MeiXing Dong

Email: meixingd@umich.edu Website: meixingdong.com Twitter: @meixingdg
Ann Arbor, MI USA

Research Interests

Building language models and conducting linguistic analyses to understand people's behavior and their attitudes and perceptions towards entities in their world. General interests include: natural language processing, computational social science, machine learning for social good.

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science   Present
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Advisor: Rada Mihalcea
Dissertation Title: Computational Linguistic Models for Understanding Attitude and Behavior

M.S. in Computer Science   2017
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
GPA 3.96/4.0

B.S. in Computer Science   2015
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
Summa Cum Laude
GPA 3.90/4.0

Publications

1. **Dong, M.**, Xu, X., Mihalcea, R. "Modeling User Behavior Using Text-Aware Graph Embeddings" *In submission to ACL 2022*

2. **Dong, M.**, Sun, S., Mihalcea, R. "We'll Make It Together: Quantifying Social Capital and Community Resilience Across US Cities" *In preparation*

3. **Dong, M.**, Xu, X., Zhang, Y., Stewart, I., Mihalcea, R. "Room to Grow: Understanding Personal Characteristics Behind Self Improvement Using Social Media." (2021) *SocialNLP at NAACL 2021*

4. **Dong, M.**, Mihalcea, R., Radev, D. "Extending Sparse Text with Induced Domain-Specific Lexicons and Embeddings: A Case Study on Predicting Donations." (2020) *Computer Speech and Language*

5. **Dong, M.**, Jurgens, D., Banea, C., Mihalcea, R. "Perceptions of Social Roles Across Cultures." (2019) *SocInfo 2019 (long paper, acceptance rate: 24%)*, **Nominated for Best Paper**.

6. Radev, D., Zhang, R., Wilson, S., Van Assche, D., Gubert, H.S., Krivokapic, A., **Dong, M.**, Wu, C., Bondera, S., Brandl, L. and Dohmann, J., 2016. "Cruciform: Solving Crosswords with Natural Language Processing." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1611.02360.*

Experience

University of Michigan: Graduate Research Assistant   Present
Advisor: Rada Mihalcea

Google: PhD Research Intern - Web Answers Team   May 2019 - Aug. 2019
Hosts: Fangtao Li, Guanyu Wang
- Developed methods to improve the quality of answers extracted from the web for complex and subjective questions that occur as search queries using BERT language models.

Google: PhD Research Intern - Shopping Query Understanding Team   Jun. 2018 - Feb. 2019
Host: Jichuan Li
- Developed method to understand complex and subjective shopping queries by linking query terms to underlying attributes of available products.

Google: Software Engineering Intern - Translate Team   Jun. 2015 - Aug. 2015
Hosts: Keith Stevens, Radu Soricut

Rensselaer: Undergraduate Research Assistant   2014 - 2015
Advisor: Malik Magdon-Ismail

Programming Skills
Programming Languages: Python, C++, Java, MATLAB, C#
Libraries/Tools: Tensorflow, Keras, SciPy, NumPy, Scikit-Learn, Hadoop / MapReduce, LaTeX / Overleaf

Research Advising
Sophia Sun (SWE at Yelp, BS CS at Georgia Tech → PhD at University of Minnesota)   2020 - 2021
Quantifying Community Disaster Resilience Across the US Using Reddit

Xueming Xu (BS CS at UM → MS CS at UM)   2019 - 2021
Understanding Personal Characteristics Behind Self Improvement (SocialNLP @ NAACL 2021)
Modeling Alumni Donation Interests from Email Behavior

Yiwei Zhang (BS CS at UM → MS CS at CMU)   2020 - 2021
Understanding Personal Characteristics Behind Self Improvement (SocialNLP @ NAACL 2021)
Modeling Alumni Donation Interests from Email Behavior

Sabrina Tobar Thommel (BS CS at UM)   2019
Characterizing Psychological Response to COVID-19 Through Social Media

Teaching
Graduate Instructor: Information Retrieval and Web Search (UM)   2018
Graduate Instructor: Artificial Intelligence (UM)   2017
Teaching Assistant: Data Structures and Algorithms (RPI)   2012 - 2015

Service
Committee Member, Michigan CS PhD Graduate Admissions Committee   2021
Reviewer, ACL   2021
Reviewer, ICWSM   2021
Program Committee, International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo)   2020
Program Committee, SocialNLP Workshop   2020, 2021
Reviewer, EMNLP   2018
Reviewer, Artificial Intelligence Review (AIRE)   2017
Poster Session Co-Chair, Michigan Artificial Intelligence Symposium   2018
Co-Chair, Michigan Natural Language Processing Workshop   2016

Selected Honors
Rackham Conference Travel Grant, $1,300   2019
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship - Honorable Mention   2017
Rackham Merit Fellowship, $140,000 towards tuition and stipend   2015
Google Travel Grant for the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing   2014, 2017
Tau Beta Pi - Stabile Scholarship   2014
RPI Founders Award of Excellence, Given to ~ 1% of RPI's student population   2014
Rensselaer Dean's List of Distinguished Students   2011 - 2015

Conferences and Workshops
International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo)
Poster: *Room to Grow: Understanding Volitional Personal Change Using Social Media*   2020
Talk: *Perceptions of Social Roles Across Cultures*   2019

Michigan AI Symposium   2019
Poster: "Characterizing Perceptions of Social Roles"

Midwest Speech and Language Days (MSLD)   2019
Poster: "Characterizing Perceptions of Social Roles"

CRA-W Grad Cohort   2018

IBM Research Cognitive Colloquium   2016
Poster: "Solving Crossword Puzzles with Natural Language Processing"

Outreach and Leadership
Coordinator, Women in Computing Seminar Series and Chats   2018 - Present
Corporate and Social Chairs, Ensemble of Computer Science Engineering Ladies   2016 - 2017
President, Eta Kappa Nu (ECSE Honor Society)   2014 - 2015
Vice President, Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society)   2014 - 2015

Extracurricular
Principal Violinist, Michigan Symphony Orchestra
Competitive Dancer, Michigan Ballroom Dance Team/Independent
Saxophonist, Michigan Campus Jazz Ensemble