

anjana sofia vakil

m.sc. student, computational linguistics

contact

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language skills

English (US)	native
French	adv.
German	int.
Spanish	low int.
Vietnamese	elem.

tech skills

Python	NumPy, Django
Groovy	Grails
C#	Visual Studio
Java	Eclipse
HTML, CSS, JavaScript	

OSX, Linux, Windows
Git, Subversion
L^AT_EX, R, Praat, WEKA

interests

computer-assisted
language learning
low-resource languages
spoken dialogue
assistive technology

education

04/2015

M.Sc. Language Science & Technology

Universität des Saarlandes (Saarland University)

Saarbrücken, Germany

- Coursework in computational linguistics, speech technology, statistical natural language processing, machine learning, software engineering
- Thesis: "Automatic diagnosis and feedback for lexical stress errors in non-native speech: Towards a CAPT system for French speakers of German"

2007

B.A. Philosophy

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, USA

- Highest Distinction in General Scholarship (summa cum laude)
- Overall Grade Point Average: 3.93 (of 4.0), GPA in major/minor: 4.0
- French minor; year at Université Paris-Sorbonne/Institut Catholique de Paris

experience

2013–2015

Universität des Saarlandes

Saarbrücken, Germany

Research Assistant, Dept. of Phonetics

- Supported research in Franco-German project *Individualized Feedback for Computer-Assisted Spoken Language learning (IFCASL)*
- Assisted with recording and phonetic annotation of bilingual (German-French) native and learner speech corpus
- Trained other research assistants to annotate recordings using Praat and version-control annotations using SVN on Linux machines
- Built project website (www.ifcasl.org)

2011–2012

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

Hanoi, Vietnam

English Language Instructor

- Taught full-time academic English classes to post-secondary students
- Developed original lesson and evaluation materials
- Planned and led skill-specific workshops to meet students' needs
- As member of Professional Learning Group, facilitated professional development workshops and activities for faculty enrichment

02-03/2011

Espaanglisch Language School

Trujillo, Peru

Volunteer Teacher/Teacher-trainer

- Taught basic English to children and adults in underserved communities
- Trained first-time teachers in TESOL pedagogical principles

2008-2010

Kaplan International

San Francisco, CA, USA

English Instructor

- Taught general English and specific subjects (e.g. TOEFL, Listening, Idioms) to international adult students using original lesson plans
- Initiated and led team effort to restructure a schoolwide course syllabus
- Created student report grading rubric which was implemented nationwide

2007-2008

Meltwater News

San Francisco, CA, USA

Sales Consultant/Key Account Manager

- Identified and contacted prospective clients across various sectors
- Negotiated new contracts with C-level executives
- Consulted with clients to create customized media-monitoring solutions
- Trained clients to implement and use proprietary web-based software

training

- 06/2014 **LearnLab Summer School** Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
(ITS track) Lectures in Intelligent Tutoring Systems, educational data mining, collaborative learning; hands-on training in ITS building; student poster session
- 04/2014 **Spring School on Individual-centered Approaches to Speech Processing** Schloß Dagstuhl, Germany
Lectures in comp. phonetics, speech processing; student poster session
- 07/2013 **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (German Linguistic Society) Comp. Ling. Fall School** Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany
Courses in intelligent CALL, textual entailment, distributional semantics
- 07/2011 **Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute** University of Colorado, Boulder
Courses in computational linguistics, TTS synthesis, statistical syntactic parsing, computational lexical semantics
- 07-08/2009 **LSA Summer Institute** University of California, Berkeley
Courses in semantics, phonology, English grammar, evolution of language
- 07/2008 **Advanced TESOL Certificate** Transworld Schools, San Francisco, CA
Course and practicum in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

awards

- 2013-2014 **Deutschlandstipendium** (Germany Scholarship) Universität des Saarlandes
Monthly stipend granted annually to outstanding students (Sponsor: IMC AG)
- 2004,-6,-7 **Dean's Honor List** University of California, Berkeley
Honors standing awarded to top 4% of undergraduate students

publications

Anjana Vakil and Alexis Palmer (2014). **Cross-language mapping for small-vocabulary ASR in under-resourced languages: Investigating the impact of source language choice**. In: *4th International Workshop on Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced Languages (SLTU '14)*. Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Anjana Vakil, Max Paulus, Alexis Palmer, and Michaela Regneri (2014). **lex4all: A language-independent tool for building and evaluating pronunciation lexicons for small-vocabulary speech recognition**. In: *52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2014): System Demonstrations*. Baltimore, MD, USA.

references

- Prof. Dr. Bernd Möbius** Chair of Phonetics, Phonology & Speech Technology
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- Prof. Dr. Dietrich Klakow** Chair of Spoken Language Systems
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- Eve Higby** (formerly) Academic Manager
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