI4All Project Lead July 2019  
*Developed a NLP project and provided guidance for seven high school students as they learned Python and completed the project.*
- Explore CS Research Organizer Fall 2018–Winter 2019  
*One of five organizers of the “Explore CS Research Program,” which aims to introduce students from underrepresented backgrounds to computer science research. Reviewed applications, assigned faculty mentors to students, and answered ongoing questions from students.*
- Student Departmental Advisor Fall 2015–Spring 2016  
*Chosen as one of two student departmental advisors at Carleton College by CS faculty. Advised students each term on picking classes, and organized a weekly “CS at the Tavern” social event.*
- Lovelace Board Member and Chair Winter 2015–Spring 2016  
*Served as a member of the board of Carleton’s women in CS group. Helped to organize weekly lab sessions, dinners, and Carleton’s first diversity in CS workshop.*

## SKILLS

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- **Programming Languages:** Python, Java, Ruby, Javascript
- **Data/Machine Learning:** SKLearn, Numpy, Hadoop, Hive, SQL, HBase, Vitess
- **Web Technologies:** HTML, CSS, Ruby on Rails, Flask

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women Workshop 2021
- NextProf Pathfinder Workshop 2019
- Phi Beta Kappa 2016
- Magna Cum Laude 2016
- Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Engineering Fellowship 2015
- Grace Hopper Conference Scholarship Recipient 2015
- Tapia Conference Scholarship Recipient 2015