Yftah Ziser

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

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Education

TECHNION – ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY   *Haifa, Israel*

PH.D. (DIRECT PH.D. TRACK)   *2015 - 2019*

- Supervised by Prof. Roi Reichart.
- Thesis: "Domain Adaptation for Natural Language Processing - a Neural Network Based Approach."
- My Ph.D. research goal is to adapt models from domains and languages rich in labeled training data to domains and languages poor in such data through representation learning
- Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award, IE&M Faculty of Technion (2018).

TECHNION – ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY   *Haifa, Israel*

B.SC.   *2011 - 2015*

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Professional Experience

University of Edinburgh   *Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER   *2021 - present*

- Hosted by Dr. Shay Cohen.

FACEBOOK   *Tel-Aviv, Israel*

RESEARCHER   *2020 - 2021*

- Designing state-of-the-art NLP solutions for e-commerce.

AMAZON ALEXA   *Haifa, Israel*

RESEARCHER   *2019 - 2020*

- Designing state-of-the-art question-answering systems using Amazon community data.
- Leading multiple research internships.

IBM   *Haifa, Israel*

PART-TIME RESEARCHER   *2017 - 2018*

- Designing and building machine learning algorithms for natural language problems.
- Designing and teaching an internal "Introduction to Deep Learning" course for IBM colleagues.

Publications

PUBLISHED

Factorizing Content and Budget Decisions in Abstractive Summarization of Long Documents, Marcio Fonseca, **Yftah Ziser**, and Shay Cohen, EMNLP 2022.

Understanding Domain Learning in Language Models Through Subpopulation Analysis, Zheng Zhao, **Yftah Ziser**, and Shay Cohen, BlackboxNLP@EMNLP 2022.

Customized Pre-Training for Improved Domain Adaptation with Category Shift, Tony Lechtman, **Yftah Ziser**, and Roi Reichart, EMNLP 2021.

WikiSum: Coherent Summarization Dataset for Efficient Human-Evaluation, Nachshon Cohen*, Oren Kalinsky*, **Yftah Ziser***, and Alessandro Moschitti, ACL 2021.

Answering Product-Questions by Utilizing Questions from Other Contextually Similar Products, Ohad Rozen, David Carmel, Avihai Mejer, Vitali Mirkis, and **Yftah Ziser**, NAACL 2021.

Humor Detection in Product Question Answering Systems, **Yftah Ziser**, Elad Kravi, and David Carmel, SIGIR 2020.

Task Refinement Learning for Improved Accuracy and Stability of Unsupervised Domain Adaptation, **Yftah Ziser**, and Roi Reichart, ACL 2019.

Deep Pivot-Based Modeling for Cross-language Cross-domain Transfer with Minimal Guidance, **Yftah Ziser**, and Roi Reichart, EMNLP 2018.

Pivot Based Language Modeling for Improved Neural Domain Adaptation, **Yftah Ziser** and Roi Reichart, NAACL 2018.

Neural Structural Correspondence Learning for Domain Adaptation, **Yftah Ziser** and Roi Reichart, CoNLL 2017.

Teaching Experience

2019	**Yearly Project in Data Science**, Project Mentor (while working at Amazon).
Fall 2018	**Natural Language Processing for the Social Sciences**, Project Mentor.
Spring 2017	**Learning Robust Representations for Natural Language Processing**, Project Mentor.
Fall 2017	**Introduction to Natural Language Processing**, Teaching Assistant in Charge.
2015-2016	**Introduction to Computer Science**, Teaching Assistant.

Mentoring

2022-present Yifu Qiu, Ph.D. student, University of Edinburgh.

2021-present Marcio Fonseca, Ph.D. student, University of Edinburgh.

2021-present Zheng Zhao, Ph.D. student, University of Edinburgh.

2021-present Shun Shao, M.Sc. student, University of Edinburgh.

2021-present Waylon Li, M.Sc. student, University of Edinburgh.

2020-2021 Entony Lekhtman, M.Sc. student, Technion.

Summer 2020 Ohad Rozen, Ph.D. student, Bar-Ilan University (Summer internship at Amazon).

Academic Service

INVITED TALKS

2022 *Guarded Information Removal for Better Debiasing*. Language Technology Lab group, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

2022 *Guarded Information Removal for Better Debiasing*. Department for Computational Linguistics, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany.

2020 *Domain Bias in Humor Detection*. Amazon Research Center, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

2018 *Cross-language Cross-domain Transfer with Minimal Guidance*. Israel Seminar on Computational Linguistics, Haifa, Israel.

2018 *Contextualized Representations for Domain Adaptation*. Computer Science department, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

2017 *Harnessing the Power of Neural Networks for Domain Adaptation*. Technion Computational Data Science seminar, Haifa, Israel.

ORGANIZATION

2021 Co-Organizer of the *Domain Adaptation for NLP Workshop*. At EACL, virtual event.

2018 Committee member of the *Seminar of Computational Linguistics (ISCOL)*. Haifa, Israel.

REVIEWING

2018-present Reviewing for main NLP venues, including NNACL, ACL, EMNLP, EACL and CoNLL.

2021-present Reviewing for ACL Rolling Review (ARR).

Ph.D. Admissions

2021-present Evaluating Ph.D. candidates for the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) Ph.D. program.