Tara Safavi

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Education

PhD in Artificial Intelligence, *University of Michigan Ann Arbor*   *2017–2022*
— Focus areas: NLP, graph machine learning, knowledge representation
— National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
— Research adviser: Danai Koutra

BS in Computer Science, *University of Michigan Ann Arbor*   *2013–2017*
— Stamps Leadership Scholar
— Graduated with Highest Distinction and High Honors

Research interests

Relational learning and reasoning, knowledge representations, graph-based machine learning

Industry research experience

Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, *Research Intern*   *Aug–Nov 2021*
— Research in fusing language models and knowledge graph embeddings
— Mentors: Tom Hope, Doug Downey, Hanna Hajishirzi

Microsoft Research, *Research Intern*   *May–Aug 2021*
— Research in graph learning frameworks for textual and relational data
— Mentors: Tobias Schnabel, Jennifer Neville

Bloomberg, *Research Intern*   *Sep–Dec 2019*
— Research in calibrating knowledge graph embeddings
— One paper at EMNLP 2020
— Mentor: Edgar Meij

Microsoft Research, *Research Intern*   *May–Aug 2019*
— Research in personalized knowledge representation
— One paper at WSDM 2020 + one patent pending
— Mentors: Adam Fourney, Robert Sim, Marcin Juraszek

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed conference proceedings

[11] *Relational World Knowledge Representation in Contextual Language Models: A Review*
T. Safavi, D. Koutra
EMNLP – The 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
Oral presentation

[10] *NegatER: Unsupervised Discovery of Negatives in Commonsense Knowledge Bases*
T. Safavi, J. Zhu, D. Koutra
EMNLP – The 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing

[9] *CoDEx: A Comprehensive Knowledge Graph Completion Benchmark*
T. Safavi, D. Koutra
EMNLP – The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
Full paper, acceptance rate 24.6%

[8] *Evaluating the Calibration of Knowledge Graph Embeddings for Trustworthy Link Prediction*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, D. Koutra, E. Meij
EMNLP – The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
Full paper, acceptance rate 24.6%

[7] *Toward Activity Discovery in the Personal Web*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, A. Fourney, R. Sim, M. Juraszek, S. Williams, N. Friend, D. Koutra, P. N. Bennett
WSDM – ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining, 2020
Full paper + oral presentation, acceptance rate 15%

[6] *Distribution of Node Embeddings as Multiresolution Features for Graphs*
M. Heimann, <u>T. Safavi</u>, D. Koutra
ICDM – IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, 2019
Full paper + oral presentation, acceptance rate 9%
Best student paper award

[5] *Personalized Knowledge Graph Summarization: From the Cloud to Your Pocket*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, C. Belth, L. Faber, D. Mottin, E. Müller, D. Koutra
ICDM – IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, 2019
Full paper + oral presentation, acceptance rate 9%

[4] *Smart Roles: Inferring Professional Roles in Email Networks*
D. Jin*, M. Heimann*, <u>T. Safavi</u>, M. Wang, W. Lee, L. Snider, D. Koutra
KDD – ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2019
Full paper + poster presentation, acceptance rate 20%

[3] *REGAL: Representation Learning-based Graph Alignment*
M. Heimann, H. Shen, <u>T. Safavi</u>, D. Koutra
CIKM – ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, 2018
Full paper + oral presentation, acceptance rate 17%

[2] *Career Transitions and Trajectories: A Case Study in Computing*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, M. Davoodi, D. Koutra
KDD – ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2018
Full paper + poster presentation, acceptance rate 22%

[1] *Scalable Hashing-Based Network Discovery*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, C. Sripada, D. Koutra
ICDM – IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, 2017
Full paper + oral presentation, acceptance rate 9%
Best paper nominee

Articles in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters

[4] *"Network Summarization"*
D. Koutra, <u>T. Safavi</u>, Y. Liu, A. Dighe
Social Media Analytics: Advances and Applications – CRC Press (in press), 2019

[3] *Fast Network Discovery on Sequence Data via Time-Aware Hashing*
<u>T. Safavi</u>, C. Sripada, D. Koutra
KAIS – Knowledge and Information Systems, 2018
Invited from ICDM 2017

[2] *Graph Summarization Methods and Applications: A Survey*
Y. Liu*, <u>T. Safavi</u>*, A. Dighe, D. Koutra – (*equal contribution*)
CSUR – ACM Computing Surveys, 2018

[1] *Reducing Large Graphs to Small Supergraphs: A Unified Approach*
Y. Liu, <u>T. Safavi</u>, N. Shah, D. Koutra
SNAM – Social Network Analysis and Mining, 2018

Awards and honors

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, *University of Michigan* *2021–2022*
Outstanding Reviewer Award, *EMNLP* *Dec 2020*
Best Student Paper Award, *IEEE ICDM* *Nov 2019*
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship *2018–2021*
Best paper nominee, *IEEE ICDM* *Nov 2017*
Rackham Dean's and Named Fellowship, *University of Michigan* *2017–2018*
Women Techmakers Scholarship, *Google* *April 2017*
Outstanding Research Award, *University of Michigan CSE Department* *March 2017*
Marian Sarah Parker Prize, *University of Michigan College of Engineering* *March 2017*
Stamps Leadership Scholarship, *University of Michigan* *2013–2017*

Technical skills

Programming languages: Python, C++
ML frameworks: PyTorch, PyTorch Lightning, transformers, Deep Graph Library, Ax
Platforms: Amazon EC2/AWS, Microsoft Azure Machine Learning

Invited talks

Toward activity discovery in the personal web
— PKG Workshop, Automatic Knowledge Base Construction Conference, October 2021 (remote talk)
— PHKG Workshop, The Knowledge Graph Conference, May 2021 (remote talk)

CoDEx: A comprehensive knowledge graph completion benchmark
— Connected Data London, London, UK, April 2021 (remote talk)

Toward activity discovery in the personal web
— Microsoft MSAI, London, UK, Oct 2019

Mining and learning over richly attributed, heterogeneous graphs
— Bloomberg, London, UK, Sept 2019

Improving network-based tasks with interpretable and latent representations
— Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, Dec 2018

Scalable inference of networks from time series data
— Google, Sunnyvale, CA, June 2017
— University of Michigan Discrete Math (EECS 203), April 2017

Invited workshops

Microsoft Research AI Breakthroughs, *Redmond, WA (remote)* *September 2020*
CRA-W Grad Cohort, *San Francisco, CA* *April 2018*

Academic service

Reviewing
EMNLP 2021, ACL 2021, EMNLP 2020, ACL 2020, ICANN 2019, ICDM demos 2018, TKDD

Workshop organizer
— KG-BIAS 2020: 1st Workshop on Bias in Automatic Knowledge Graph Construction at AKBC 2020

Outreach

Peer mentoring, *Ann Arbor, MI* *Sept 2018—*
Mentored students in applying for the NSF GRFP and other fellowships (>50% success rate)
Girls Encoded, *Ann Arbor, MI* *April 2018–2019*
Developed and taught a middle-school computing program

Explore Graduate Studies Symposium, *Ann Arbor, MI* *Sept 2017, 2018*
Student panel and one-on-one writing feedback for prospective CSE graduate students
Ensemble of CSE Ladies (ECSEL), *Ann Arbor, MI* *Jan–July 2018*
Board member of the ECSEL group for graduate CSE women
Seven Mile Coding, *Detroit, MI* *April 2017–Jan 2018*
Board member of the Seven Mile Coding initiative in Brightmoor, Detroit
Girls Who Code, *Ann Arbor, MI* *Jan 2016–April 2017*
Co-founder of the U-M Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Girls Who Code club

Teaching

EECS 280, *Programming and Introductory Data Structures* *Jan–April 2017*
Undergraduate TA
EECS 490, *Programming Languages* *Sept–Dec 2016*
Undergraduate TA, first offering of course
EECS 183, *Elementary Programming Concepts* *Jan–Dec 2015*
Undergraduate TA