# Sia, Xin Yun Suzanna

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RESEARCH
INTERESTS

Inductive Biases in Transformer self-attention models

Previously worked on Multimodal Fusion, Topic Modeling, Multilingual IR, Deep Latent Variable Modeling, Non-parametric Grammar Induction, Argument Mining, Chatbots, Sentiment Analysis

#### **EDUCATION**

# PhD Computer Science (NLP), Johns Hopkins University

2018-

• Primary Advisor: Kevin Duh

M.Tech Knowledge Engineering, National University of Singapore

Jan 2014 – Dec 2016

- Awarded Honors (Distinction)
- Thesis: An Expert System for Energy Efficient Resource Management. Advisor: Zhu Fangming

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

Sep 2009 - Jul 2013

- Awarded First Class Honors
- Awarded Best CS Thesis, Video Meeting Search Interfaces. Advisor: Steve Renals

# AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD Scholarship, DSO National Labs (declined for JHU RAship)20182nd Place, NUS/NUHS-MIT Datathon20183rd Place, 26th Association for Computing Machinery CIKM Analyticup2017Kinetic Award, GPA, GPA, DSO National Labs2016, 2017, 2018JASSO Scholarship, Japan Government2016, 2017Best Computer Science Final Year Project, University of Edinburgh2013Best Poster, British Computing Society Lovelace Colloquium2013Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship, Defence Science Technology Agency2009 – 2013	Best Poster, NYAS Speech and Dialogue Symposium, (1/60)	2019
3rd Place, 26th Association for Computing Machinery CIKM Analyticup2017Kinetic Award, GPA, GPA, DSO National Labs2016, 2017, 2018JASSO Scholarship, Japan Government2016, 2017Best Computer Science Final Year Project, University of Edinburgh2013Best Poster, British Computing Society Lovelace Colloquium2013	PhD Scholarship, DSO National Labs (declined for JHU RAship)	2018
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Best Poster, British Computing Society Lovelace Colloquium 2013	JASSO Scholarship, Japan Government	2016, 2017
	Best Computer Science Final Year Project, University of Edinburgh	2013
Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship, Defence Science Technology Agency 2009 – 2013	Best Poster, British Computing Society Lovelace Colloquium	2013
	Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship, Defence Science Technology Agency	2009 – 2013

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

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. *Under Review* 

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

<u>Sia, S.</u>, Niyatti, Kevin Duh, Kokil Jaidka. Persuasion through dissonance: Using modeling constraints to identify winning arguments in multi-party interactions. *Under Review* 

Sia, S., Duh, K. Adaptive Mixture LDA for Low-resource Topic Modeling Proceedings of the 2021 Conference European Association of Computational Linguistics. [paper] 2021

Sia, S., Dalmia, A., Mielke, S., Tired of Topic Models? Clusters of Pretrained Word Embeddings Make for Fast and Good Topics too! *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing.* [paper]

Sun, S., Sia, S., Duh, K., CLIReval: Evaluating Machine Translation as a Cross-Lingual Information Retrieval Task Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: System Demonstrations [paper]

Xie, J., <u>Sia, S.</u>, Garcia, P., Povey, D., Khundanpur, S. Mixture of Speaker-type PLDAs for Children's Speech <u>Diarization</u> [paper] *arXiv*:2008.13213

<u>Sia, S.,</u> 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, Proceedings of the 24th ACM International on Conference on Information and Knowledge Management. ACM, 553–562. 12 SERVICE

Reviewer EMNLP 2019 (Outstanding Reviewer); Journal of Computational Linguistics, ACL 2020

**TEACHING** 

**Teaching Assistant** (Reviews), CS465/665 NLP, CS462/682 Deep Learning, CS475/675 Machine Learning, Johns Hopkins 2019

**Student Mentor**, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Saitama, Japan, [Report][Program]

WORK EXPERIENCE

## Research Intern, Facebook AI Applied Research

Jun 2020/1 - Oct 2020/1

2016

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

### Research 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

## 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

#### **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, Java, Cython, bash, Octave/Matlab, R, HTML5/Javascript/CSS, Haskell

Research: Git, Scikit-learn, SciPy, NumPy, Pandas, Gensim, Stanford NLP, wordnet/nltk, pymc3, NetworkX, Thulac, Protege, DBPedia, SPARQL, Mallet (Java), EJML (Java), LATEX

Deep Learning Frameworks: Tensorflow, PyTorch, 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

Natural Language Processing, Advanced Bayesian Statistics (Non-parametrics), Linguistic and Sequence Modelling, Distributed Systems, Introduction to Statistics, Information Theory, Randomized Algorithms, Object-Oriented Architecture and Design