

Su Lin Blodgett

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study the ethical and social implications of language technologies; I develop approaches for anticipating, measuring, and mitigating harms, focusing on the complexities of language and language technologies in their social contexts, and on supporting NLP practitioners in their ethical work.

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Ph.D., Computer Science 2021

M.S., Computer Science 2018

Wellesley College

B.A., Mathematics 2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Senior Researcher. Microsoft Research, Montréal. 2022 –

Postdoctoral Researcher. 2020 – 2022

Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, & Ethics (FATE) Group.

Research Intern. Microsoft Research, New York. Summer 2019

Mentors: Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, Hanna Wallach.

Graduate Research Assistant. University of Massachusetts Amherst. 2015 – 2020

Advisor: Brendan O'Connor.

HONORS AND AWARDS

100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics 2022

ACL Outstanding Reviewer Award 2021

EMNLP Outstanding Reviewer Award 2020

ACL Outstanding Reviewer Award 2020

NSF Computing Innovation Fellowship (declined) 2020

Rising Stars in EE/CS Workshop Participant (fully funded travel & arrangements) 2019

ICWSM Best Reviewer Award 2019

Microsoft Accomplishments in Search & Artificial Intelligence Award for UMass CICS 2019

UMass CICS Outstanding Synthesis Award 2019

New England Future Faculty Workshop Participant 2018

Passed Ph.D. Qualifying Exam (Portfolio) with Distinction 2018

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2017

W-NUT Best Paper Award 2017

CRA-Women Grad Cohort Workshop Participant (fully funded travel & arrangements) 2016

UMass CICS Paul Utgoff Memorial Scholarship (for one student in machine learning) 2016

Full Conference Publications (Peer-Reviewed)

8. Examining Responsibility and Deliberation in AI Impact Statements and Ethics Reviews.
David Liu, Priyanka Nanayakkara, Sarah Sakha, Grace Abuhamad, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Nicholas Diakopoulos, Jessica Hullman and Tina Eliassi-Rad. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES)*. 2022.
7. Deconstructing NLG Evaluation: Evaluation Practices, Assumptions, and Their Implications.
Kaitlyn Zhou, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Adam Trischler, Hal Daumé III, Kaheer Suleman, and Alexandra Olteanu. In *Proceedings of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*. 2022.
6. Stereotyping Norwegian Salmon: An Inventory of Pitfalls in Fairness Benchmark Datasets.
Su Lin Blodgett, Gilsinia Lopez, Alexandra Olteanu, Robert Sim, and Hanna Wallach. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2021.
5. A Survey of Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism in NLP.
Anjalie Field, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Zeerak Waseem, and Yulia Tsvetkov. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2021.
4. Language (Technology) is Power: A Critical Survey of “Bias” in NLP.
Su Lin Blodgett, Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, and Hanna Wallach. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.
3. Twitter Universal Dependency Parsing for African-American and Mainstream American English.
Su Lin Blodgett, Johnny Wei, and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2018.
2. Monte Carlo Syntax Marginals for Exploring and Using Dependency Parses.
Katherine Keith, **Su Lin Blodgett**, and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*. 2018.
1. Demographic Dialectal Variation in Social Media: A Case Study of African-American English.
Su Lin Blodgett, Lisa Green, and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. 2016.

Workshop Publications (Lightly Peer-Reviewed)

3. A Dataset and Classifier for Recognizing Social Media English.
Su Lin Blodgett, Johnny Wei, and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (W-NUT)*. **W-NUT Best Paper Award**. 2017.
2. Racial Disparity in Natural Language Processing: A Case Study of Social Media African-American English.
Su Lin Blodgett and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Machine Learning Workshop (FAT/ML)*. 2017.
1. Visualizing Textual Models with In-Text and Word-as-Pixel Highlighting.
Abram Handler, **Su Lin Blodgett**, and Brendan O’Connor. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Human Interpretability in Machine Learning (WHI)*. 2016.

Non-Archival Presentations (Lightly Peer-Reviewed)

4. Representational Harms in Image Captioning and Labeling.
Jared Katzman, Solon Barocas, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Kristen Laird, and Hanna Wallach. Beyond Fairness: Towards a Just, Equitable, and Accountable Computer Vision Workshop. 2021.
3. Debunking Debiasing: A Critique of Bias Measurement in NLP.
Su Lin Blodgett, Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, and Hanna Wallach. Women in Machine Learning Workshop (WiML). 2019.
2. Debunking Debiasing: A Critique of Bias Measurement in NLP.
Su Lin Blodgett, Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, and Hanna Wallach. Conference on New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data (TADA). 2019.
1. Natural Language Processing Methods to Learn about Social Determinants of Health from Electronic Health Records.
David L. Chin, Vishal A. Shetty, **Su Lin Blodgett**, and Brendan T. O’Connor. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting. 2019.

Book Chapters

1. Beyond “Fairness”: Structural Injustice Lenses On AI for Education.
Michael Madaio, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Elijah Mayfield, and Ezekiel Dixon-Román. Invited chapter in *The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Education: Current Challenges, Practices and Debates*, Wayne Holmes and Kaśka Porayska-Pomsta (Eds.), Routledge. Forthcoming.

Other

2. Risks of AI Foundation Models in Education.
Su Lin Blodgett and Michael Madaio. arXiv. 2021.
1. How to Write a Bias Statement: Recommendations for Submissions to the Workshop on Gender Bias in NLP.
Christian Hardmeier, Marta R. Costa-jussà, Kellie Webster, Will Radford, and **Su Lin Blodgett**. arXiv. 2021.

WORKSHOPS AND TUTORIALS ORGANIZED

4. Panel: Responsible Language Technologies: Foreseeing and Mitigating Harms.
Su Lin Blodgett, Q. Vera Liao, and Alexandra Olteanu. Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). 2022.
3. Second Workshop on Bridging Human–Computer Interaction and Natural Language Processing.
Su Lin Blodgett, Hal Daumé III, Michael Madaio, Ani Nenkova, Brendan O’Connor, Hanna Wallach, and Qian Yang. Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL). 2022.
2. First Workshop on Bridging Human–Computer Interaction and Natural Language Processing.
Su Lin Blodgett, Michael Madaio, Brendan O’Connor, Hanna Wallach, and Qian Yang. Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL). 2021.
1. Tutorial: The Meaning and Measurement of Bias: Lessons from NLP.
Abigail Z. Jacobs, **Su Lin Blodgett**, Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, and Hanna Wallach. Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT). 2020.

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

Keynote, 1st Workshop on Perspectivist Approaches to NLP	invited
“Towards Equitable Language Technologies”. Keynote, Second Workshop on Speech and Language Technologies for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (LT-EDI)	2022
_____. Computational Linguistics Lunch Seminar Series, University of Pennsylvania	2022
_____. Young Achievers Symposium, Center for Socially Responsible Artificial Intelligence, Pennsylvania State University	2022
_____. Linguistics Colloquium Series, University of Washington	2022
“Towards Building Equitable Language Technologies”. Cultural Assessment Working Group, Digital Library Federation	2021
“Towards Equitable Language Technologies”. Computer Science Colloquium, Williams College	2021
“Language and Justice: Social Implications of Language Technologies”. Bocconi University	2021
“Computational Approaches to Measuring Stereotyping in Language”. Workshop on Generics and Stereotypes in Language, Institute for Language, Logic and Computation, University of Amsterdam	2021
“Towards Building Equitable Language Technologies”. Responsible Data Science and AI Speaker Series, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2021
Invited panelist. Workshop on Foundation Models, Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI)	2021
“Towards Building Equitable Language Technologies”. xAI Discussion Group, Aggregate Intellect	2021
Invited panelist, Ethics in AI Panel. Level 3 AI Assistant Conference (L3-AI)	2021
“Towards Building Equitable Language Technologies”. Annual Linguistics Student Association Spring Colloquium, San Diego State University	2021
_____. Artificial Intelligence in the Liberal Arts, Amherst College	2021
“Language and Justice: Reconsidering Harms in Language Systems and Practices”. Seminar Series, Naver Labs	2021
_____. NLP/Text-as-Data Speaker Series, New York University	2021
_____. AI Ethics Group, MIT	2021
_____. NLP Seminar, University of California, Berkeley	2021
Invited panelist, Voices of Data Science at UMass Amherst	2021
“Language and Justice: Reconsidering Harms in Language Systems and Practices”. NLP Seminar, Stanford University	2021
“Language and Justice: Understanding Harms in NLP Systems and Practices”. Computer Science & Engineering Colloquia Series, Washington University in St. Louis	2020

“Language and Justice: A Collection of Thoughts on the Social Implications of Language Technologies”. NLP with Friends	2020
“Language and Justice: Understanding Harms in NLP Systems and Practices”. Educational Testing Service	2020
“Sociolinguistically Driven Approaches for Justice in Natural Language Processing Systems”. Microsoft Research New York	2020
“Fairness and Justice in Natural Language Processing”. Womxn in Computer Science, Dartmouth College	2019
“Demographic Dialectal Variation in Social Media”. Computational Social Science Institute Seminar, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2019
_____. Workshop on New Methods in Computational Sociolinguistics, Lorentz Center, Leiden University	2018
_____. Summer Dialect Research Project, Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2018
_____. Data Science Research Symposium, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2017
_____. Computational Linguistics Workshop, Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2017
_____. Computer Science Colloquium, Wellesley College	2016

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Instructor. Ethical Issues Surrounding Artificial Intelligence Systems and Big Data. Fall 2018
Co-designed and co-taught the course, a computer science first year seminar.

Teaching Assistant. Advanced Natural Language Processing (graduate). Spring 2017

Guest Lectures

“Language, Language Technologies, and Justice”. Georgia Institute of Technology	2022
“Towards Equitable Language Technologies”. University of Massachusetts Amherst	2021
“Language and Justice”. University of Wisconsin-Madison	2020
“NLP and Social Good”. University of Massachusetts Amherst	2020
“Ethics in NLP”. University of Massachusetts Amherst	2020
_____. Mount Holyoke College	2020
“Ethics in Machine Learning”. Mount Holyoke College	2020
“Variation in Social Media”. Mount Holyoke College	2017
_____. University of Massachusetts Amherst	2017

Mentoring

Jules Barbe: Undergraduate (McGill University), MSR and Mila project	2021 – 2022
Lucy Li: Graduate (University of California, Berkeley), MSR research internship	2021
Kaitlyn Zhou: Graduate (Stanford University), MSR research internship	2021

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Committees and Reviewing

Co-Chair of the Ethical Advisory Committee, ACL 2022

Area Chair, Black in AI Workshop 2021

Reviewer: ACL, CoNLL, EACL, EMNLP, NAACL, TACL, FAccT, ICWSM, PLOS One

Workshop reviewer: Women in Machine Learning, Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text, Teaching NLP, NLP for Positive Impact, Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms, Gender Bias in Natural Language Processing

Ethics reviewer: EMNLP Ethics Review Committee (2021), NeurIPS ethical reviewer (2020)

Other

Mentoring group leader, EACL	2021
Guest, Rasa Chats	2021
Guest, Radical AI Podcast	2021
Mentoring group leader, EMNLP	2020
Ph.D. Applicant Support Program mentor, UMass CICS	2020
Volunteer, Women in Machine Learning Workshop (WiML)	2019
Senior Ph.D. Student Panelist, UMass CICS CS Women	2019
Succeeding in Graduate School Panelist, UMass Graduate Orientation	2018
Volunteer, ACL	2018
Co-organizer, Inaugural Male Allyship Workshop, UMass Computer Science	2017
Panelist, Mount Holyoke Graduate School Panel	2017
Social Media Chair, UMass CS Women	2016 – 2017
Mentoring Committee Member, UMass Graduate Women in STEM	2016 – 2017
Volunteer, EMNLP	2016
Volunteer, UMass Women in Engineering and Computing Career Day	2015