NAM WOOK KIM · COVER LETTER

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Boston University
Department of Computer Science
111 Cummington Mall
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Faculty Search Committee Members,

I am writing to apply for the position of assistant professor in the area of human-computer interaction, with a focus on designing interactions with data to tackle the overabundance of information in our society. I am completing my PhD in Computer Science at Harvard and I expect to graduate in May 2019. Prior to this, I worked in the computer industry for several years in the domain of data intelligence and analytics.

I am a human-computer interaction researcher with a visualization focus. My research aims to democratize data by lowering the barriers for a general audience in understanding and communicating complex data. I employ visualization to study this issue, which provides an effective means to make sense of data without requiring advanced statistical literacy. My research contributions have been to enhance the design practice of creating expressive infographics, enable authoring of visual data stories to effectively convey insights from data, and allow for large-scale studies to understand visual cognition and communication. My work has been published at top venues such as CHI, UIST, CSCW, InfoVis, and received notable recognition from both researchers and practitioners including designers and journalists. I collaborated with people from diverse disciplines such as graphics, vision, and storytelling, and my work has implications for fields outside of computer science such as arts and humanities.

I am excited by the opportunity to teach and do research at Boston University where I can contribute to existing research and education efforts on data-centric computing. My research is highly collaborative and interdisciplinary, and can be complementary to data science and vision & graphics; e.g., human-in-the-loop data analytics and visual interpretability to deep learning models, collecting attentional data, and tangible interaction with data. I would also be interested in collaborating with the Hariri Institute for Computing. In addition, I can teach upper-level undergraduate classes in both human-computer interaction and visualization that are currently not offered in your department; these courses can also attract students from a variety of fields from business to science.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me if I can provide any additional materials that might help the committee evaluate my qualifications.

Sincerely,

Nam Wook Kim