

Wei Xu

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RESEARCH	Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Social Media	
EXPERIENCE	Assistant Professor, Ohio State University , Columbus, OH <i>Department of Computer Science and Engineering</i>	Aug 2016 – present
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Computer Science, New York University , New York, NY Advisor: Ralph Grishman; Committee: Satoshi Sekine, Ernest Davis, Bill Dolan (Microsoft Research), Luke Zettlemoyer (University of Washington/Facebook AI)	2014
	B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science, Tsinghua University , Beijing, CHINA	2004/2007
EXPERIENCE	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania , Philadelphia, PA <i>Computer Information and Science Department</i> (Advisor: Chris Callison-Burch)	Feb 2014 – Aug 2016
	Visiting Researcher, University of Washington , Seattle, WA <i>Computer Science and Engineering Department</i>	Jan 2012 – Dec 2013
	Research Intern, Microsoft Research , Seattle, WA <i>Internet Services Research Center</i>	Jun – Sep 2011
	Research Consultant, Educational Testing Service , Princeton, NJ <i>Natural Language and Speech Group</i>	Mar – Dec 2010
	Engineer Intern, Amazon , Seattle, WA <i>Catalog Quality</i>	May – Sep 2010
AWARDS & GRANTS	Best Paper Award, COLING , 2018 Criteo Faculty Research Award , 2018 CrowdFlower AI for Everyone Award , 2018 NSF CRII Award , 2018 (\$175,000 PI) <i>Robust Intelligence: Learning a Timely Semantic Resource from Social Media Data</i> NSF Grant , 2018 – 2021 (\$375,732 PI) <i>Collaborative Research: Automatic Text-Simplification and Reading-Assistance to Support Self-Directed Learning by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Computing Workers</i> DARPA Grant , 2017 – 2021 (\$600,000 co-PI 50%) <i>Computational Simulation of Online Social Behavior</i> NYU MacCracken PhD Fellowship , 2007 – 2012 (\$230,000)	
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	<i>A Word-Complexity Lexicon and A Neural Readability Ranking Model for Lexical Simplification</i> Mounica Maddela, Wei Xu Proceedings of EMNLP 2018, long paper, oral presentation (acceptance rate 25.8%) <i>Neural Network Models for Paraphrase Identification, Semantic Textual Similarity, Natural Language Inference, and Question Answering</i> Wuwei Lan, Wei Xu Proceedings of COLING 2018, long paper (Best Paper Award) <i>Taking the First Essential Steps in Automating the Wet Laboratory: Annotating a Corpus of Protocols for Reproducibility</i> Chaitanya Kulkarni, Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Raghu Machiraju NAACL 2018, short paper (acceptance rate 29%) <i>The Importance of Subword Embeddings in Sentence Pair Modeling</i> Wuwei Lan, Wei Xu NAACL 2018, short paper (acceptance rate 29%) <i>A Continuously Growing Dataset of Sentential Paraphrases</i> Wuwei Lan, Siyu Qiu, Hua He, Wei Xu EMNLP 2017, long paper (acceptance rate 25.8%) <i>A Minimally Supervised Method for Recognizing and Normalizing Time Expressions in Twitter</i> Jeniya Tabassum, Alan Ritter, Wei Xu EMNLP 2016, long paper (acceptance rate 26%)	

Optimizing Statistical Machine Translation for Simplification
Wei Xu, Courtney Napoles, Ellie Pavlick, Quanze Chen, Chris Callison-Burch
TACL 2016, long paper, oral presentation at ACL 2016

Discovering User Attribute Stylistic Differences via Paraphrasing
Daniel Preotiuc, Wei Xu, Lyle Ungar
AAAI 2016, long paper (acceptance rate 26%)

Problems in Current Text Simplification Research: New Data Can Help
Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch, Courtney Napoles
TACL 2015, long paper, oral presentation at EMNLP 2015

Cost Optimization for Crowdsourcing Translation
Mingkun Gao, Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch
NAACL 2015, long paper (acceptance rate 29%)

SemEval-2015 Task 1: Paraphrase and Semantic Similarity in Twitter
Wei Xu, Chris Callison-Burch, William B. Dolan
SemEval 2015 (shared-task overview)

Extracting Lexically Divergent Paraphrases from Twitter
Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Chris Callison-Burch, William B. Dolan, Yangfeng Ji
TACL 2014, long paper, oral presentation at NAACL 2015

Infusion of Labeled Data into Distant Supervision for Relation Extraction
Maria Pershina, Bonan Min, Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman
ACL 2014, short paper (acceptance rate 25.2%)

Filling Knowledge Base Gaps for Distant Supervision of Relation Extraction
Wei Xu, Raphael Hoffmann, Le Zhao, Ralph Grishman
ACL 2013, short paper (acceptance rate 24%)

Paraphrasing for Style
Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Bill Dolan, Ralph Grishman, Colin Cherry
COLING 2012, long paper (acceptance rate 25%)

Exploiting Syntactic and Distributional Information for Spelling Correction with Web-Scale N-grams Models
Wei Xu, Joel Tetreault, Martin Chodorow, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao
EMNLP 2011, long paper (acceptance rate 23.7%)

Passage Retrieval for Information Extraction using Distant Supervision
Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao
IJCNLP 2011, long paper

Extractive Summarization using Inter- and Intra- Event Relevance
Wenjie Li, Wei Xu, Mingli Wu, Chunfa Yuan, Qin Lu
ACL 2006, long paper (acceptance rate 23%)

SERVICE

Workshop Chair: ACL (2017)
Publicity Chair: EMNLP (2019), NAACL (2018, 2016)
Area Chair: NAACL (2019), COLING (2018), EMNLP (2018, 2016)
NSF Review Panelist: CISE (2017) **Journal Reviewer:** TACL, JAIR
Program Committee: ACL (2018, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013), EMNLP (2017, 2015, 2014), NAACL (2018, 2015), WWW (2017, 2016, 2015), AAAI (2016, 2015, 2012), KDD (2015), COLING (2014)
Organizer: Workshop on Noisy User-generated Text (EMNLP 2018 & 2017, COLING 2016, ACL 2015);
Shared-task on Paraphrase Identification and Semantic Similarity in Twitter (SemEval 2015)

INVITED TALKS

Learning Large-scale Paraphrases for Natural Language Understanding and Generation Nov 2017 - 2018
Midwest Machine Learning Symposium, Chicago; Facebook, Menlo Park; Twitter, San Francisco; IBM
Thomas J. Watson Research Center, New York

How AI Understand Language? Mar 2018
Women in Analytics Conference, Columbus, OH

Can Paraphrase be a Ultimate Solution for NLU and NLG? July 2017
Google Research, New York

Paraphrase \approx Monolingual Translation Aug 2016
Amazon, Berlin, Germany

- Multiple Instance Learning from Unlimited Text* Oct 2015 – Dec 2016
Microsoft Research Asia; University of Delaware; University of Edinburgh; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Arizona State University; Vanderbilt University; Imperial College London; University of Waterloo; Indiana University, Bloomington; Washington University, St Louis; Simon Fraser University; University of Alberta; Yale University; University of Maryland
- Learning and Generating Paraphrases from Twitter and Beyond* Feb 2015
Carnegie Mellon University; Columbia University; Johns Hopkins University
- Paraphrases in Twitter* Feb 2015
Twitter, San Francisco
- Modeling Lexically Divergent Paraphrases in Twitter (and Shakespeare!)* Aug 2014 – Mar 2015
City University of New York; IBM Research, Almaden; University of California, Berkeley; University of Texas, Austin; Yahoo!, New York; Carnegie Mellon University; Microsoft Research, Redmond
- TEACHING** *CSE 5522 Artificial Intelligence II: Advanced Techniques* Spring 2018, Autumn 2018
https://cocoxu.github.io/courses/5522_autumn18.html
Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level, teaching evaluation 4.5 out of 5.
- CSE 5525 Speech and Language Processing* Spring 2017
https://cocoxu.github.io/courses/5525_spring17.html
Ohio State University, mixed undergraduate and graduate level, teaching evaluation 3.8 out of 5.
- CSE 5539 Social Media and Text Analytics* Summer 2016, Autumn 2016, Autumn 2017
<http://socialmedia-class.org/>
Designed a new course integrated with research, covering from basic to state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms. The course material I created has been used by other universities (e.g., University of Utah CS 1060, Georgia Tech CS 6452, Iowa State University MIS 546). Teaching evaluation 5.72 out of 6 (Summer 2015), 4.6 out of 5 (Autumn 2016), 4.4 out of 5 (Autumn 2017).
- Outreach** **Panelist/Speaker:** Women in Analytics Conference (2018)
Mentor: Women and Underrepresented Minorities in NLP Workshop (2017, 2018)
Judge: OHIO High School Hackathon (2017)
Instructor: North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (2016)
Organizer: Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (2016)
- Students** **Current Ph.D. Advisees:** Wuwei Lan, Mounica Maddela, Chao Jiang, Jeniya Tabassum (two are woman)
Current Undergraduate Advisees: Lillian Chow, Sydney Lee, Rita Tong (three are woman)
Former Student Advisees: Siyu Qiu, Mingkun Gao, Jim Chen, Ray Lei, Maria Pershina (two are women)
- REFERENCES** **Chris Callison-Burch**
Associate Professor, Computer and Information Science Department
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Sloan Research Fellow (2014), Chair of the NAACL Executive Board (2012-2013)
✉ ccb@cis.upenn.edu <http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~ccb/>
- Raymond J. Mooney**
Professor, Computer Science Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX
ACL fellow (2014), ACM fellow (2010), AAAI fellow (2005)
✉ mooney@cs.utexas.edu <https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~mooney/>
- Bill Dolan**
Research Manager/Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA
Manager of the Natural Language Processing Group
✉ billdol@microsoft.com <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/people/billdol/>
- Joel Tetreault**
Director of Research, Grammarly, New York, NY
Treasurer of NAACL (2013-2016)
✉ joel.tetreault@grammarly.com <http://www.cs.rochester.edu/~tetreaul/>
- Ralph Grishman**
Professor, Computer Science Department, New York University, New York, NY
ACL Fellow (2017), President of ACL (1991), Department Chairman (1986-1988)
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