

# Takyoung Kim

## Ph.D. Student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)




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## Interests

My research interest lies in the intersection of Natural Language Processing and Communication. I am particularly interested in building communicative language models (LMs) that can understand social and cognitive context, evaluating preference during interactions, and exploring how LMs compose knowledge both from parametric and external sources.

## Education





<b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA</b> 	Aug 2024 - Present
Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science Advisor: <a href="#">Dilek Hakkani-Tür</a>	
<b>Korea University, Seoul, South Korea</b> 	Sep 2020 - Aug 2022
Master of Engineering, Industrial Management Engineering Advisor: <a href="#">Pilsung Kang</a> (currently at Seoul National University) Thesis: <i>Relaxing Unrealistic Assumptions of Dataset and Evaluation Metric in Dialogue State Tracking</i>	
<b>Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea</b> 	Mar 2013 - Aug 2020
Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Interdisciplinary Program of Convergent Software Bachelor of Media & Communication ( <i>Leave of absence for military service: Feb 2015 - Nov 2016</i> )	

## Research Experience

<b>Amazon   Alexa Conversational Modeling &amp; Learning Team</b> Bellevue, WA, USA 	May 2025 (Expected)
Applied Scientist Intern (Mentor: <a href="#">Chengyuan Ma</a> )	
<b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Conversational AI Lab</b> Urbana, IL, USA 	Aug 2024 - Present
Graduate Research Assistant (Advisor: <a href="#">Dilek Hakkani-Tür</a> ) Working on cognitive interactions in real-world environments	
<b>Korea University   Data Science &amp; Business Analytics Lab</b> Seoul, South Korea 	Apr 2024 - Jul 2024
Research Associate (Advisor: <a href="#">Pilsung Kang</a> ) Worked on retrieval-augmented language models specialized in Korean digital media	
<b>LG AI Research   Advanced Machine Learning Lab</b> Seoul, South Korea 	Apr 2023 - Mar 2024
Research Intern (Mentors: <a href="#">Kyungjae Lee</a> , <a href="#">Moontae Lee</a> ) Worked on improving long-form responses of retrieval-augmented language models via planning [1]	
<b>NAVER AI Lab   Language Research Team</b> Seongnam, South Korea 	Jul 2022 - Jan 2023
Research Intern (Mentor: <a href="#">Sungdong Kim</a> ) Worked on revealing innate bias in task-oriented dialogue research via interactive study [2] Worked on constructing safety benchmark for sensitive questions [5] and social biases [4]	
<b>Korea University   Data Science &amp; Business Analytics Lab</b> Seoul, South Korea 	Sep 2020 - Jun 2022
Graduate Research Assistant (Advisor: <a href="#">Pilsung Kang</a> ) Worked on analyzing realistic biases and limitations of dialogue state tracking [7, 6, 3] Developed algorithms and pipelines in various domains, such as news [8], car, and ocean waves	

## Publications

\* indicates equal contribution

- [1] **Learning to Explore and Select for Coverage-Conditioned Retrieval-Augmented Generation**    
[Takyoung Kim](#), Kyungjae Lee, Young Rok Jang, Ji Yong Cho, Gangwoo Kim, Minseok Cho, Moontae Lee  
*Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics* Findings of NAACL 2025
- [2] **Revealing User Familiarity Bias in Task-Oriented Dialogue via Interactive Evaluation**    
[Takyoung Kim](#), Jamin Shin, Young-Ho Kim, Sanghwan Bae, Sungdong Kim  
*Workshop on NLP for Conversational AI (Oral, Best Paper Award)* NLP4ConvAI, ACL 2024

- [3] **DSTEA: Improving Dialogue State Tracking via Entity Adaptive Pre-training**   
 Yukyung Lee, [Takyoung Kim](#), Hoonsang Yoon, Pilsung Kang, Junseong Bang, Misuk Kim  
*Knowledge-Based Systems (Q1, Impact Factor: 8.8)* KBS 2024  
*Workshop on Knowledge Augmented Methods for NLP* KnowledgeNLP, KDD 2023
- [4] **KoSBi: A Dataset for Mitigating Social Bias Risks Towards Safer Large Language Model Applications**    
 Hwaran Lee\*, Seokhee Hong\*, Joonsuk Park, [Takyoung Kim](#), Gunhee Kim, Jung-Woo Ha  
*Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Industry Track)* ACL 2023
- [5] **SQuARE: A Large-Scale Dataset of Sensitive Questions and Acceptable Responses Created Through Human-Machine Collaboration**    
 Hwaran Lee\*, Seokhee Hong\*, Joonsuk Park, [Takyoung Kim](#), Meeyoung Cha, Yejin Choi, Byoungpil Kim, Gunhee Kim, Eun-Ju Lee, Yong Lim, Alice Oh, Sangchul Park, Jung-Woo Ha  
*Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Oral, Best Paper Nomination)* ACL 2023
- [6] **Oh My Mistake!: Toward Realistic Dialogue State Tracking including Turnback Utterances**   
[Takyoung Kim](#), Yukyung Lee, Hoonsang Yoon, Pilsung Kang, Junseong Bang, Misuk Kim  
*Towards Semi-Supervised and Reinforced Task-Oriented Dialog Systems* SereTOD, EMNLP 2022
- [7] **Mismatch between Multi-turn Dialogue and its Evaluation Metric in Dialogue State Tracking**   
[Takyoung Kim](#), Hoonsang Yoon, Yukyung Lee, Pilsung Kang, Misuk Kim  
*Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Short)* ACL 2022
- [8] **Building an Integrated Framework of Korean Text Summarization and Text-to-Speech**    
[Takyoung Kim](#), Jina Kim, Hyeongwon Kang, Subin Kim, Pilsung Kang  
*Journal of Korean Institute of Industrial Engineers* JKIIE 2022

## Honors and Awards

<b>CS PhD Fellowship</b>	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Aug 2024 - May 2025
<b>Best Paper Award</b>	ACL 2024 NLP for Conversational AI Workshop	Aug 2024
<b>Best Student Feedback Award, Research Ideation Contest</b>	Korea University	Feb 2021, Dec 2021
<b>2nd Place (2,500 USD), MyData Acting Hackathon</b>	Ministry of Science and ICT	Oct 2019
<b>Merit-based Scholarship, Computer Science Coursework</b>	Sungkyunkwan University	Spring 2018, Fall 2018

## Teaching Experience

<b>T02459101 Natural Language Processing</b>	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Feb 2024 - Jun 2024
<i>Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Yukyung Lee)</i>		
<b>Industrial Machine Learning</b>	LG Electronics	Jan 2022 - Apr 2022
<i>Head Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Pilsung Kang)</i>		
<b>Research Mentoring</b>	Hyundai Mobis	Jul 2021 - Sep 2021
<i>Research Project Assistant (Instructor: Pilsung Kang)</i>		
<b>Industrial Machine Learning and Deep Learning</b>	LG Innotek, SK Hynix	Jul 2021 - Aug 2021
<i>Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Pilsung Kang)</i>		

## Academic Service

### Conference Reviewer

Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)	2025
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)	2024
European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)	2024
Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) - Industry Track	2023 - 2024
Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)	2023 - 2024
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) - Datasets & Benchmarks	2022 - 2024

**Journal Reviewer**

Knowledge-Based Systems

2023 - 2024

**Others**

ACL Rolling Review (ARR)

2023 - Present