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**
Advisor: Professor Mark Steedman

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

Brown University

2017 **B.Sc. Computer Science**

PUBLICATIONS

∗ Nick McKenna and Mark Steedman. "Learning Negation Scope from Syntactic Structure". In: *Proceedings of the Ninth Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics.* Barcelona, Spain (Online): Association for Computational Linguistics, Dec. 2020, pp. 137– 142. URL: https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.starsem-1.15

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