

Nick McKenna

Informatics Forum 5.19
10 Crichton Street
Edinburgh, EH8 9AB

Email nick.mckenna@ed.ac.uk
Homepage www.nmckenna.me
GitHub www.github.com/nighttime

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

Preprints

Nick McKenna and Mark Steedman. *Smoothing Entailment Graphs with Language Models*. ArXiv, 2022.

[Paper Link](#)

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, Amazon, Alexa Knowledge

Jun-Oct 2022

Researched new methods in natural language inference and Knowledge Graph-based Question Answering. Developed a novel end-to-end QA model using a differentiable knowledge graph.

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

EACL

2023

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 frameworks; 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.