

Nick McKenna

Informatics Forum 4.31
10 Crichton Street
Edinburgh, EH8 9AB

nick.mckenna@ed.ac.uk
www.nmckenna.me

CURRENTLY

- * Doctoral candidate in computational semantics, supervised by Professor Mark Steedman
- * Interests: entailment, causality, representation learning, event structure & aktionsart

EDUCATION



The University of Edinburgh

2019 – Ph.D. Informatics

2019 M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence, *Distinction*



Brown University

2017 B.Sc. Computer Science

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*. [Pre-print Link](#).
- * **Nick McKenna** and Mark Steedman. “Learning Negation Scope from Syntactic Structure.” *STARSEM 2020*. [ACL 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-IJCNLP 2021*.

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

- * 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%.

AWARDS & HONORS

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate TA at the University of Edinburgh

- * Accelerated Natural Language Processing [M.Sc. course] *2019, 2020*
- * Natural Language Understanding and Machine Translation [M.Sc. course] *2020, 2021*

Undergraduate TA at Brown University

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

SERVICE

Talk Panelist

- * NAACL 2021: “Getting into NLP Research”

Conference Referee

- * EMNLP 2021
- * COLING 2020
- * STARSEM 2020, 2021

SKILLS

- * Design of machine learning models for automatic language understanding leveraging syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
- * PyTorch machine learning framework; 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.

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.