

Alan Ritter

CONTACT

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Natural Language Processing, Information Extraction, Dialogue

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA
Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering, 2013
Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA USA
B.S./M.S., Computer Science, 2006

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA USA
Associate Professor - School of Interactive Computing, College of Computing **2020 - Present**

The Ohio State University, Columbus OH USA
Associate Professor - Computer Science and Engineering **2020**
Assistant Professor - Computer Science and Engineering **2014 - 2020**

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA USA
Visiting Faculty - Language Technologies Institute **2019**
Postdoctoral Fellow - Machine Learning Department **2013 - 2014**

Microsoft Research, Redmond WA USA
Consultant - Natural Language Processing Group **2014 - 2016**
Intern - Natural Language Processing Group **2009**
Intern - Knowledge Tools Group **2008**

Naval Research Laboratory, Marine Meteorology Division, Monterey, CA USA
Intern - Data Assimilation Group **2006**

GRANTS AS PI

NSF, (\$500k), CAREER: Large-Scale Learning for Information Extraction, 2019-2024
IARPA, (\$1.1M), Stable, Interpretable, and General Neural Attribution for Trust of Users and Robust Effacement (SIGNATURE), 2022-2026
DARPA, (\$800k), Logically Adaptive Molecular Design Automation (LAMDA), 2019-2023
IARPA, (\$850k), Task and User-Aware Representation Learning for Fine-Grained Cross-Lingual Information Retrieval, 2019-2023
NSF, (\$151k), CRII: Learning to Extract Events from Knowledge Base Revisions, 2015-2018
Amazon Research Award, (\$50k) Integrating Data-Driven Conversation in Open-Domain Question Answering, 2018
DARPA (\$600k) Modeling the Spread of Information through Social and Knowledge Graphs, 2017-2021
IARPA (\$507k) Extracting a Realtime Cybersecurity Knowledge Graph from Text, 2016-2019
CMU Software Engineering Institute (\$40k) Events, relationships, and script learning for situational awareness, 1/2017-9/2017

GRANTS AS CO-PI

NIH (PI:Po-Yin Yen) (\$100k) Supporting systematic review production with article similarity network visualization, 2016-2018
Criteo Faculty Research Award (PI:Wei Xu) (\$20k) 2018

Battelle (PI:Marie de Marneffe) (\$23k) Trustworthiness in Social Media, 2017-2019

PRESS

Machine Learning Can Use Tweets to Spot Critical Security Flaws, WIRED (March 2019)
<https://www.wired.com/story/machine-learning-tweets-critical-security-flaws/>

- This article covers the work described in our NAACL 2019 paper, entitled “*Analyzing the Perceived Severity of Cybersecurity Threats Reported on Social Media*”

GPT-3 mimics human love for ‘offensive’ Reddit comments, study finds, TNW (August 2021)

<https://thenextweb.com/news/gpt-3-and-humans-twice-as-likely-agree-with-offensive-reddit-comments-chatbots>

- This article covers the work described in our EMNLP 2021 paper, entitled “*Just Say No: Analyzing the Stance of Neural Dialogue Generation in Offensive Contexts*”

AWARDS

NSF CAREER Award, 2019

Amazon Research Award, 2018

Lumley Research Award, College of Engineering, Ohio State University (2019)

Outstanding Student Organization Advisor, College of Engineering, Ohio State University (2018)

Best Student Paper Award for *Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks* at the ACM Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (2009)

NDSEG Fellowship (2008)

EXTERNAL THESIS

Alex Memory

PhD, Oct 2019

COMMITTEES

Collective Relational Data Integration with Diverse and Noisy Evidence (Advisor: Lise Getoor)
University of Maryland

Young-Bum Kim

PhD, Feb 2015

Natural Language Technologies for Low-Resource Languages (Advisor: Benjamin Snyder)
University of Wisconsin

INVITED TALKS

Princeton University, October 2022

Columbia University, October 2022

New York University, October 2022

Google New York, October 2022

Johns Hopkins University, May 2022

Megagon Labs, January 2022

Twitter, September 2021

University of Notre Dame, September 2021

University of Maryland, April 2020

UMass Amherst, February 2020

NeurIPS Workshop on Conversational AI, December 2019

Georgia Institute of Technology, December 2019

Twitter, June 2019

University of Michigan, April 2019

University of Maryland, April 2019

Rice University, March 2019

University of Wisconsin, January 2019

Stanford NLP Seminar, May 2018

NeurIPS Workshop on Learning With Limited Labeled Data, December 2017

Microsoft Research Faculty Summit, July 2017

Midwest Machine Learning Symposium, June 2017
University of Colorado, March 2017
University of Edinburgh, July 2016
University of North Carolina, March 2016
Tsinghua University, December 2016
Machine Learning Seminar, Purdue University, December 2015
Statistics Department, Ohio State University, October 2015
School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, April 2015
CLIP, University of Maryland, March 2015
Clunch, University of Pennsylvania, September 2014
University of Pittsburgh, January 2014
Machine Learning Lunch, Carnegie Mellon University, October 2013
IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics, June 2013
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago, April 2013
Microsoft Research, April 2013
University of Texas at Dallas, March 2013
The Ohio State University, March 2013
Machine Learning and Friends Lunch, University of Massachusetts Amherst, March 2013
Human Language Technology Center of Excellence, March 2013
Microsoft Research, September 2011
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, January 2013
New York University, September 2012
Wavii, April 2012
Facebook, March 2012
Google Research, September 2011
Yahoo! Labs, September 2011
Twitter, May 2011
Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, February 2011
ICT workshop on Reasoning with Text, February 2011
UW CSE Industrial Affiliates Meeting, October 2009
UW/Microsoft Quarterly Symposium on Computational Linguistics, October 2009
Boeing Research, February 2008

PH.D. STUDENTS Fan Bai
 Yang Chen
 Ruohao Guo
 Junmo Kang
 Duong Minh Le
 Nghia Max Le

ALUMNI Jeniya Tabassum. Information Extraction From User Generated Noisy Texts. co-advised with Wei Xu (Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2020)
 Shi Zong. Extracting Events from Social Media and the Web. (Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2020)
 Ashutosh Baheti. Improving Conversation Quality of Data-driven Dialog Systems and Applications in Conversational Question Answering. (M.S., Ohio State University, 2020)
 Alexander Konovalov. Predicting Knowledge Base Revisions from Realtime Text Streams. (M.S., Ohio State University, 2018)
 Sandesh Swamy. Forecasting Event Outcomes from User Predictions on Twitter. (M.S., Ohio State University, 2017)

TEACHING GT CS 7650: Natural Language Processing (Spring 2023)

GT CS 4650: Natural Language Processing (Fall 2022)
GT CS 7650: Natural Language Processing (Spring 2022)
GT CS 4641: Machine Learning (Fall 2021)
GT CS 7650: Natural Language Processing (Spring 2021)
OSU CSE 5539: Social Media and Text Analytics (Spring 2020)
OSU CSE 5525: Speech and Language Processing (Fall 2019)
OSU CSE 5525: Speech and Language Processing (Spring 2019)
OSU CSE 5523: Machine Learning and Statistical Pattern Recognition (Fall 2018)
OSU CSE 5539: Social Media and Text Analytics (Spring 2018)
OSU CSE 5522: Survey of Artificial Intelligence II: Advanced Techniques (Fall 2017)
OSU CSE 5523: Machine Learning and Statistical Pattern Recognition (Spring 2017)
OSU CSE 5525: Speech and Language Processing (Spring 2016)
OSU CSE 5539: Web Information Extraction (Fall 2015)
OSU CSE 5522: Survey of Artificial Intelligence II: Advanced Techniques (Spring 2015)
OSU CSE 5539: NLP and IE for the Social Web (Fall 2014)

SERVICE

Organizer ACL/EMNLP Workshop on Noisy User-Generated Text (WNUT 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), Sentiment Analysis in Twitter Shared Task (SemEval 2013,2014,2015,2016), Named Entity Recognition in Twitter Shared Task (at WNUT 2015, 2016)

Demo Chair ACL 2023

Senior Area Chair EMNLP 2020 (Information Extraction), NAACL 2021 (Machine Learning), EMNLP 2021 (Computational Social Science), AAAI 2022, ACL 2022 (Information Extraction), EMNLP 2022 (Information Extraction)

Area Chair ACL 2014 (NLP for the web and social media), NAACL 2015 (Information Extraction and Question Answering), EMNLP 2016 (Information Extraction, Information Retrieval and Question Answering), NAACL 2018 (Computational Social Science), EMNLP 2018 (Text Mining and Information Retrieval), CoNLL 2018, ACL 2019 (Information Extraction and Text Mining), EMNLP 2019 (Social Media and Computational Social Science), ACL 2020 (Information Extraction), ACL 2021 (Information Extraction) EMNLP 2023 (Information Extraction)

Steering Committee SemEval 2016,2018,2019,2020

Proposal Reviewing Panelist for U.S. National Science Foundation, IIS, (Twice in 2017, Twice in 2018, Once in 2019), Reviewer for U.S. National Science Foundation, IIS, (Once in 2020), Independent Reviewer for Hong Kong Research Grants Council (2016), Independent Reviewer for Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (2016), Independent Reviewer U.S. Department of Energy (2015)

Departmental/College Service GT College of Computing Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021, GT Computational Media Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021, GT School of Interactive Computing Faculty Hiring Committee, 2020-2021, OSU CSE Graduate Studies Committee (2016-2019), OSU CSE Curriculum Committee (2019-2020), OSU CSE Graduate Admissions Committee - Artificial Intelligence Group Representative (2014-2020), OSU CSE Prospective Ph.D. Student Visit Day Organizer, (2014-2016)

PATENTS

US Patent US20110010669

“Items Selection Via Automatic Generalization”

- This covers the work from my 2008 internship at Microsoft Research, which also resulted in a best student paper award at the ACM Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces.

PUBLICATIONS

Yang Chen, Chao Jiang, **Alan Ritter**, Wei Xu

“Frustratingly Easy Label Projection for Cross-lingual Transfer”

arXiv preprint (2022)

Shuheng Liu, **Alan Ritter**

“Do CoNLL-2003 Named Entity Taggers Still Work Well in 2023?”

arXiv preprint (2022)

Ethan Mendes, Yang Chen, Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**

“Human-in-the-loop Evaluation for Early Misinformation Detection: A Case Study of COVID-19 Treatments”

arXiv preprint (2022)

Nghia Le, Fan Bai, **Alan Ritter**

“Few-Shot Anaphora Resolution in Scientific Protocols via Mixtures of In-Context Experts”

EMNLP Findings 2022

Jonathan Qiaoyi Zheng, Ashutosh Baheti, Tarek Naous, Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**

“Stanceosaurus: Classifying Stance Towards Multicultural Misinformation”

To Appear in Proceedings of EMNLP 2022

Fan Bai, **Alan Ritter**, Peter Madrid, Dayne Freitag and John Niekrasz

“SynKB: Semantic Search for Synthetic Procedures”

To Appear in Proceedings of EMNLP 2022 (Demo Track)

Shi Zong, Ashutosh Baheti, Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**

“Extracting a Knowledge Base of COVID-19 Events from Social Media”

To Appear in Proceedings of Coling 2022

Fan Bai, **Alan Ritter** and Wei Xu

“Pre-train or Annotate? Domain Adaptation with a Constrained Budget”

Proceedings of EMNLP 2021

Ashutosh Baheti, Maarten Sap, **Alan Ritter**, Mark Riedl

“Just Say No: Analyzing the Stance of Neural Dialogue Generation in Offensive Contexts”

Proceedings of EMNLP 2021 [\[Covered by TNW\]](#)

Yang Chen and **Alan Ritter**

“Model Selection for Cross-Lingual Transfer”

Proceedings of EMNLP 2021

Ronen Tamari, Fan Bai, **Alan Ritter** and Gabriel Stanovsky

“Process-Level Representation of Scientific Protocols with Interactive Annotation”

Proceedings of EACL 2021

Wuwei Lan, Yang Chen, Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**

“An Empirical Study of Pre-trained Transformers for Arabic Information Extraction”

Proceedings of EMNLP 2020 (short paper)

Shi Zong, **Alan Ritter** and Eduard Hovy
“Measuring Forecasting Skill from Text”
Proceedings of ACL 2020

Ashutosh Baheti, **Alan Ritter** and Kevin Small
“Fluent Response Generation for Conversational Question Answering”
Proceedings of ACL 2020

Jeniya Tabassum, Mounica Maddela, Wei Xu and **Alan Ritter**
“Code and Named Entity Recognition in StackOverflow”
Proceedings of ACL 2020

Fan Bai, **Alan Ritter**
“Structured Minimally Supervised Learning for Neural Relation Extraction”
Proceedings of NAACL 2019

Shi Zong, **Alan Ritter**, Graham Mueller and Evan Wright
“Analyzing the Perceived Severity of Cybersecurity Threats Reported on Social Media”
Proceedings of NAACL 2019 [[Covered by WIRED](#)]

Ashutosh Baheti, **Alan Ritter**, Jiwei Li, Bill Dolan
“Generating More Interesting Responses in Neural Conversation Models with Distributional Constraints”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2018

Chaitanya Kulkarni, Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**, Raghu Machiraju
“An Annotated Corpus for Machine Reading of Instructions in Wet Lab Protocols”
Proceedings of NAACL 2018 (short paper)

Jiwei Li, Will Monroe, Tianlin Shi, Sébastien Jean, **Alan Ritter**, Dan Jurafsky
“Adversarial Learning for Neural Dialogue Generation”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2017

Sandesh Swamy, **Alan Ritter** and Marie-Catherine de Marneffe
“i have a feeling trump will win.....: Forecasting Winners and Losers from User Predictions on Twitter”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2017

Alexander Konovalov, Benjamin Strauss, **Alan Ritter** and Brendan O’Connor
“Learning to Extract Events from Knowledge Base Revisions”
Proceedings of WWW 2017

Jiwei Li, Will Monroe, **Alan Ritter**, Michel Galley, Jianfeng Gao, Dan Jurafsky
“Deep Reinforcement Learning for Dialogue Generation”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2016

Jeniya Tabassum, **Alan Ritter**, Wei Xu
“A Minimally Supervised Method for Recognizing and Normalizing Time Expressions in Twitter”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2016

Xinlei Chen, **Alan Ritter**, Abhinav Gupta and Tom Mitchell
“Sense Discovery via Co-Clustering on Images and Text”
Proceedings of CVPR 2015

Alan Ritter, Evan Wright William Casey and Tom Mitchell
“Weakly Supervised Extraction of Computer Security Events from Twitter”
Proceedings of WWW 2015

Tom Mitchell, William Cohen, Estevam Hruschka, Partha Talukdar, Justin Betteridge, Andrew Carlson, Bhavana Dalvi, Matt Gardner, Bryan Kisiel, Jayant Krishnmurthy, Ni Lao, Kathryn Mazaitis, Tahir Mohammad, Ndapa Nakashole, Emmanouil Antonios Platanios, **Alan Ritter**, Mehdi Samadi, Burr Settles, Richard Wang, Derry Wijaya, Abhinav Gupta, Xinlei Chen, Abulhair Saparov, Malcolm Greaves and Joel Welling
“Never Ending Learning”
Proceedings of AAAI 2015

Jiwei Li, **Alan Ritter**, Claire Cardie and Eduard Hovy
“Major Life Event Extraction from Twitter based on Congratulations/Condolences Speech Acts”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2014

Jiwei Li, **Alan Ritter** and Eduard Hovy
“Weakly Supervised User Profile Extraction from Twitter”
Proceedings of ACL 2014

Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**, Chris Callison-Burch, William B. Dolan and Yangfeng Ji
“Extracting Lexically Divergent Paraphrases from Twitter”
Proceedings of TACL 2014

Alan Ritter, Luke Zettlemoyer, Mausam and Oren Etzioni
“Modeling Missing Data in Distant Supervision for Information Extraction”
Proceedings of TACL 2013

Alan Ritter, Mausam, Oren Etzioni, Sam Clark
“Open Domain Event Extraction from Twitter”
Proceedings of KDD 2012

Wei Xu, **Alan Ritter**, Bill Dolan, Ralph Grishman, Colin Cherry
“Paraphrasing for Style”
Proceedings of Coling 2012

Alan Ritter, Sam Clark, Mausam, Oren Etzioni
“Named Entity Recognition in Tweets: An Experimental Study”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2011

Alan Ritter, Colin Cherry, Bill Dolan
“Data-Driven Response Generation in Social Media”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2011

Alan Ritter, Mausam and Oren Etzioni
“A Latent Dirichlet Allocation Method for Selectional Preferences”
Proceedings of ACL 2010

Alan Ritter, Colin Cherry and Bill Dolan
“Unsupervised Modeling of Twitter Conversations”
Proceedings of HLT-NAACL 2010

Alan Ritter and Sumit Basu
“Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks”
Best Student Paper Award
Proceedings of IUI 2009

Alan Ritter, Doug Downey, Stephen Soderland, and Oren Etzioni
“It’s a Contradiction – No, It’s Not: A Case Study using Functional Relations”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2008