

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Michigan</b> Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering, Advisor: Rada Mihalcea <i>U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate</i>	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, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Northfield, MN June 2016

## PUBLICATIONS

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<sup>†</sup>equal contribution

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- [1] M. Dong, R. Sun<sup>†</sup>, **L. Biester**<sup>†</sup>, and R. Mihalcea, “We Are in This Together: Quantifying Community Subjective Wellbeing and Resilience”, in *International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*, [to appear], Jun. 2023.
- [2] **L. Biester**, V. Sharma, A. Kazemi, N. Deng, S. Wilson, and R. Mihalcea, “Analyzing the Effects of Annotator Gender Across NLP Tasks”, in *1st Workshop on Perspectivist Approaches to NLP at LREC*, Jun. 2022.
- [3] **L. Biester**, K. Matton, J. Rajendran, E. Mower Provost, and R. Mihalcea, “Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on Online Mental Health Forums”, in *ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems: Special Issue on Using AI and Data Science to Handle Pandemics and Related Disruptions*, Dec. 2021.
- [4] **L. Biester**, C. Banea, and R. Mihalcea, “Building Location Embeddings from Physical Trajectories and Textual Representations”, in *2020 ACL-IJCNLP*, Dec. 2020.
- [5] **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.

### Non-Refereed Publications

- [6] **L. Biester**, V. Joopudi, and B. Dandala, “IBM @ TREC Clinical Trials Track 2021”, in *Proceedings of the Thirtieth Text REtrieval Conference (TREC 2021)*, Nov. 2021.

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

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### Teaching

- **Instructor of Record** at Carleton College Summer Liberal Arts Institute  
*Natural Language Processing (CS 099)* July 2022

- **Instructor of Record** at University of Michigan Winter 2022  
*Elementary Programming Concepts (EECS 183)*
- **Instructor of Record** at University of Michigan Fall 2019, Fall 2020  
*Discover Computer Science (EECS 110/198)*
- **Prefect** at Carleton College Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Winter 2016  
*Mathematics of Computer Science (CS 202)*
- **Prefect** at Carleton College Winter 2015, Spring 2015  
*Data Structures (CS 201)*

## Mentorship

- Vanita Sharma (Undergraduate at University of Michigan) Fall 2021-Winter 2022  
*Annotator Gender Bias in NLP Benchmarks*
- Yujian Liu (Master's Student at University of Michigan) Winter 2021-Winter 2022  
*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 University of Waterloo) Winter 2018  
*Ads API Team Intern at Pinterest*

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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### IBM

Research Intern

Remote  
Summer 2021

- Matching patient descriptions to clinical trials (2021 TREC Clinical Trials challenge)
- Part of the EMRA (electronic medical records analysis) team, mentored by Bharath Dandala

### Pinterest

Software Engineer

San Francisco, CA  
August 2016 - August 2018

- Database sharding strategies/implementation for advertiser data
- Inconsistency detection framework for distributed graph databases

### Gumroad

Software Engineering Intern

San Francisco, CA  
Summer 2015

- API to allow creators to track sales data
- Feature to auto-populate mp3 metadata
- Feature to allow users to display their Gumroad site on their own domain

### Pearson VUE

Software Development Intern

Bloomington, MN  
Summer 2014

- New AngularJS application as part of the Pearson Credential Manager site
- Proof of concept for internal video tutorial website

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Talks

- IBM @ TREC CT-Track 2021 November 2021  
*Text REtrieval Conference (Conference Talk)*
- Towards Understanding Mental Health with Passively Collected Data October 2021  
*Carleton College (Invited Talk)*

### Panels

- Grad Student Panel: What is grad school REALLY like? February 2022  
*AAAI Undergraduate Consortium*
- Friday Night AI: AI and COVID-19 May 2020  
*Ann Arbor District Library/Michigan AI*

### 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*

### Organizing Committees

- Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact (NLP4PI) 2022

### Reviewing

- ACL Rolling Review 2021-Present
- CLPsych Workshop (@NAACL) 2022
- ACL 2021
- NLP for Positive Impact Workshop (@ACL) 2021
- SocialNLP Workshop (@NAACL) 2021
- ACHI 2021
- Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science Workshop (@EMNLP) 2020

## 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.*
- ECSEL+ Professional Development Chair Fall 2020–Summer 2021  
*As a board member of ECSEL+, 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.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- Rackham Conference Travel Grant 2022
- Rackham Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award 2022
- Graduate Student Service Award for Excellence in Climate, Diversity, and Inclusion 2021  
University of Michigan CSE Division
- Phi Beta Kappa 2016
- Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Engineering Fellowship 2015
- Grace Hopper Conference Scholarship Recipient 2015
- Tapia Conference Scholarship Recipient 2015

## SKILLS

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