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Faculty Hiring Committee
*Language Technologies Institute
School of Computer Science
Carnegie Mellon University*

Dear members of the faculty hiring committee,

I am writing to apply for your tenure-track position in the Language Technologies Institute in the School of Computer Science. Currently, I am a PhD candidate in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington, working with Professors Noah A. Smith and Yejin Choi. I am on track for defending this coming Spring and will graduate in June 2021.

My research primarily focuses on **natural language processing (NLP)**, **social commonsense reasoning**, and **fairness in artificial intelligence (AI)**. Specifically, I design algorithms and representations for modelling social commonsense with NLP systems as well as for understanding and mitigating implied social biases in text. Additionally, I develop frameworks for analyzing the biases and fairness of ML and AI systems. I have presented my work in top-tier NLP and AI conferences, receiving a best short paper nomination at ACL 2019 and a best paper award at the WeCNLP 2020 summit. Additionally, I won the inaugural [Alexa Prize](#), a social chatbot competition. I have been an invited speaker at Stanford, Berkeley, and Georgia Tech, an instructor of an ACL tutorial on commonsense reasoning, and am organizing an upcoming ACL workshop on NLP for positive impact. My research has been covered by news outlets such as [Forbes](#), [Fortune](#), and [Vox](#).

In addition to research, I have strongly prioritized mentoring and outreach during my PhD career. I advised 12 undergraduate and 5 junior PhD students from diverse backgrounds and identities, several of which submitted and/or published to NLP conferences. I also organized and participated in outreach events for K-12 and high school students, and enacted structural change through departmental leadership on the diversity and graduate advisory committees. I look forward to the opportunities to continue these efforts, and to teach the new generation of computer science researchers.

As technology becomes increasingly commonplace, my goal is to make AI systems that are human-centric and socially-aware, and promote justice and social good, to serve all members of society equally. I believe CMU and the LTI would be an ideal place for me to work towards that goal. Attached with this application you will find my CV, research plan, full publication list, teaching experience, and select research papers.

Best regards,

Maarten Sap