

# Nishant Balepur

Emails: nbalepur@umd.edu, nishantbalepur@gmail.com

Website: nbalepur.github.io

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

I am a Ph.D. student in computer science at the University of Maryland, College Park, working with Professors Jordan Boyd-Graber, Rachel Rudinger, and Hal Daumé III. I conduct research at the intersection of natural language processing, information retrieval, and AI safety, where I design methods to help language models reliably and safely convey knowledge to users. I am extremely grateful to be funded by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

## EDUCATION

---

- **University of Maryland, College Park (UMD)** College Park, MD  
*Ph.D. Computer Science* Aug 2023 - Present  
**Advisors:** Professors Jordan Boyd-Graber, Rachel Rudinger, Hal Daumé III
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)** Urbana, IL  
*B.S. Computer Science; B.S. Statistics (Dual Degree); GPA: 4.00/4.00* Aug 2019 - May 2023  
**Collaborators:** Professors Diyi Yang, Jiawei Han, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang, Hari Sundaram  
**Relevant Courses:** Data Structures, Algorithms, Natural Language Processing, Data Mining, Social and Information Networks, Formal Models of Computation, Applied Machine Learning, Unsupervised Learning  
**Skills:** Python, R, SQL, Java, C/C++, PHP, HTML/CSS/JS, OCaml, NLP, ML, IR, Data Science, Web Dev

## PUBLICATIONS AND WRITTEN WORK

---

- DynaMiTE: Discovering Explosive Topic Evolutions with User Guidance  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2023)*  
**Nishant Balepur\***, Shivam Agarwal\*, Karthik Ramanan, Susik Yoon, Diyi Yang, Jiawei Han
- Expository Text Generation: Imitate, Retrieve, Paraphrase  
*arXiv:2305.03276 (Under Review)*  
**Nishant Balepur**, Jie Huang, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang
- Mastering the ABCDs of Complex Questions: Answer-Based Claim Decomposition for Self-Evaluating LLMs  
*arXiv:2305.14750 (Under Review)*  
**Nishant Balepur**, Jie Huang, Samraj Moorjani, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang, Hari Sundaram
- Text Fact Transfer  
*Under Review*  
**Nishant Balepur**, Jie Huang, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang
- Aligning Language Models with Factuality and Truthfulness  
*Undergraduate Senior Thesis*  
**Nishant Balepur**, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

- **Feet Thinking Lab / RLab** UMD  
*Professor Jordan Boyd-Graber / Professor Rachel Rudinger* Aug 2023 - Present
  - Improving user knowledge acquisition in flashcard-based apps through human-LLM collaboration
  - Studying the capability of LLMs to perform process-of-elimination style reasoning
- **Forward Data Lab** UIUC  
*Professor Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang* Aug 2021 - June 2023
  - Investigating methods to improve the factuality, truthfulness, and reliability of LLMs
  - Resulted in three EMNLP 2023 submissions
- **Data Mining Group** UIUC  
*Professor Jiawei Han* Aug 2022 - Dec 2022
  - Developing models for discovering temporal patterns in large, unlabeled document collections
  - Resulted in Findings of ACL 2023 conference paper

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

- **Meta** Menlo Park, CA  
*Software Engineering Intern* May 2022 - Aug 2022
  - Collaborated with machine learning engineers and research scientists on the Facebook Creators Well-being team
  - Fronted a 15% drop in negative interactions across the one billion users on the Facebook platform
- **HiMarley** Remote  
*Data Science Intern* May 2021 - Aug 2021
- **State Farm** Champaign, IL  
*Actuarial and Modeling Intern* Aug 2020 - Dec 2020
- **John Deere** Remote  
*Software Engineering Intern* Jun 2020 - Aug 2020