

## nsaphra@nsaphra.net http://nsaphra.net

# **Naomi Saphra**

### **EDUCATION**

University of Edinburgh

Ph.D. Informatics
Supervisors: Adam Lopez and Tim Hospedales
Thesis: Training Dynamics of Neural Language Models.

Johns Hopkins University

MSE Computer Science

Carnegie Mellon University

B.Sc Computer Science with Language Technologies minor

The Recurse Center

2021

2015

Spring 2017

Sabbatical: Recurser

Experimental unstructured educational programming retreat.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

White, Jennifer C., Tiago Pimentel, Naomi Saphra, Adina Williams, and Ryan Cotterell (2021). "A Non-Linear Structural Probe". In: NAACL.

Pimentel, Tiago, Naomi Saphra (equal contribution), Adina Williams, and Ryan Cotterell (2020). "Pareto Probing: Trading Off Accuracy for Complexity". In: *EMNLP*.

Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2020). "LSTMs Compose—and Learn—Bottom-Up". In: Findings of EMNLP.

Tahaei, Mohammad, Kami Vaniea, and Naomi Saphra (2020). "Understanding Privacy-Related Questions on Stack Overflow". In: *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.

Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2019). "Sparsity Emerges Naturally in Neural Language Models". In: ICML Workshop on Identifying and Understanding Deep Learning Phenomena.

Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2019). "Understanding Learning Dynamics Of Language Models with SVCCA". In: NAACL.

Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2016). "Evaluating Informal-Domain Word Representations With UrbanDictionary". In: ACL Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP.

Saphra, Naomi and Raman Arora (2015). "Domain Adaptation for Word Embeddings With Matrix Factorization". In: Women in Machine Learning Workshop at NIPS.

Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2015). "AMRICA: an AMR Inspector for Cross-language Alignments". In: NAACL.

Cotterell, Ryan, Adithya Renduchintala, Naomi Saphra, and Chris Callison-Burch (2014). "An Algerian Arabic-French Code-Switched Corpus". In: *LREC Workshop on Free/Open-Source Arabic Corpora*.

Schneider, Nathan, Brendan O'Connor, Naomi Saphra, David Bamman, Manaal Faruqui, Noah A. Smith, Chris Dyer, and Jason Baldridge (2014). "A framework for (under) specifying dependency syntax without overloading annotators". In: *ACL Linguistic Annotation Workshop*.

Vedaldi, Andrea et al. (2014). "Understanding Objects in Detail with Fine-grained Attributes." In: Proc. IEEE Conf. on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR).

Saphra, Naomi and Matthew Blaschko (2012). "Automatic verification of boundary annotations from mechanical turk". In: Women in Machine Learning Workshop at NIPS.

## **SUPERVISION**

Alp Ozkan, University of Edinburgh MSc. 2018

Combined Application of Pruning and Growing Approaches for Neural Networks.

Yekun Chai, University of Edinburgh MSc. 2018

Discovering Spelling Variants on Urban Dictionary.

#### **TEACHING**

#### University of Edinburgh

2016-2019

Tutor

Informatics Research Review (2016)

Probabilistic Modeling & Reasoning (2019)

Machine Learning & Pattern Recognition (2017, 2018, 2019)

#### Johns Hopkins University

2013

Course Assistant

Natural Language Processing

#### **Irvington High School**

2008-2009

Teacher's Assistant

Ancient Greek

## WORK EXPERIENCE

NYU 2021

Postdoctoral Researcher

Supervisor: Kyunghyun Cho

Google Winter 2020

Research Intern

Supervisors: Dipanjan Das, Ian Tenney, Jasmijn Bastings, Thibault Sellam.

Better understanding of how BERT learns.

Koko Summer 2017

Contractor

Developed neural classifiers for informal text at NYC startup.

Google Summer 2015

Software Engineering Intern

Supervisor: Marius Pasca (Common Sense Team, Machine Intelligence).

Unsupervised discovery of paraphrases of complex compositional noun phrases.

Google Summer 2013

Software Engineering Intern

Supervisor: Eric Altendorf (Common Sense Team, Machine Intelligence).

Integrated models of real-world knowledge into entity linking systems.

### CLSP Summer Workshop at Johns Hopkins University Summer 2012

Undergraduate Research Fellow

Supervisor: Matthew Blaschko.

Developed unsupervised learning methods to verify and explore image annotations.

Selected from a competitive undergraduate pool.

Facebook, Inc. Summer 2011

Engineering Intern

Supervisor: Jen Burge (Engagement Team).

Engineered and tested new features for the People You May Know model.

## **AWARDS**

ICLR Outstanding Reviewer 2021.

NY Academy of Sciences - Natural Language, Dialogue, and Speech 2019: Best Poster Runner Up.

Daniella Sciama Award for Achievement through Adversity 2019.

Google Europe Scholarship for Students with Disabilities 2017.

Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science Dragon Award 2013.

National Merit Semifinalist 2009.

Nannina Rasulo Memorial Scholarship Award for Technology 2009.

## **TALKS**

#### INVITED EVENT TALKS

Transparent, Hackable, Accessible

November 2020

QueerInAI EMNLP Social

Seattle, WA (Remote)

Accessible Means Hackable (Keynote)

June 2020

Pydatafest Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Netherlands (Remote)

Blackbox NLP Panel Discussion August 2019

ACL Blackbox NLP Workshop

Florence, Italy

#### **OUTREACH**

Get Hooked on Pytorch Hooks! March 2020

!!Con West

Santa Cruz, CA

Carbon AI and the Concentration of Computational Work September 2019

Challenging the Work Society

London, UK

Paying the Panopticon (standup comedy) Feb 26, 2019

The Stand Edinburgh Comedy Club

Edinburgh, UK

ML and NLP Guest Lectures 2012

Carnegie Mellon TechNights (program for middle school girls)

Pittsburgh, PA

#### OTHER INVITED TALKS

UC Berkeley November 2020

Berkeley, CA (Remote)

NLP With Friends October 2020

Remote

New York University

June 2020

New York, New York (Remote)

Brown University May 2020

Providence, RI (Remote)

Element AI September 2019

London, UK

Allen Institute for AI August 2019

Seattle, WA

City University of New York May 2019

New York, New York

University of Amsterdam

January 2019

Amsterdam, Netherlands

## **SERVICE**

6th Workshop on Representation Learning for NLP (RepL) 2021 Organizing Committee.

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) 2020

Accessibility Subcomittee.

Radical Utopian Sci-Fi Enclave (RUSE) co-organizer (2019-2020)

Organize monthly department political sci-fi book club.

Staff Pride Network disability representative (2019-2020)

Representative for disabled students in school-wide LGBTQ+ network.

ILCC Cookie Czar (2017-2019)

Organize weekly department social event.

Edinburgh ML4NLP Reading Group (2018-2019)

Organize and lead weekly reading group.

Auld Reekie Roller Derby (2018-2019)

Communications committee.

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) 2014

Student social co-chair.

North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (2012-2014)

Puzzle tester and local organizer.

#### **REVIEWING**

- Conferences
  - ICLR
  - ACL
  - ICML
  - EMNLP
  - NAACL
  - EACL
  - NeurIPS
- Workshops
  - BlackboxNLP Workshop
  - RepEval NLP Workshop
  - Learning With Limited Data Workshop
  - Women in Machine Learning Workshop
  - Widening NLP Workshop