

# Nick McKenna

Informatics Forum 4.31  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entailment, causality, event structure & aktionsart, representation learning

## EDUCATION

### The University of Edinburgh

2019 – **Ph.D. Informatics**  
Supervised by Professor Mark Steedman

2019 **M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence**, Distinction

### Brown University

2017 **B.Sc. Computer Science**

## PUBLICATIONS

*To Appear*

1. Nick McKenna and Mark Steedman. “Learning Negation Scope from Syntactic Structure”. In: *Proceedings of the Ninth Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics (\*SEM 2020)*. Barcelona, Spain: Association for Computational Linguistics, Dec. 2020

## AWARDS & HONORS

- \* Huawei Ph.D. Scholarship Award
- \* Outstanding M.Sc. Dissertation: “**Learning Negation Scope Semantics with Structure**”

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Product Manager**, TapToBook *2017 – 2018*

- \* Directed product development. Identified business needs, researched and planned solutions, and prioritized work for the development team.
- \* Overhauled the core business model, focusing on AI-driven solutions. TapToBook is now profitable and growing rapidly.

**Product Management Intern**, Yelp *Summer 2016*

- \* Experimented with ML team, growing review highlights engagement by 13%. Conducted extensive data analysis in SQL for product planning.

**Engineering Intern, Yelp***Summer 2015*

- \* Developed a streamlined new “Create Reservation” tool for Yelp Reservations on iPad, reducing time spent by restaurant hosts by 88%.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Graduate TA at The University of Edinburgh

- \* Accelerated Natural Language Processing [M.Sc.] *2019, 2020*
- \* Natural Language Understanding and Machine Translation [M.Sc.] *2020*

Undergraduate TA at Brown University

- \* Computational Linguistics *2017*
- \* Computer Graphics *2016*
- \* Computer Architecture *2015*

**SERVICE**

Conference Referee

- \* COLING 2020
- \* \*SEM 2020

**SKILLS**

- \* Design of practical computer models for automatic language understanding leveraging syntax, semantics, and pragmatics
- \* Skilled with machine learning frameworks: PyTorch, TensorFlow, and Keras; Proficient in Python, Java, C++, Swift/iOS
- \* Data analysis with SQL & Python numerical libraries

**EXTRACURRICULAR****Sponsorship Organizer, Hack@Brown***2015 – 2017*

- \* Raised \$45,000 for Brown’s annual collegiate hackathon from partners Google, Microsoft, TwoSigma, and others