

# WASI UDDIN AHMAD

11811 Venice Blvd, Apt 228, Los Angeles, CA, 90066

(+1)434-202-9102 ◊ wasiahmad@ucla.edu

<https://wasiahmad.github.io/>

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

---

Developing computational algorithms that (1) reduce the need for large-scale annotated data to train NLP models from scratch; (2) adapt to new domains and languages with fewer labeled examples.

Learning universal language representations utilizing data from multiple sources, designing new learning objective to bridge the gap between different learning signals, developing flexible model architecture to enable cross-domain and cross-language transfer is the fundamental objective of my research.

## EDUCATION

---

### Ph.D. in Computer Science

*09.2017 - Present*

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

CGPA: 3.78 on a scale of 4.00

*Advisor:* Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

### Master of Computer Science

*08.2015 - 08.2017*

University of Virginia (UVA)

CGPA: 4.00 on a scale of 4.00

*Advisor:* Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

### B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering

*01.2008 - 02.2013*

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

CGPA: 3.81 on a scale of 4.00

Position: Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in a class of 142 students

## PUBLICATIONS

---

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). Cross-lingual Dependency Parsing with Unlabeled Auxiliary Languages. In Proceedings of the 23rd Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL).
2. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2019). Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion. In Proceedings of the 42nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 385-394). ACM.
3. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Hovy, E., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). On Difficulties of Cross-Lingual Transfer with Order Differences: A Case Study on Dependency Parsing. In Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers) (pp. 2440-2452).
4. Duong, D., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Eskin, E., Chang, K. W., & Li, J. J. (2019). Word and sentence embedding tools to measure semantic similarity of Gene Ontology terms by their definitions. Journal of Computational Biology, 26(1), 38-52.
5. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Intent-aware query obfuscation for privacy protection in personalized web search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 285-294). ACM.

6. Yu, P., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Wang, H. (2018). Hide-n-Seek: An Intent-aware Privacy Protection Plugin for Personalized Web Search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1333-1336). ACM.
7. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Multi-task learning for document ranking and query suggestion. In Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).
8. **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Chang, K. W. (2018). A Corpus to Learn Refer-to-as Relations for Nominals. In Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC).
9. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Rahman, M. M., & Wang, H. (2016). Topic model based privacy protection in personalized Web search. In Proceedings of the 39th International ACM SIGIR conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1025-1028). ACM.

## PREPRINTS

---

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2018). Learning Robust, Transferable Sentence Representations for Text Classification. arXiv preprint arXiv:1810.00681.

## ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

- Cross-lingual Representation Learning** *2018 - Present*  
 Our objective is to learn contextualized representations of sentences from resource-rich languages and transfer to low-resource languages. In this project, the research questions we address: what and how information can be transferred across languages and can be refined for a new language given a few labeled examples.
- Information Extraction from Privacy Policies** *2019 - Present*  
 Navigating and digesting information from narrative policy descriptions in security and privacy policy documents is challenging for the end users. Hence, we aim to develop techniques to accurately extract information from privacy policy documents and precisely present them to the users.
- Open Keyphrase Generation for Contextual Targeting** *2019 - Present*  
 Developing and experimenting with novel keyphrase generation techniques from web documents to improve page-to-segment relevance models to facilitate contextual targeting.
- Source Code to Natural Language Generation** *2019 - Present*  
 In this project, we aim to design models that can facilitate source code to natural language generation, such as, automatic code summarization, commit message generation for source code changes etc.

## INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

---

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, CA</b><br>Research Intern, Ad Quality Science                     | <i>06.2019 - 09.2019</i> |
| <b>Microsoft AI &amp; Research, Redmond, WA</b><br>Research Intern, Business Applications Group | <i>06.2018 - 09.2018</i> |
| <b>Walmart Labs, Reston, VA</b><br>Research Intern, Wireless Fraud Prevention                   | <i>06.2016 - 08.2016</i> |
| <b>REVE Systems, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b><br>Software Development Engineer, Android                | <i>02.2013 - 10.2013</i> |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Computer Science II. Instructor: David Smallberg. *01.2019 - 06.2019*
- Introduction to Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2018 - 03.2018*

**University of Virginia**  
Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Advanced Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2017 - 05.2017*
- Natural Language Processing. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *08.2016 - 12.2016*
- Advanced Software Development. Instructor: Tom Horton. *08.2015 - 05.2016*
- Capstone Practicum I & II. Instructor: Aaron Bloomfield. *08.2015 - 05.2016*

**Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology**  
Lecturer, Department of Computer Science

*11.2013 - 08.2015*

## TALKS

---

- Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion, SIGIR 2019
- Multi-Task Learning, Machine Learning Seminar, UCLA, November 2017

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

### Program Committee/Reviewer

- IJCAI 2020, AAAI 2020, LREC 2020, NAACL 2019, NLPCC-English 2018, MASC-SLL 2017
- Secondary Reviewer: EMNLP 2018

### Internal Service, Department of Computer science, University of Virginia

- Student Volunteer in the Mentee-Mentor Program for new graduate students. 16’.
- Student Ambassador for assisting prospective students. 16’.

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

---

- SIGIR Student Travel Grant *2016, 2019*
- ICLR Travel Award *2018*
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UCLA *2017*
- William L Ballard Jr Endowed Graduate Fellowship, UVA *2017*
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UVA *2015 - 2016*
- Dean’s List Award, BUET *2008-09 to 2010-11*
- University Merit Scholarship, BUET *2007-08 to 2010-11*

## REFERENCES

---

**Dr. Kai-Wei Chang**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Computer Science  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Email: kwchang.cs@ucla.edu