

Shramay Palta

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Education

- 2021–present **University of Maryland, College Park, Ph.D. in Computer Science**
Advisor: Professor Rachel Rudinger
- 2021–2023 **University of Maryland, College Park, M.S. in Computer Science**
Advisor: Professor Rachel Rudinger
- 2017–2021 **Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, B.E. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering**
Advisors: Professor Ashok Agrawala (UMD) and Professor Navneet Goyal (BITS)

Publications

Preprints, Under Review and Works in progress.

- Preprint, Under Review **Shramay Palta**, Peter Rankel, Sarah Wiegreffe, Rachel Rudinger. *Everything is Plausible: Investigating the Impact of LLM Rationales on Human Notions of Plausibility.*
- Preprint, Under Review **Shramay Palta**, Nirupama Chandrasekaran, Rachel Rudinger, Scott Counts. *Speaking the Right Language: The Impact of Expertise Alignment in User-AI Interactions.* 2025.

Conference Papers

- EMNLP 2024 Findings **Shramay Palta**, Nishant Balepur, Peter Rankel, Sarah Wiegreffe, Marine Carpuat, Rachel Rudinger. *Plausibly Problematic Questions in Multiple-Choice Benchmarks for Commonsense Reasoning.* Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing.
- ECCV 2024 **Shramay Palta**, Gowthami Somepalli, Anubhav Gupta, Kamal Gupta, Micah Goldblum, Jonas Geiping, Abhinav Shrivastava, Tom Goldstein. *Investigating Style Similarity in Diffusion Models.* European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV).
- ACL 2024 Findings Nishant Balepur, **Shramay Palta**, Rachel Rudinger. *It's Not Easy Being Wrong: Large Language Models Struggle with Process of Elimination Reasoning.* Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics.
- ACL 2023 Findings **Shramay Palta**, Rachel Rudinger. *FORK: A Bite-Sized Test Set for Probing Culinary Cultural Biases in Commonsense Reasoning Models.* Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics.

Professional Experience

Industry

- 2025 **Research Intern, Microsoft**
Hosted by Dr. Mengting Wan and Michael Bentley in the Office AI team. Worked on developing an optimal model router to accurately route user queries for enterprise customers.

2024 **Research Intern, Microsoft Research**

Hosted by Dr. Scott Counts. Built and evaluated a classifier for user and agent expertise in AI chat interactions, which led to a research paper on the implications of User-AI expertise alignment. The classifier is scheduled for adoption by IDEAS in E+D.

2019 **Data Science Intern, TurnoutNow**

Using real-time location data from IoT BLE Beacons and natural language generation tools with live data connections to generate narratives for end users.

Academia

2021–present **Research Assistant, CLIP Lab, UMD**

Advised by Professor Rachel Rudinger on evaluating Large Language Models in cases of uncertainty in commonsense reasoning and how they deviate from human values.

2021 **Research Assistant, HDI Lab, UMD**

Advised by Professor Leo Zhicheng Liu on using Natural Language Processing Techniques to harvest design feedback from visualization comments on social media platforms like Reddit.

2020 **Research Intern, Global Health Center**

Hosted by Dr. Amandeep Gill. Researched the role of micro-narratives as proxy variables to fill in missing data and developing human-centered benchmarks for digital health.

Selected Invited Talks

2025 **Graded Judgments of Plausibility in Commonsense Reasoning, Invited Guest Lecture**, Rutgers University Graduate NLP Class.

2024 **Uncertainty and its impact on Commonsense Reasoning, Guest Lecture**, UMD Graduate NLP Seminar.

2023 **Prompting, In-context Learning, and Instruct Tuning, Guest Lecture**, UMD Undergraduate Natural Language Processing course.

Academic Service

Reviewing

- ACL Rolling Review (ARR): 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Other

- Reviewer: UMD CS Graduate Admissions Committee
- Member: CS Department Council, CS MS Strategic Growth Committee
- President: CS GradCo: an organization aimed to improve the experiences of all CS graduate students as they progress through their program.

Selected Honor and Awards

2021–2023 **Dean's Fellowship and Chair's Fellowship, UMD**

Awarded the Graduate School Dean's Fellowship and the Chair's Fellowship Award for outstanding academic achievement.