

TAL AUGUST

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1901 Broadway E, Seattle WA, 98102

EDUCATION

University of Washington

PhD, Computer Science

Advisors: Katharina Reinecke & Noah A. Smith

GPA: (3.89/4.0)

Seattle, WA

Expected: January 2023

Tufts University

BS, Computer Science

Cumulative GPA: (3.98/4.0)

Medford, MA

May 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Allen Institute for AI

Research Intern

June 2021 - December 2021

Seattle, WA

- Designed intelligent reading interface for non-experts reading medical research papers with Kyle Lo and the Semantic Scholar team

UW Computer Science & Engineering

Graduate Research Assistant

September 2017 - Present

Seattle, WA

- Projects include conducting online experiments and building tools for adapting language to different reader audiences

Microsoft Research AI

Research Intern

June 2019 - September 2019

Redmond, WA

- Worked with Dr. Shamsi Iqbal to design and implement user study investigating mobile microtask writing process

Tufts University Department of Computer Science

Research Assistant

September 2016 - May 2017

Medford, MA

- Worked under Rob Jacob investigating user mental workload with Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy sensors (fNIRS)
- Additionally worked under Remco Chang researching new behavior mining techniques to interpret interaction data and extract user search strategy

Tufts University

Researcher and Course Developer

June - August 2016

Medford, MA

- Collaborated on faculty and student team to conceptualize multi-disciplinary, higher level design course

Tufts University Department of Psychology

Research Assistant

September 2014 - May 2015

Medford, MA

- Worked under Ayanna Thomas in the Cognitive Aging and Memory lab exploring the relationship between effects of retrieval enhanced suggestibility and forward testing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington*Teaching Assistant, HCI & NLP Capstone Courses*

September 2019 - May 2020

Seattle, WA

- Organized and taught weekly sections providing design and research feedback for 20+ students

Tufts University*Writing Fellow, Head Arabic and Computer Science Tutor*

September 2014 - May 2017

Medford, MA

- Assigned specific writing-intensive courses to support peers in writing process
- Organized weekly drop-in hours and facilitated discussions among students of diverse backgrounds

Orient Occident Foundation*English Instructor*

September 2015 - December 2015

Rabat, Morocco

- Led conversation groups in English grammar and language skills with sub-Saharan African immigrants

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Conference Papers

1. **Tal August**, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Generating Scientific Definitions with Controllable Complexity*, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2022.
2. Elizabeth Clark, **Tal August**, Sofia Serrano, Suchin Gururangan, and Noah A. Smith, *All That's 'Human' Is Not Gold: Evaluating Human Evaluation of Generated Text*, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2021. ***Outstanding Paper Award***
3. Amanda Baughan¹, Nigini Oliveira¹, **Tal August**, Naomi Yamashita, and Katharina Reinecke, *Do Cross-Cultural Differences in Visual Attention Patterns Affect Search Efficiency on Websites*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2021. ***Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5%)***
4. **Tal August**, Lauren Kim, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Writing Strategies for Science Communication: Data and Computational Analysis*, Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2020.
5. David Wadden, **Tal August**, Qisheng Li, and Tim Althoff, *The Effect of Moderation on On-line Mental Health Conversations*, Conference on Web and Social Interaction (ICWSM), 2020. ***Outstanding Study Design Paper***
6. **Tal August**, Shamsi Iqbal, Michael Gamon, and Mark Encarnación, *Characterizing the Mobile Microtask Writing Process*, Human Computer Interaction With Mobile Devices and Services (MobileHCI), 2020.
7. **Tal August**, Dallas Card, Gary Hsieh, Noah A. Smith and Katharina Reinecke, *Explain like I am a Scientist: The Linguistic Barriers of Entry to r/science*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020.
8. Amanda Baughan, **Tal August**, Naomi Yamashita, and Katharina Reinecke, *Keep it Simple: How Visual Preferences for Simple or Complex Websites Impact Search Efficiency*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020.
9. Tomoki Shibata, Alena Borisenko, Anzu Hakone, **Tal August**, Leonidas Deligiannidis, Chen-Hsiang Yu, Matthew Russell, Alex Olwal, and Robert J.K. Jacob, *An Implicit Dialogue Injection System for Interruption Management*, ACM ICPS Augmented Humans International Conference (AH), 2019.

¹Equal Contribution

10. **Tal August** and Katharina Reinecke, *Pay Attention, Please: Formal Language Improves Attention in Volunteer and Paid Online Experiments*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2019.
11. **Tal August**, Nigini Oliveira, Chenhao Tan, Noah A. Smith, and Katharina Reinecke, *Framing Effects: Choice of Slogans Used to Advertise Online Experiments Can Boost Recruitment and Lead to Sample Biases*, Proceedings of ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW), 2018.
12. Manuel Nordhoff, **Tal August**, Nigini Oliveira and Katharina Reinecke, *A Case for Design Localization: Diversity of Website Aesthetics in 44 Countries*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2018.

Workshop Papers

1. **Tal August**, Maarten Sap, Elizabeth Clark, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Exploring the Effect of Author and Reader Identity in Online Story Writing: the StoriesInTheWild Corpus*, Workshop on Narrative Understanding, Storylines, and Events (NUSE) @ ACL, 2020.

SERVICE

Organizer	CSE Interactive Systems Seminar
Organizer	DUB Retreat Organizing Committee
Organizer	DUB Doctoral Colloquium
Reviewer	CHI 2019/21/22/23, CSCW 2021/22, ACL 2021/22, EMNLP 2021/22, ICWSM 2022
Reviewer	ACL Student Research Workshop 2020/21
Reader	UW Pre-Application Review Service (PARS), 2021/22
Reader	PhD Program Admissions (CSE)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

ACL Outstanding Paper	2021
CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5%)	2021
ICWSM Outstanding Study Design Paper	2020
Twitch Research Fellowship	2020
UW Endowed Fellowship in Computer Science & Engineering	2018
Tufts Phi Beta Kappa	2017
Tufts Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award	2017
Tufts Priscilla N. Dunne Prize in Psychology	2017
Tufts Dean's List	2013-2017
Participant on Tufts Innovates! Grant	2016
Tufts Entrepreneurial Leadership Grant	2015