

Rowan Zellers

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Research Interests

Grounded commonsense reasoning through Natural Language Processing and Computer Vision;
Impacts of AI on society.

Education

Spring 2022 (expected)	Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington	Ph.D.
Spring 2018	Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington	M.S.
Spring 2016	Computer Science & Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College	B.S.

Positions

Spring 2018-present	Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence <i>Research intern with Yejin Choi</i>
Fall 2016 - present	Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington <i>Research assistant with Yejin Choi and Ali Farhadi</i>
Summer 2015	Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University <i>NSF Student Researcher with Louis-Philippe Morency</i>
Summer 2014	Institute for Creative Technologies, University of Southern California <i>REU Student Researcher with Louis-Philippe Morency</i>
Summer 2013	Harvey Mudd College <i>Student Researcher with Jacqueline Dresch and Robert Drewell</i>

Publications

See also my Google Scholar and Semantic Scholar pages.

Preprints

Zellers, Rowan, Jiasen Lu, Ximing Lu, Youngjae Yu, Yanpeng Zhao, Mohammadreza Salehi, Aditya Kusupati, Jack Hessel, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (Jan. 2022). *Merlot Reserve: Neural Script Knowledge through Language and Vision and Sound*.

Peer-reviewed conference articles

Conference-specific awards are noted. For ACL/NAACL/EMNLP, this excludes *oral* as they are “based on the nature rather than the quality of the work”.

Pillutla, Krishna, Swabha Swayamdipta, **Rowan Zellers**, John Thickstun, Yejin Choi, and Zaid Harchaoui (Dec. 2021). “MAUVE: Human-Machine Divergence Curves for Evaluating Open-Ended Text Generation.” *NeurIPS*. **Outstanding paper (top 0.1%)**.

Zellers, Rowan, Ximing Lu, Jack Hessel, Youngjae Yu, Jae Sung Park, Jize Cao, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (Dec. 2021). “MERLOT: Multimodal Neural Script Knowledge Models.” *NeurIPS*. **Oral (top 1%)**.

Da, Jeff, Maxwell Forbes, **Rowan Zellers**, Anthony Zheng, Jena D. Hwang, Antoine Bosselut, and Yejin Choi (Aug. 2021). “Edited Media Understanding Frames: Reasoning About the Intent and Implications of Visual Misinformation.” *ACL*.

Zellers, Rowan, Ari Holtzman, Matthew Peters, Roozbeh Mottaghi, Aniruddha Kembhavi, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (Aug. 2021). “PIGLeT: Language Grounding Through Neuro-Symbolic Interaction in a 3D World.” *ACL*.

Ilharco, Gabriel, **Rowan Zellers**, Ali Farhadi, and Hannaneh Hajishirzi (June 2021). “Probing Contextual Language Models for Common Ground with Visual Representations.” *NAACL*.

Lu, Ximing, Peter West, **Rowan Zellers**, Ronan Le Bras, Chandra Bhagavatula, and Yejin Choi (June 2021). “NeuroLogic Decoding: (Un)supervised Neural Text Generation with Predicate Logic Constraints.” *NAACL*.

Zellers, Rowan, Ari Holtzman, Elizabeth Clark, Lianhui Qin, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (June 2021). “TuringAdvice: A Generative and Dynamic Evaluation of Language Use.” *NAACL*.

Le Bras, Ronan, Swabha Swayamdipta, Chandra Bhagavatula, **Rowan Zellers**, Matthew Peters, Ashish Sabharwal, and Yejin Choi (July 2020). “Adversarial Filters of Dataset Biases.” *ICML*.

Bisk, Yonatan, **Rowan Zellers**, Ronan Le Bras, Jianfeng Gao, and Yejin Choi (Feb. 2020). “PIQA: Reasoning about Physical Commonsense in Natural Language.” *AAAI*. **Oral (top 3%)**.

Zellers, Rowan, Ari Holtzman, Hannah Rashkin, Yonatan Bisk, Ali Farhadi, Franziska Roesner, and Yejin Choi (Dec. 2019). “Defending Against Neural Fake News.” *NeurIPS*.

Zellers, Rowan, Ari Holtzman, Yonatan Bisk, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (July 2019). “HellaSwag: Can a Machine Really Finish Your Sentence?” *ACL*.

Zellers, Rowan, Yonatan Bisk, Ali Farhadi, and Yejin Choi (June 2019). “From Recognition to Cognition: Visual Commonsense Reasoning.” *CVPR*. **Oral (top 5%)**.

Zellers, Rowan, Yonatan Bisk, Roy Schwartz, and Yejin Choi (Oct. 2018). “SWAG: A Large-Scale Adversarial Dataset for Grounded Commonsense Inference.” *EMNLP*.

Zellers, Rowan, Mark Yatskar, Sam Thomson, and Yejin Choi (June 2018). “Neural Motifs: Scene Graph Parsing with Global Context.” *CVPR*.

Zellers, Rowan and Yejin Choi (Sept. 2017). “Zero-Shot Activity Recognition with Verb Attribute Induction.” *EMNLP*.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Zadeh, Amir, **Rowan Zellers**, Eli Pincus, and Louis-Philippe Morency (Nov. 2016). "Multimodal sentiment intensity analysis in videos: Facial gestures and verbal messages." *IEEE Intelligent Systems* 31.6.

Dresch, Jacqueline, **Rowan Zellers**, Daniel Bork, and Robert Drewell (June 2016). "Nucleotide Interdependency in Transcription Factor Binding Sites in the Drosophila Genome." *Gene Regulation and Systems Biology* 10.

Zellers, Rowan, Robert Drewell, and Jacqueline Dresch (Jan. 2015). "MARZ: an algorithm to combinatorially analyze gapped n-mer models of transcription factor binding." *BMC bioinformatics* 16.1.

Thesis

Zellers, Rowan (Expected 2022). "Grounded Commonsense Reasoning"

Invited talks

MERLOT: Multimodal Neural Script Knowledge Models (Dec. 2021). NeurIPS conference.

Learning Commonsense Understanding through Language and Vision (Sept. 2021). Microsoft Research.

PIGLeT: Language Grounding Through Neuro-Symbolic Interaction in a 3D World (Aug. 2021). ACL Conference.

TuringAdvice: A Generative and Dynamic Evaluation of Language Use (Apr. 2020). Machine Learning: Classics and Trends seminar.

Defending Against Neural Fake News (Aug. 2019). AI Village, DEFCON.

GROVER: Defending Against Neural Fake News (Aug. 2019). DARPA Media Forensics PI Meeting.

Visual Commonsense Reasoning (June 2019). CVPR Conference.

Adversarial Benchmarks for Grounded Commonsense Reasoning (Apr. 2019). DARPA Communicating with Computers PI Meeting.

Adversarial Benchmarks for Grounded Commonsense Reasoning (Feb. 2019). Microsoft Research.

Situations with Adversarial Generations (Oct. 2018). EMNLP Conference.

Teaching and Mentorship

Classroom

March 2019	AI2 Academy - Using TPUs for NLP Research
Fall 2019	CSE 599G1, Introduction to Deep Learning; Guest Lecture on Transformers
Spring 2019	CSEP 517, Natural Language Processing; Guest Lecture on Fake News Detection
Spring 2019	CSEP 517, Natural Language Processing; Teaching Assistant
Fall 2018	CSEP 517, Natural Language Processing for Professional Masters Students; Teaching Assistant

Mentorship

Have mentored the following junior students, and submitted several conference papers with them (three accepted so far).

Summer 2019 - present	Jeff Da, UW CSE BS Student → AI2 → Applying for PhD
Spring 2019 - present	Ximing Lu, UW CSE BS Student → AI2 → Applying for PhD
Fall 2018 - present	Jize Cao, UW CSE BS Student
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019	Yegee Lee, UW CSE BS Student → Amazon
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019	Nathaniel Wichman, UW CSE BS Student → DocuSign
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019	Aaron Johnston, UW CSE BS Student → Qualtrics
Summer 2017 - 2018	Ananya Jain, Redmond High School → MIT BS

Conference reviewing

Natural Language Processing

2018-present	Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
2021	European Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)
2018-present	Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)
2019	International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP)
2021	Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)
2019-present	North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)

Machine Learning

2019-present	Visually Grounded Interaction and Language (ViGIL)
2021	International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)
2020-present	Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)

Computer Vision

2020-present	European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)
2019-present	Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)
2019-present	International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors

2016-present	NSF Fellowship
2016-2019	ARCS Fellowship
2016	Don Chamberlin Research Award
2016	Graduated from Harvey Mudd with High Distinction in Computer Science & Mathematics
2015-2016	William and Wyllis Leonhard Merit Scholarship
2014-2015	ARCS Foundation Scholarship

References

Yejin Choi	Brett Helsel Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington	yejin@cs.washington.edu
Ali Farhadi	Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington	ali@cs.washington.edu
Oren Etzioni	CEO, Allen Institute for AI	nicoled@allenai.org
Luke Zettlemoyer	Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington	lsz@cs.washington.edu