

# Yftah Ziser

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

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## Education

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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

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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

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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

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### 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

- 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

- Teaching underprivileged children programming and math.