

# Rabiul Awal

MAIR LAB at Mila, Montreal

<https://rabiul.me>

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Language & Vision, Representation Learning, Compositionality, Social NLP

## EDUCATION

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### **Master of Science | Computer Science**

01/2021 – 12/2022

University of Saskatchewan (Overall grade 88%)

*Saskatoon, Canada*

*External affiliation Social AI Studio at SUTD ◊ Supervisor: Roy Ka-Wei Lee*

*Thesis topic: Tackling Social Value Tasks with Multilingual NLP*

### **Bachelor of Science | Computer Science**

05/2014 – 12/2018

Noakhali Science and Technology University

*Noakhali, Bangladesh*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Research Intern**

01/2023 –

Mila - Quebec AI Institute ◊ Supervisor: Aishwarya Agrawal

*Montreal, Canada*

- Research direction: vision-language understanding.

### **Machine Learning Intern**

03/2022 – 09/2022

MITACS Accelerate Program ◊ Living Sky Technologies

*Saskatoon, Canada*

- Contributed scientific document summarization models
- Used LongFormer to support long input sequences, and integrated domain adaptive training.

### **Software Engineer**

01/2019 – 12/2020

Data Team ◊ Goava Sales Intelligence AB [Startup]

*Dhaka, Bangladesh*

- Worked on 10+ scalable microservices and REST APIs using Flask, Lambda, API Gateway.
- Contributed to the Discover and Find Companies APIs, which generate leads from 3M+ profiles.
- Worked on refactoring data structures for indexing and searching big data using Elastic Search.
- Contributed to a distributed crawler (Nutch, AWS EMR, Hadoop) supporting thousands of websites crawl/day.

## PUBLICATION

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1. *Contrasting Intra-Modal and Ranking Cross-Modal Hard Negatives to Enhance Visio-Linguistic Fine-grained Understanding*  
Le Zhang, **Rabiul Awal**, Aishwarya Agrawal  
Arxiv 2023
2. *Investigating Prompting Techniques for Zero- and Few-Shot Visual Question Answering*  
**Rabiul Awal**, Le Zhang, Aishwarya Agrawal  
Arxiv 2023
3. *Evaluating GPT-3 Generated Explanations for Hateful Content Moderation*  
Han Wang, Ming Shan Hee, **Md Rabiul Awal**, Roy Ka-Wei Lee, and Kenny Tsu Wei Choo  
International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), 2023

4. *MUSCAT: Multilingual Rumor Verification in Social Media Conversations*  
**Md Rabiul Awal**, Minh Dang Nguyen, Roy Ka-Wei Lee and Kenny Tsu Wei Choo  
 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (BIGDATA), 2022
5. *AngryBERT: Joint Learning Target and Emotion for Hate Speech Detection*  
**Md Rabiul Awal**, Rui Cao, Roy Ka-Wei Lee, Sandra Mitrović  
 Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD), 2021

## SKILLS

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**Languages:** Python, C++

**Database:** MySQL, NoSQL (Elasticsearch)

**AWS:** Sage Maker, Lambda, API Gateway, SQS, EMR, DynamoDB, EC2, S3

**Framework:** Pytorch, Tensorflow, Hadoop, Apache Nutch

## MISC

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- **MSc Representative** - Computer Science Graduate Council @UofS 2021–2022
- **Founder** – NLPDhaka, grass-root community for fostering ML in Bangladesh [website] 01/2021 – Present
- Graduate Teaching Fellowship @UofS, Canada 2021
- **President** – Computing Club @NSTU, Noakhali, Bangladesh 01/2017 – 06/2018
- 1st place at *NSTU Intra University Programming Contest, Dhaka, Bangladesh* 2016
- 3rd place at *CoU Regional Programming Contest (CoURPC), Comilla, Bangladesh* 2015