

October 12, 2022

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Faculty Hiring Committee

XX University

School of XX

Dear Members of the Faculty Hiring Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of **tenure-track Assistant Professor at XX University**. I am a PhD candidate in Computer Science at Columbia University, advised by Professor Zhou Yu. I am on track for my thesis defense this coming spring and will graduate in August 2023.

My research interests are in **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** and **Artificial Intelligence for social good**. Specifically, I work on dialogue systems and privacy-preserving NLP to enable effective social influence conversations between humans and machines without privacy leakage. My research is interdisciplinary, connecting NLP with social science, human-computer interaction (HCI), and cybersecurity, and is published in top-tier NLP, HCI, and AI conferences. My work on personalized persuasive dialogue systems received a **best paper nomination** at ACL 2019, a top-tier NLP conference, and I proposed a persuasion task widely adopted by researchers. My study on feedback-infused chatbots will be integrated to improve BlenderBot 3, a social chatbot with millions of users. Additionally, I have co-written industrial and NSF grants on privacy-preserving NLP.

Besides research, I have closely engaged in teaching, mentoring, and endorsing diversity. I have been a co-instructor and a teaching assistant for the course *Conversational AI*, and a guest lecturer on dialogue systems for the undergraduate course *Introduction to NLP* at Columbia. In addition, I have advised three undergraduate students, four master's students, and two junior PhD students from diverse backgrounds, with many joint research publications. I have also organized the workshop of *NLP for Conversational AI*, and served as an area chair for the workshop of *Women in Machine Learning*. I look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

My expertise and interests complement those of faculty members at **XX University** including **Professor A, B and C**. I look forward to collaborating with them on topics such as **computational social science, embodied dialogues, dialogue summarization, and human-in-the-loop dialogue systems**.

My vision is to build a natural interface between human intelligence and machine intelligence via dialogues, so that all members of society can interact with AI models seamlessly. I believe **XX University** would be an ideal place for me to realize my vision. Thanks for your consideration. My application package includes: **1) CV, 2) Research Statement, 3) Teaching Statement, 4) Diversity Statement, 5) contact information for references, and 6) publication samples**. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Weiyan Shi

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