

Rui Zhang

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Department of Computer Science
New Computer Science Building
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-2424

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor of Computer Science, as advertised on your department website. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University and expect to graduate in May 2020. I am extremely interested in obtaining a faculty position at Stony Brook University, where I can continue my research focus in Artificial Intelligence, contribute to its education in computer science, and lead professional service activities. Enclosed with this letter is a package of my CV, research statement, teaching statement, diversity statement, and letters of recommendation from Professor Dragomir Radev, Professor Honglak Lee, and Professor Kathleen McKeown.

My academic training has prepared me to be an effective researcher and instructor in your department. My research focus lies in Natural Language Processing, Deep Learning, and Human-Computer Interaction. In the long run, I aim to design machine learning approaches to build intelligent natural language processing systems that can understand and communicate in different contexts, domains, text styles, and languages. During my Ph.D. study, I have published 16 top tier AI and NLP conference papers collaborating with Professor Dragomir Radev, Professor Honglak Lee, Professor Kathleen McKeown, Professor Douglas W. Oard, Professor Walter Lasecki, and researchers from IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Grammarly Research, and Salesforce Research.

In addition to my research, I am also dedicated to teaching and mentoring through my academic career. Starting from my senior undergraduate year, I have served as Teaching Assistants for five courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels including Introduction to Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Natural Language Processing. I have also supervised five undergraduate students with their independent study and thesis projects, all of which culminate in significant parts of my publications.

Look forward to speaking with the search committee about this position. I would also enjoy discussing with other faculty members about future collaborations. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rui Zhang