

TESSA MASIS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2020 – 2026 (Expected)

- Advisor: Brendan O'Connor

B.A. in Computational Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2018 – 2020

- GPA: 3.94; Dean's List all semesters; Phi Kappa Phi member; Eta Sigma Phi member

Prospective B.S. in Computer Science Engineering and Linguistics, Cornell University, 2015 – 2017

Relevant Coursework: Neural Networks, Natural Language Processing, Cognitive Modeling, Computational Linguistics, Theories of Learning, Data Visualization and Exploration, Computer Systems Principles, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, Probability, Multivariable Calculus, Syntax, Phonetics and Phonology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Fall 2020 – Present

- Natural language processing and computational social science research
- Conducted analysis and experiments for understanding variation in African American Language from social text corpora
- Supervised by Dr. Brendan O'Connor

Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Spring 2019 – Spring 2020

- Implemented language models for linguistic probe task assessing the ability of deep context-sensitive neural network language models to acquire deictic knowledge from text
- Designed and implemented data-processing and morphological parsing scripts
- Supervised by Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Dr. Gaja Jarosz

Analytics and Machine Intelligence Intern, Raytheon BBN Technologies, Cambridge, MA, Summer 2019

- Implemented multilingual predictive word error rate classifiers using KNN, SVM, logistic regression, and random forests
- Designed and ran experiments on predicting word error rate from raw audio and speech recognition output
- Created synthetic transcribed code-switching speech corpora from monolingual ones

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Spring 2022

- Co-designed and lead weekly discussion sections, graded assignments, and proctored exams for Programming Methodology course
- Held weekly office hours and helped lead review sessions for exams

Machine Learning Club Team Leader, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Fall 2020

- Designed and led weekly meetings introducing NLP and Data Science concepts to undergrad students

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Fall 2019

- Graded assignments and proctored exams for Programming Methodology course
- Mentored students via office hours and digital media

ESL Instructional Tutor, Jones Library, Amherst, MA, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

- Volunteered in a local program giving biweekly individualized lessons to adult immigrants

TALKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 1 A large-scale Twitter-based exploration of morphosyntactic geographic variation in African American English. **Tessa Masis**, Chloe Eggleston, Anissa Neal, Lisa Green, and Brendan O'Connor. Talk given at NWAV50. 2022.

- 2 ProSPer: Probing Human and Neural Network Language Model Understanding of Spatial Perspective. **Tessa Masis** and Carolyn Jane Anderson. In *Proceedings of the Fourth BlackboxNLP Workshop on Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP at EMNLP*. 2021.
- 3 Can neural network language models learn spatial perspective from text alone? Carolyn Jane Anderson and **Tessa Masis**. Paper presented at the *Bridging AI and Cognitive Science Workshop (BAICS) at ICLR*. 2020.
- 4 The Poetics of Gender Devaluation in Homeric Heroism. **Tessa Masis**. Paper accepted at the *Scholarship for Undergraduate Literary Studies Conference*, cancelled due to COVID-19. 2020.
- 5 Predictive Word Error Rate Metrics (WERMs). **Tessa Masis**. Presented work completed over the course of internship at Raytheon BBN Technologies. 2019.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- **Anuradha and Hanuma Kodavalla Graduate Scholarship in Computer Science**, 2022
- **Scholarship of Undergraduate Literary Studies Conference Travel Award**, cancelled due to COVID-19
- **Out For Undergrad Tech Conference Travel Award**, San Jose, CA, 2019
- **Alexander Rebelo DeSerpa Prize for Excellence in Beginning Greek**, 2018
- **Out in STEM Annual Conference Travel Award**, Houston, TX, 2018

SKILLS

- Programming languages: Python, Java, JavaScript, MATLAB, C, Perl
- Specialized software: NLTK, NumPy, PyTorch, scikit-learn, TensorFlow
- Languages: Proficient in French, Ancient Greek; Prior experience in Armenian, Mandarin