

Curriculum Vitae

Shreya Havaldar

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

August 2021 - May 2026 (anticipated)

PhD Computer and Information Science

Advisors: Lyle Ungar, Eric Wong

University of Southern California

August 2017 - May 2021

B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Applied & Computational Mathematics

Advisor: Morteza Dehghani

RESEARCH STATEMENT

I specialize in cross-cultural NLP, focusing on quantifying and mitigating Anglocentric bias in modern LMs. I am broadly interested in helping LLMs understand subjective constructs that vary across people and cultures, such as linguistic style (e.g. emotion, politeness), implied language, and social norms. I am currently working on: (1) Methods for cultural knowledge injection for LLMs and (2) Aligning LLM evaluation with domain-expert intuition.

AWARDS & HONORS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2023)

Best Paper Award at WASSA @ ACL (2023)

Area Chair Award at AACL (2023)

Summa Cum Laude (2021)

USC Computer Science Outstanding Student Award (2021)

USC Computer Science Outstanding Service Award (2021)

USC Presidential Scholarship (~\$30,000/year)

PREPRINTS (* indicates equal contribution)

Havaldar, S.*, Jin, H.*, Kim, C.*, Xue, A.*, You, W.*, et al. (2025). T-FIX: Text-Based Explanations with Features Interpretable to eXperts. *Under Review*.

Brown, D. Balehannina, P., Jin, H., **Havaldar, S.**, Hassani, H., Wong, E. (2025). Adaptively profiling models with task elicitation. *Under Review*.

Giorgi, S., **Havaldar, S.**, Ahmed, F., Akhtar, Z., Vaidya, S., Pan, G., Ungar, L., Schwartz, H. A., & Sedoc, J. (2024). Human-Centered Metrics for Dialog System Evaluation. *Under Review*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (* indicates equal contribution)

Havaldar, S., Alvari, H., Palowitch, J., Hosseini, M. J., Buthpitiya, S., & Fabrikant, A. (2025). Entailed Between the Lines: Incorporating Implication into NLI. *ACL*.

Havaldar, S.*, Stein, A.*, Wong, E., & Ungar, L. (2025). Towards Style Alignment in Cross-Cultural Translation. *ACL*.

Jin, H.*, **Havaldar, S.***, Kim, C.*, Xue, A.*, You, W.*, et al. (2025). The FIX Benchmark: Extracting Features Interpretable to eXperts. *DMLR*.

Rai, S., Zaveri, KZ., **Havaldar, S.**, Nema, S., L Ungar, L., & Guntuku, S.C. (2025) Social norms in cinema: A cross-cultural analysis of shame, pride and prejudice. *NAACL*.

Havaldar, S., Giorgi, S., Talhelm, T., Guntuku, S. C., & Ungar, L. (2024). Building Knowledge-Guided Lexica to Model Cultural Variation. *NAACL*.

Havaldar, S., Pressimone, M., Wong, E., Ungar, L. (2023). Comparing Styles across Languages. *EMNLP*.

Havaldar, S., Rai, S., Singhal, B., Liu, L., Guntuku, S. C., & Ungar, L. (2023). Multilingual Language Models are not Multicultural: A Case Study in Emotion. *13th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment, & Social Media Analysis (ACL)*. **Best Paper Award**.

Lyu, Q.*, **Havaldar, S.***, Stein, A.*, Zhang, L., Rao, D., Wong, E., Apidianaki, M., & Callison-Burch, C. (2023). Faithful Chain-of-Thought Reasoning. *AACL*. **Area Chair Award**.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UPenn Department of Computer Science

August 2022 - May 2023

Teaching Assistant: CS5300 (Computational Linguistics), CS3990 (Mathematics of Machine Learning)

- Assisting with creating/testing curriculum, holding weekly office hours to help students with theoretical understanding and homework assignments

USC Department of Computer Science

Fall 2018 - May 2021

Teaching Assistant: CS170 (Discrete Methods in Computer Science), CS270 (Intro to Algorithms)

- Designed and led weekly discussion sections, held office hours to help students with theoretical understanding and homework assignments

USC Undergraduate Center for AI in Society (CAIS++)

Fall 2019 - May 2021

Curriculum Lead

- Held weekly ML lessons for a cohort of 8 undergraduate students, focused on the fundamentals of applied and theoretical machine learning.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Spotify (New York City, NY)

Summer 2025

Research Scientist Intern

- Working on modeling user signals from interactive comments/feedback on podcast episodes; analyzing how user subjectivity influences interaction on Spotify's platform.

Google Deepmind (Mountainview, CA)

May 2024 - November 2024

Student Researcher

- Worked on measuring LLM performance in implied language understanding + analyzing how personal/cultural subjectivity influences implication.
- Worked on a large-scale dataset to benchmark cultural understanding of various Gemini models (internal project).

Microsoft - MSAI (Bellevue, WA | Remote)

Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Software Engineering & Data Science Intern

- Configured a topic extraction pipeline to include database ingestion to include 10,000+ tenant-level features for the Microsoft Search, Assistance, and Intelligence team.
- Led research and experimentation for a proposed topic classification model using various supervised learning methods and domain-specific feature selection.

Microsoft - Azure Identity (Redmond, WA)

Summer 2019

Software Engineering Intern

- Worked on Microsoft Identity's mid-tier graph-based database system, added functionality to implement link counts and complex link querying capabilities.

LEADERSHIP

Women in Machine Learning (WiML) @ UPenn

Spring 2024 - present

President, Founder

- Started a chapter of WiML at UPenn to create and foster a community for underrepresented genders in ML; organizing meetups and events for PhD students, postdocs, and faculty.

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Fall 2017 - Spring 2020

President, Event Coordinator

- Led the AAAI USC student chapter; planned AI-focused workshops, hackathons, and outreach events; developed workshops on various ML topics.

AthenaHacks

Spring 2019 - May 2021

Logistics Organizer

- Worked on the Logistics committee to plan Southern California's largest all-female hackathon and empower high school/university women in the technology field

Environmental Student Assembly

Fall 2019 - May 2021

Director of Technology

- Redesigned and maintained the ESA website, worked with USC's undergraduate student government to facilitate sustainability on campus
- Assisted with the organization of a campus-wide composting initiative