Talha Oz

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Education

George Mason University (Jan 2014 - Present)
- PhD in Computational Social Science

George Mason University (Aug 2011 - Dec 2013)
- MS in Computer Science, emphasis on Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining

University of Nevada, Reno (Aug 2008 - Dec 2010)
- MS in Computer Science, emphasis on Networks and the Internet

Bogazici University (Sep 2003 - Jun 2008)
- BS in Computer Engineering

Employment

Graduate Research Assistant at George Mason University (Fall 2011 - Present)

- System Administration : Responsible for managing research and web servers in the Center for Discovery Science and Health Informatics (DSHI)
- Research : Involved in various Health Informatics projects using Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Social Network Analysis, and Genetic Algorithms
- Teaching: Taught MS SQL and Weka in help sessions for Data Mining in Health Care course

Application System Analyist at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Jan-May 2011)

- Developed applications of molecular analysis tools for cancer research and worked on integration of caArray, GenePattern and Taverna

Graduate Assistant at University of Nevada, Reno (Fall 2008 - Fall 2010)

- Research: Developed the probing module of an integrated Internet topology mapping system
- Teaching (Math & Stats): Led three recitation sections of Calculus II which met two days per week
- Teaching (CSE): Data Structures, Programming Languages Concepts, Principles of Operating Systems, Computer Network Systems, Computer Security

Wireless Technologies Intern at Bosch Research (Palo Alto, CA) (Summer 2009)

- Implemented the required modules for a 6LoWPAN based web server demonstrator to achieve the idea of IoT (Internet of Things) by integrating tiny sensors into TCP/IP networks.

Honors & Awards

- George Mason University Travel Grant for PolNet8 Conference in Portland, OR (Jun 2015)
- Political Networks Fellowship Award ($700) Montreal, QC (May 2014)
- Honorable Mention ($1,000) in DC Tech Hackathon by D&B at Microsoft Chevy Chase, MD (Nov 2013)
- Placed 1st and received 2012 Virginia HIMSS poster scholarship award ($1,000)
- Finished 8th in Data Mining Hackathon on Best Buy Mobile - ACM SF Bay Area Chapter 2012
- Travel grant for ACM/IEEE Symposium on ANCS 2009
- Offered full scholarship by Ministry of Education to pursue undergraduate education abroad
- Placed 24th in national University Admission Exam 2002 among 1.5M participants
- Valedictorian among graduates of 2002 at Vali Vecdi Gonul High School
- Placed top 10 in computer science track at TUBITAK Project Competition 2001
- Placed 8th in national High School Admission Exam 1999 among 350K students

Publications

Journal Publications

1. Andrew Armstrong, Talha Oz, and A. Trevor Thrall "Doomsayers or Pollyannas? News Sentiment and Public Gatekeeping on Twitter"(under review) Journal of Political Communication (Taylor & Francis)

Conference Publications

1. Che Ngufor, Janusz Wojtusiak, Andrea Hooker, Talha OZ, and Jack Hadley "Extreme Logistic Regression: A Large Scale Learning Algorithm with Application to Prostate Cancer Mortality Prediction" The 27th International Flairs Conference (FLAIRS-27), Pensacola Beach, FL, May 2014
2. Hakan Kardes, Talha OZ, and Mehmet H. Gunes "Cheleby: A Subnet-level Internet Topology Mapping System" 4th International Conference on Communication Systems and Networks (COMSNETS) Banglore, India, Jan 2012

Posters & Invited Talks (Abstract Reviewed)

1. Trevor Thrall, Andrew Armstrong, Talha OZ "Circle of Doom? News Sharing and Negativity Bias on Social Media" 111th APSA Annual Meeting (APSA 2015), San Francisco, CA Sep 2015
2. Talha OZ "113th Congress as News Commentators on Twitter" 8th Political Networks Conference (PolNet), Portland, OR Jun 2015
3. Talha OZ "All the Commentaries That's Fit to Tweet" 1st Computational Social Science Summit (CSSS15), Evanston, IL May 2015
4. Talha OZ, Janusz Wojtusiak "Turkish News Audience and Their Political Leanings on Twitter" 7th Political Networks Conference (PolNet), Montreal, QC, Canada May 2014
5. Talha OZ, Janusz Wojtusiak "Specialty and Physician Referral Network" International Sunbelt Social Network Conference XXXIV (INSNA), St. Pete Beach, FL Feb 2014
6. Talha OZ "Mining Progress Notes for Prediction of Activities of Daily Living" American Medical Informatics Annual Symposium (AMIA), Washington, DC Nov 2013
7. Talha OZ "Mining Clinical Notes and Ontologies to Predict Functional Status" Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Williamsburg, VA Nov 2012 (best poster award)
8. Hakan Kardes, Talha OZ, Mehmet H. Gunes "Cheleby: An Internet Topology Mapping System" 3rd workshop on Active Internet Measurements, San Diego, CA Feb 2011
9. Talha OZ, Hakan Kardes, Mehmet H. Gunes "Cheleby: Subnet-level Internet Mapper" 2nd workshop on Active Internet Measurements, San Diego, CA Feb 2010

Theses & Selected Reports

1. Talha OZ "Cheleby: Internet Topology Collection System" M.S. Thesis, Dec 2010
2. Talha OZ, M. Salih Gok "Fire Simulator and Wind Direction Detector" B.S. Thesis, Istanbul, Turkey, Jun 2008
3. Ahmed Yasin Koculu, Talha OZ "Encryption and Decryption with RSA Algorithm using Parallel Computing" TUBITAK Project Competition, Ankara, Turkey, Apr 2001

Services

Open Source Projects

- DD-CSS: A web application to collect & analyze social media data, powered by Flask
- YSK: Scrapes and analyzes official election results from the website of the Supreme Electoral Council of Turkey

Presentations

1. "Computational Social Science" Summer Workshop at Turkic American Alliance (TAA), Washington, DC, July 2015

2. "Data Driven Computational Social Science", College of Communication at Hacettepe University, Mar 2015
3. "Open Data and Computational Social Science", UN Ankara Data Journalism Workshop, Mar 2015
4. "My Ongoing Work on Politics & Twitter", CSS Colloquium at Center for Social Complexity, GMU, Feb 2015
5. "Data Journalism & Computational Social Science", Istanbul University Data Journalism Workshop, Dec 2014
6. "An Overview of Computational Social Science" 2nd GrandEng Workshop, Princeton University, NJ, May 2014

Reviewer

- ABTA 2015 Doctoral Researcher Awards, London, UK

Professional Organizations

- American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) (2013-2014)
- The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) (2012-2013)
- The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) (2012-2013)
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) (2009-2010)

University Service/Involvement

- Representing DSHI at the Systems Administrators Forum (SALT) at GMU (2014-Present)
- Representative of College of Engineering in Graduate Student Association, UNR (2009-2010)
- Technical services at UNR-CSE colloquia (2009-2010)
- University of Nevada, Reno Turkish Cultural Association, Treasurer (2009-2010)

Community Engagement

- Judge at Pinnacle Academy Science Fair 2011-2014 (Fairfax, VA)
- Computer science instructor and chaperon (CalPoly Pomona, AMSP Summer 2010)
- Judge at Intel ISEF 2009 (Reno, NV)