

NICK MCKENNA

Informatics Forum 4.31
10 Crichton Street
Edinburgh, EH8 9AB

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entailment, causality, event structure & aktionsart, representation learning

EDUCATION

The University of Edinburgh

2019 – **Ph.D. Informatics**

Supervised by Prof. Mark Steedman

Institute for Language, Cognition, and Computation

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

Outstanding Dissertation: “Learning Negation Scope Semantics with Structure”

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

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