

Melissa A. Lieffers

PhD Student, Computer Science
Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering
Indiana University - Bloomington
Bloomington, IN 47405 | mealieff@iu.edu | mealieff.github.io

EDUCATION

Indiana University <i>Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science</i>	Bloomington, IN <i>current</i>
Indiana University <i>Master of Arts, Computational Linguistics</i>	Bloomington, IN <i>August 2025</i>
Indiana University <i>Master of Arts, Hispanic Literature</i>	Bloomington, IN <i>May 2021</i>
Union University <i>Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, Applied Linguistics, Spanish</i>	Jackson, TN <i>May 2018</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Speech and signal processing, Speech emotion recognition, Automatic speech recognition, Natural language processing for under-resourced languages, Ethics in NLP, Language acquisition technology

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Yan Yan, Tuan Nguyen, Bo Su, **Melissa Lieffers**, & Thai Le. (2025). *ShareChat: A Dataset of Chatbot Conversations in the Wild*. arXiv preprint arXiv:2512.17843. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2512.17843>
- [2] **Melissa Lieffers** & Thai Le. *Continuous Emotion Span Recognition with Audio Reasoning Models*. In manuscript.
- [3] **Melissa Lieffers**, Victor Shi, Phakphum Artkaew, Alexandra Fort, & Shobhana Chelliah. *Automatic Tonal Transcription for Language Documentation*. In manuscript.
- [4] Wenchen Shi, **Melissa Lieffers**, & Shuju Shi. *Automatic Speech Recognition for Jopara*. In manuscript.

SELECTED ACADEMIC AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Pol-IU-Glot Award, Distinguished Pol-IU-Glot Scholar Award • April 2025

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, Indiana University: Persian I (Study Abroad) • AY 2025–2026; Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian I (Study Abroad) • Summer 2025, Summer 2024; Advanced Catalan • Spring 2024; Arabic Level 4 (Study Abroad) • Summer 2021; Arabic Summer Workshop Level 2 • Summer 2020

J.M. Hill Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper: “El archivo imperial en Tela de sevoya de Myriam Moscona” • Department of Spanish and Portuguese • Spring 2021

Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), Arabic study at the Arab American Language Institute in Tangier, Morocco, American Councils for International Education & U.S. Department of State • Summer 2021

Teaching Fellowship, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University • 2019–2022

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

At Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (2019–Present)

CSCI B200: Intro to Programming, Computer Science (Spring 2026)

CSCI 490: Introduction to Generative Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science (Fall 2025)

ANTH 122: Interpersonal Communication, Department of Anthropology (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

HISP 280: Grammar in Context (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

HISP 200: Basic Language IV, Department of Spanish and Portuguese (Spring 2020, Summer 2021)

HISP 105: Accelerated Basic Language I, Department of Spanish and Portuguese (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

INVITED TALK

“Making Use of Computational Tools for Language Documentation” with Shobhana L. Chelliah, International Training Program on Computational Linguistics, Guwahati University, August 2025

“Balancing Multilabel Datasets for Effective Hate Speech Detection: A Study on Gab” - Clingding, Computational Linguistics Lab, Indiana University - Bloomington, February 2025

“Dependency-Informed Attention for Multilingual Grammar Error Correction” - Clingding, Computational Linguistics Lab, Indiana University - Bloomington, December 2024

REVIEWING

International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC) [1] 2025

Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms (WOAH) [1] and Linguistic Annotation Workshop (LAW) [1] ACL 2025

International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING) [1] 2024

SERVICE

Competition Judge, Women’s Research Poster Competition, Center of Excellence for Women and Technology, Indiana University - Bloomington, April 2025

WORK EXPERIENCE

Indiana University

Associate Instructor, Department of Computer Science

August 2025-present

The Language Conservancy

Computational Linguist Intern

June 2024 - August 2025

Kinsey Institute

Graduate Archival Assistant: Library and Special Collections

August 2024-May 2025

Countering ONline NETworked Conspiracy Theories

Data Annotator

January-August 2024

Indiana University

Associate Instructor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

August 2019-May 2022

LANGUAGES

English: Native fluency, Spanish: Near-native fluency, Catalan: Advanced Fluency

MSA Arabic, Persian, and French: Intermediate Fluency

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Women in Science (AWIS)