Pranav **A**

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Education

University of Hamburg   *Germany*
DOCTORATE IN PHILOSOPHY   *Sept. 2024-Present*
- Main research themes: Natural Language Processing, AI ethics
- Currently providing classes: Introduction to Data Science, Text Analysis for Interdisciplinary Research

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology   *Hong Kong*
MASTERS IN BIG DATA TECHNOLOGY   *Sep. 2017 - Sep. 2018*
- Awarded entrance scholarship for top performance.
- Top 15% of the class. *Detailed list of exams and projects are available here (Link)*

VIT University   *India*
BACHELORS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING   *Sep. 2013 - Sep. 2017*
- Consistently awarded high performing awards in academics
- THESIS: Exploration of Heuristics in IR in Applications of Approximate String Similarity (Link)

Experience

Dayta AI   *Hong Kong*
MACHINE LEARNING LEAD   *Sep 2018 - Jun 2024*
- Responsible for leading Computer Vision and NLP tasks and designing experiments
- Developed question answering systems for Traditional Chinese based text corpora.
- Developed script conversion methods for conversions between Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese.
- Developed paraphrasing systems for Traditional Chinese based news texts

Conference Publications

**Comparing Static and Contextual Distributional Semantic Models on
Intrinsic Tasks: An Evaluation on Mandarin Chinese Datasets**

LREC-COLING 2024
- First authored paper with Yan Cong, Emmanuele Chersoni, Yu-Yin Hsu and Alessandro Lenci.
- Analyzes the performance of static vs. contextualized models on distributional semantic models on Chinese datasets.

Queer In AI: A Case Study in Community-Led Participatory AI

FAccT 2023, PARTICIPATORY WORK WITH QUEER IN AI
- Won the best paper award at FAccT 2023
- Led the work on conference inclusivity and trans-inclusive publishing

2kenize: Tying Subword Sequences for Chinese Script Conversion

ACL 2020, ARXIV LINK
- First authored paper published in ACL 2020
- Supervised by Dr. Isabelle Augenstein
- Work done on increasing accessibility to Traditional Chinese and Cantonese.
- Developed script conversion methods for converting between Chinese scripts.
- Developed state of the art classifiers for topic classification in Chinese NLP.

Workshop publications, preprints and projects

Check out my github repository *pranav-ust* for more projects and resources.

Making Conferences Queer Friendly

WIDENING NLP 2021, LINK, WORK PUBLISHED WITH QUEER IN AI

- Widening NLP 2021
- Outlining best practices for making conferences queer-friendly, which include inclusive designs of registration forms and virtual spaces, strengthening queer diversity and developing trans-inclusive publication workflow.

Learn Languages First and Then Convert: Towards Effective Simplified to Traditional Chinese Conversion

NAACL STUDENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP 2019, NON-ARCHIVAL TRACK

- Version of ACL 2020 paper, where I developed script conversion methods for converting between Chinese scripts.

Alignment Analysis of Sequential Segmentation of Lexicons

ACL STUDENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP 2018, PUBLICATION LINK

- Work based off undergrad thesis.
- Retrieving similar cognates in cross lingual applications using subword tokenization and graph similarity
- Published in ACL-SRW 2018

Volunteer Experience and D&I advocacy

NAACL 2022

D&I ADVISOR

- Leading and advising on diversity and inclusion matters at NAACL 2022

NAACL 2021

SENIOR D&I CHAIR

- Highly prestigious position in a top-tier NLP conference
- Implemented several D&I measures including finanical access, D&I awareness programs, established forums for research and affinity group socials, worked on increasing accessibility for conferences.
- Coordinated and helped in organizing various affinity groups including Black in AI, Queer in AI, Masakhane and North Africans in NLP.

Queer in AI

CORE ORGANIZER

- Working on D&I and safety initiatives
- Helped in organizing many socials in top-tier conferences for facilitating discussions and cohort forming

Skills

Proficient in	Python, LaTeX, Pytorch, Bash Scripting, Git, Cloud Based Systems (AWS and GCP)
Familiar with	R, Tensorflow, MySQL, C++, PySpark, Data Visualization platforms (Tableau, d3.js)
Research Interests	Natural Language Processing, Ethics in AI, Computer Vision

Awards

2023	**Best Paper Award**, FAccT 2023 for Queer in AI
2020	**Financial Award**, ACL 2020 scholarship for research presentation
2019	**Financial Award**, NAACL 2019 scholarship for research presentation
2018	**Financial Award and Travel Grants**, ACL 2018 scholarship for research presentation
2017	**Entrance Scholarship**, HKUST, for outstanding academic performance
2017	**Best Undergrad Paper**, ICIIS for outstanding undergrad presentation
2017	**Best Thesis Award**, VIT University, for outstanding thesis
2013-17	**High GPA awards**, VIT University, for outstanding academic performance

Program Committees and Service

2023	**Reviewer**, Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation 2023
2024	**Reviewer**, LREC-COLING 2024
2023	**Organizer**, Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation 2023
2022	**Organizer**, Queer in AI Workshop at NAACL 2022
2022	**Chair**, D&I chair at NAACL 2022
2021	**Organizer**, Queer in AI Workshop at NAACL 2021
2022	**Chair**, D&I chair at NAACL 2021
2021	**Journal Reviewer**, Computer Speech and Language
2020	**Session Chair**, AACL Student Research Workshop 2020
2020	**Event Organizer at COLING**, D&I in NLP
2020	**Organizer**, SIGTYP 2020
2020	**Mentor**, Widening NLP 2020
2020	**Organizer**, Queer in AI at EMNLP 2020
2020	**Organizer**, Queer in AI at ACL 2020
2019	**Reviewer**, NAACL Student Workshop 2019
2020	**Reviewer**, AACL Student Workshop 2020
2019	**Reviewer**, ACL Student Workshop 2019