

# NAOMI SAPHRA

✉ nsaphra@fas.harvard.edu    🌐 nsaphra.net    📞 914.481.3047    📍 Cambridge, MA

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Faculty Search Committee  
Boston University

Dear Faculty Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor at Boston University. My core research topic is the empirical training dynamics of neural language models.

I have published in high profile NLP-specific conferences like NAACL, EACL, EMNLP, COLM, and COLING. However, I have also published in many top-tier general machine learning venues like NeurIPS, ICLR, TMLR, and Nature Machine Intelligence. Although my background is in natural language processing, I also have a domain-general interest in neural training dynamics, interpretability, and generalization. Recently, I have begun collaborating with natural scientists to interpret models of animal communication and astrophysics. I am excited to expand my interdisciplinary work and to collaborate with researchers in other areas of machine learning who are interested in the emergence of latent structure.

I have experience teaching tutorial sections in machine learning and providing individual mentorship, including as the primary supervisor of research by PhD students, master's students, and undergraduates. I am proud to have enabled the success of many students and, although I am not a PI, I have already published six papers in major conferences as last author.

I have performed extensive outreach, particularly in my advocacy for open source adaptive technology and for the technological rights of disabled people. I am passionate about this work, which is informed by my own experiences relying on speech-to-text software.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for this position.

Regards,

Naomi Saphra  
Kempner Research Fellow, Harvard University