

Yftah Ziser

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

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Education

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology Haifa, Israel
Ph.D. (Direct 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.

Facbook 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

Erasure of Unaligned Attributes from Neural Representations, Shun Shao*, **Yftah Ziser***, and Shay Cohen, accepted to TACL.

BERT Is Not The Count: Learning to Match Mathematical Statements with Proofs, Waylon Li, **Yftah Ziser**, Maximin Coavoux, and Shay Cohen, to appear in EACL 2023.

Gold Doesn't Always Glitter: Spectral Removal of Linear and Nonlinear Guarded Attribute Information, Shun Shao, **Yftah Ziser**, and Shay Cohen, to appear in EACL 2023.

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

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| 2019 | Yearly Project in Data Science, | Project Mentor. |
| 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

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| 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). |
| Summer 2020 | Eilon Sheetrit, | Ph.D. student, | Technion (Summer internship at Amazon). |
| Summer 2020 | Ido Hakimi, | Ph.D. student, | Technion (Summer internship at Amazon). |

Academic Service

Invited Talks

2023 *Navigating Distribution Shifts in Natural Language Processing*. Gong Research Center, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

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

Community Engagement_____

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| Yotzeem Leshinuy | Jerusalem, Israel |
| Lecturer | 2020 - 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Designing and instructing a friendly programming course for former members of the Haredi Jewish community, who are among the most disadvantaged groups in Israel. | |
| Educating for Excellence | Acre , Israel |
| Tutor | 2019 - 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teaching underprivileged children programming and math. | |