

**Zahra Ashktorab**  
7513 Marbury Road,  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
301-787-1012  
[parnia@mail.umd.edu](mailto:parnia@mail.umd.edu)

## EDUCATION

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

PhD. in Information Science 4.0/4.0

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

May 2013

M.S. in Human Computer Interaction 4.0/4.0

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

May 2011

B.S. in Computer Science,

B.A. in Individual Studies; Middle East Studies, minor in Arabic

Cumulative GPA: 3.4/4.0

### **National Institute of Mental Health (held at Howard University)** June-August 2006

- Participant in the Career Opportunities in Research Training and Education Honors program
- Team research project: *Are We There Yet? The Effects of Gender, Race, and Attire on Helping Behavior*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Data Science for Social Good Fellowship, Computation Institute**

June-August 2013

#### *Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellowship*

- Classified tweets as pertaining to disaster or not (using Machine Learning techniques)
- Extracted Relevant information from tweets during disasters for Red Cross and UN Disaster relief workers
- Presented work at “Data Slam”

### **National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland**

May-August 2012

#### *Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award*

- Created software in image processing that reproduced 3D Tumor and Organ Segmentation
- Presented abstract on NIH Poster presentation day

### **Research Assistant, University of Maryland**

September 2011 - Present

#### *Graduate Research Assistant*

- Research on election outcome and social media
- Designing and testing “Tweetbeats”, a music recommender system

### **Latin American Studies Center, University of Maryland**

September 2010 - Present

#### *Webmaster*

- Update and maintain website
- Create forms for online grant applications

### **National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution**

June 2011-August 2011

#### *Summer Intern*

- Created a website that showcased sustainability initiatives in the East Zone Mall of the Smithsonian
- Collected data, pictures, conducted interviews to build a sustainability website

### **College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland, College Park**

September 2010 –present

#### *Technology Assistant*

- Aid professors who need technology help in classrooms
- Convert videos to DVDs

- Convert slides into JPEG photos
- The National Center for Biotechnology Information, NIH** June-August 2010
- Summer Intern*
- Parsed files to find duplicates in Amish Genealogy Database 4
  - Used Ruby to update information in Amish Genealogy Database 5
- The Undergraduate Technology Apprenticeship Program, UMD** January-May 2010
- Technology Assistant*
- Aided in creating technological tools to help the College of Arts and Humanities
  - Created Power Point Presentations for course “Islam in Europe”
  - Edited videos for course “Islam in Europe”
  - Created representative maps for course “Islam in Europe”
- Department of Clinical Research Informatics, NIH** June-August 2009
- Summer Intern*
- Created “Star Glyph application”: a software application in language Processing that graphically represent medical data
  - Presented at NIH Biomedical Computing Interest Group (BCIG): “Bench to Bedside Computing”
  - Presented Poster “A General Purpose 2-D Graphics Package for Plotting Biomedical Data”
- Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, UMD** June- August 2008
- Research Assistant*
- Assisted research in Machine Language Translation
  - Ran scripts in Perl to translate Arabic Texts
- National Archives, College Park, Maryland** January 2008
- Research Assistant*
- Assisted Yale University PhD students on research regarding the Korean War
  - Photographed documents
  - Scanned documents
- Noble and Crowe, Public Attorneys, Rockville, Maryland** January – June 2007
- Administrative Assistant*
- Edited legal documents
  - Managed outgoing communication
  - Answered phone calls
- Howard University Hospital Cancer Center, Washington DC** July- August 2004
- Hospital Intern*
- Organized the files of breast cancer patients
  - Helped create “Project Early Awareness” (a fundraising video for breast cancer awareness)
- VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**
- LAMLINK Workshop, College Park, Maryland** September 2013
- Student Volunteer*
- participant in the Lamlink workshop, a workshop seeking to bring together schokaris in the humanities, information professionals and computer scientist to discuss the role of open linked data in the digital humanities
  - Recorded conversations regarding the role of open linked data in the digital humanities
- Community Center, Potomac, Maryland** September 2009-May 2013
- Volunteer Instructor*
- Created syllabus for third level Arabic course to improve Arabic proficiency
  - Teach children Arabic reading and writing

<b>Private Tutor in Arabic</b>	January 2010-present
<b>Ramadan for Kids Program, Community Center, Potomac, Maryland</b>	2003, 2005, 2006
<b>Summer Reading Program, Chevy Chase Library, Maryland</b>	June 2004

### **LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY**

Individual Studies Program January-May 2010

*Member, Student Advisory Board*

- Organized spring social event
- Attended board meetings
- Planned community building activities

First Model United Nations Conference in the Sultanate of Oman February 2005

*Participant*

Model United Nations Club

Delegate; Honorable Mention; Outstanding Delegation Award 2004-2007

### **ABSTRACTS**

Reproducing 3D Tumor and Organ Segmentation from Commercial Workstations, 2012, Clinical Image Processing Service Lab, Radiology National Institutes of Health

A General Purpose 2-D Graphics Package for Plotting Biomedical Data, 2009, Biomedical Computing Interest Group, National Institutes of Health

Allan Fong, Zahra Ashktorab, Jon Froehlich: Bear-with-me: an embodied prototype to explore tangible two-way exchanges of emotional language. CHI Extended Abstracts 2013: 1011-1016

Zahra Ashktorab, Christopher Brown, Manojit Nandi, Aron Culotta: Twitter-Informed Disaster Relief, KDD for Social Good 2013

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Living the good life? Mortality and hospital utilization patterns in the old order amish. PLoS One. 2012;7(12):e51560. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051560. Epub 2012 Dec 19.

### **COMPUTER SKILLS**

Languages: Python, Java, C, Processing, Ruby, Ocaml, Scheme, PHP, MySQL, Javascript

Software: Excel, Word, Windows Movie Maker, Power Point, Photoshop, HTML, Spotfire, Tableau

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

English and Farsi (fluent); Arabic (advanced)



