

# Nick McKenna

Informatics Forum 5.09  
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## Education



### The University of Edinburgh

Ph.D. Informatics 2019 – Present  
*Advisor: Mark Steedman*

M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence, *Distinction* 2019



### Brown University

B.Sc. Computer Science 2017

## Publications

### Conference Papers

**Nick McKenna**, Liane Guillou, Mohammad Javad Hosseini, Sander Bijl de Vroe, Mark Johnson, and Mark Steedman. *Multivalent Entailment Graphs for Question Answering*. EMNLP, 2021.

[Paper Link](#)

**Nick McKenna** and Mark Steedman. *Learning Negation Scope from Syntactic Structure*. \*SEM, 2020.

[Paper Link](#)

### Workshop Papers

Sander Bijl de Vroe\*, Liane Guillou\*, Miloš Stanojević, **Nick McKenna**, and Mark Steedman. *Modality and Negation in Event Extraction*. Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE) at ACL, 2021.

[Paper Link](#)

## Professional Experience

**Applied Scientist Intern**, Alexa Knowledge, Amazon Summer 2022

Researching new methods in natural language inference for fully end-to-end question answering with differentiable knowledge graphs.

**Product Manager**, TapToBook 2017 – 2018

Identified business needs, researched and planned solutions, and prioritized work for the development team. Overhauled the core business model, focusing on AI-driven solutions.

**Product Management Intern**, Yelp Summer 2016

Launched experiments with the Machine Learning team, which grew engagement with extracted user review highlights by 13%. Conducted extensive data analysis in SQL for product planning.

**Engineering Intern, Yelp**

Summer 2015

Developed a streamlined new tool to help restaurant hosts make new guest reservations (for *Yelp Reservations* on iPad). This tool reduced time spent on this task by 88%.

**Scientific Service***Talk Panelist*

“Getting into NLP Research” at NAACL 2021

*Conference Referee*

EMNLP 2021

COLING 2020

STARSEM 2020, 2021

**Awards & Honors**

Huawei Ph.D. Scholarship Award 2019

Outstanding M.Sc. Dissertation: “[Learning Negation Scope Semantics with Structure](#)” 2019

**Teaching***Graduate TA at the University of Edinburgh*

Accelerated Natural Language Processing [M.Sc. course] 2019 – 2021

Natural Language Understanding and Machine Translation [M.Sc. course] 2020 – 2022

*Undergraduate TA at Brown University*

Computational Linguistics 2017

Computer Graphics 2016

Computer Architecture 2015

**Skills**

- \* Design of machine learning models for automatic language understanding.
- \* PyTorch machine learning framework; Python, Java, C++, Swift/iOS.
- \* Data analysis with SQL & Python numerical libraries numpy, pandas, scikit.

**Extracurricular****Sponsorship Organizer, Hack@Brown**

2015 – 2017

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

**Independent App Developer, Nighttime Software**

2012 – 2016

Developed various apps and games for iOS. Notably, *2048: Two to Infinity* was downloaded over 16,000 times and ranked in the top 100 strategy games, USA and Canada.