# Sia, Xin Yun Suzanna

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RESEARCH	
AREAS	

Prior experience with Multimodal Fusion, Topic Modeling, Multilingual IR, Deep Latent Variable Modeling, Non-parametric Grammar Induction, Argument Mining, Chatbots

#### **EDUCATION**

#### **PhD Computer Science (NLP)**, Johns Hopkins University

2018-

- Primary Advisor: Kevin Duh
- Thesis: In-context Learning for Machine Translation (In-progress)

#### M.Tech Knowledge Engineering, National University of Singapore

Jan 2014 – Dec 2016

- Awarded Honors Distinction, completed part-time while working full-time at DSO Labs
- Thesis: An Expert System for Energy Efficient Resource Management. Advisor: Zhu Fangming

# BSc. A.I & Psychology, University of Edinburgh

Sep 2009 - Jul 2013

- Full Scholarship from Singapore government
- Awarded First Class Honors
- Best Undergrad CS Thesis, Video Meeting Search Interfaces. Advisor: Steve Renals

# AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Best Poster, NYAS Speech and Dialogue Symposium, (1/60)	2019
PhD Scholarship, DSO National Labs (declined for JHU RAship)	2018
2nd Place, NUS/NUHS-MIT Datathon	2018
3rd Place, 26th Association for Computing Machinery CIKM Analyticup	2017
JASSO Scholarship, Japan Government	2016, 2017

# PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

Sia, S., Duh, K., Prefix Embeddings for In-context Machine Translation. *AMTAS* 2022

Dalmia, A. <u>Sia, S.</u> <u>Clustering with UMAP</u>: Why and How Connectivity matters. *Workshop on Graphs and more Complex structures for Learning and Reasoning @AAAI 2022* 2022

Sia, S.\*, Jaidka, K\*, Ahuja, H., Chhaya, K., Duh, K. Offer a Different Perspective: Modeling the Belief Alignment of Arguments in Multi-party Debates *EMNLP* 2022

Sia, S., Duh, K. Adaptive Mixture LDA for Low-resource Topic Modeling EACL 2021

Sia, S., Dalmia, A., Mielke, S., Tired of Topic Models? Clusters of Pretrained Word Embeddings Make for Fast and Good Topics too! *EMNLP 2020* 

Sun, S., Sia, S., Duh, K., CLIReval: Evaluating Machine Translation as a Cross-Lingual Information Retrieval Task *ACL* 2020 *Demo* 

Sia, S., Jaidka, K., Duh, K., A semi-supervised hierarchical generative model of argumentation. *Natural Language*, *Dialog and Speech Symposium*, *New York Academy of Sciences*.

Sia, S., Li L.J.A., Hierarchical Module Classification in Mixed Initiative Conversational Agent System, CIKM Demo 2017

# UNDER REVIEW/ARXIV

Sia, S., Duh, K., Improving In-Context Learning for Machine Translation via PMI-based Separator Initialisation.

Sia, S., Belyy, A., Khabsa, M., Amjad, A., Zettlemoyer, L., Mathias, L., On the Logical Satisfiability of Counterfactuals for Evaluating Faithful Explanations in NLI Tasks.

2022
Xie, J., Sia, S., Garcia, P., Povey, D., Khundanpur, S. Mixture of Speaker-type PLDAs for Children's Speech Diarization *arXiv*:2008.13213

# TEACHING

**Teaching Assistant** NLP(Reviews), DL, ML, Intro Human Language Technology 2019-2021 **Student Mentor**, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Saitama, Japan, [Report][Program] 2016

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Facebook AI Applied Research (2 Summers)

Jun 2020/1 – Oct 2020/1

- Multimodal Explanability for Logical Inference
- Multimodal Hatespeech detection, multimodal indexing and retrieval.
- Made several code contributions to Facebook's open source Multimodal Fusion Library. [PRs]

#### Engineer, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore

Jun 2015 - Aug 2018

 Defence related NLP projects: Information Retrieval, conversational agents, recommender systems and social computing. Advisor: Chieu Hai Leong

Research Assistant, Singapore Management University

Aug 2016 - Dec 2016

 Clustered user sub-groups via collaborative filtering and Variational Inference for Probabilistic Matrix Factorization. Advisor: Jiang Jing

In-house Consultant, Ministry of Defence, Singapore

2015 - 2016

- Provided technical recommendations in Strategic Policy paper on Fake News Detection
- Workflow Analysis and technology recommendations for Intelligence Analysts
- Review team decision-making processes for Chemical-Toxin-Radiological-Nuclear Safety Council.

Psychologist, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore

Jul 2013 - Jun 2015

 Conducted experiments to evaluate various cognitive and social sensing systems including wearable technology, Microsoft Kinect, and cognitive test batteries. Human factors and usability studies.

Visiting Researcher, Stanford University

Mar 2012 – Jul 2012

 Designed metric and implemented the algorithm for automatically scoring a sequence of decisions in an online choice based task. Advisor: Dan Schwartz

## OTHER PROJECTS

#### **Infinite PCFGs for social grammars**

2019

 Hierarchical Dirichlet Process for learning non-parametric grammars. Grammars are evaluated on sentiment classification using easy-first parsing tree LSTMs. [Interim write-up]

#### **Patient Conversation Simulator**

2017

• Simulated patient conversation for medical education, demonstrated system with explainable response selection at the 26th ACM Conference of International Knowledge Management.

#### **Undergraduate Admissions QA System**, National University of Singapore

2017

 Programmed a live chat system for the Undergraduate Computing admissions cycle. Deployed on NUS School of Computing Website and Facebook page. [Twitter]

#### Computational Propaganda Project

Feb 2016 - May 2016

 Developed anomaly detection algorithms for Taiwan case study in the Computational Propaganda Project by Oxford Internet Institute. [Guardian-article]

#### SKILLS/TOOLS

Programming: Python, bash, Java, Cython, R, HTML5/Javascript/CSS

<u>Libraries</u>: Scikit-learn, SciPy, NumPy, Pandas, HuggingFace, Gensim, Stanford NLP, wordnet/nltk, pymc3, NetworkX, Thulac, Protege, DBPedia, Mallet (Java), EJML (Java)

Deep Learning Frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow AllenNLP, Keras

Web: Amazon Web Services, Heroku, NodeJS, ExpressJS, Flask, Scrapy, Selenium, Django

Databases: MongoDB, PostgreSQL, ElasticSearch, Neo4j

Psychology: Amazon Turk, experimental design, participant recruitment, interface design

#### GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Information Theory, Advanced Bayesian Statistics (Non-parametrics), Distributed Systems, Introduction to Statistics, Randomized Algorithms, Object-Oriented Architecture and Design

# ADDITIONAL COURSES / CERTIFICATIONS

Deep Learning Specialization (16 weeks), Coursera/DeepLearning.AI, [Cert] 2018

Machine Learning Specialization (25 weeks), Coursera/University of Washington [Cert] 2017

Machine Learning Summer School, Max Planck Institute of Intelligent Systems, Germany 2017

ITIL Foundation in IT Service Management, AXELOS, UK, [Cert] 2015