

# Chen Cecilia Liu

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## Research Interests

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Multilinguality, Generalization, Multicultural NLP, Pragmatics-related tasks, Multimodality

## Education

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**Technische Universität Darmstadt** (TU Darmstadt) Darmstadt, Germany  
Computer Science 2021 - Present

European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) PhD in NLP (~5% acceptance)

Supervisors: Prof. Iryna Gurevych (TU Darmstadt) / Prof. Anna Korhonen (University of Cambridge)

**University of Cambridge** Cambridge, United Kingdom  
Visiting Research Student @ Language Technology Lab 2024  
Supervisor: Prof. Anna Korhonen

**University of Toronto** Toronto, Canada  
Master of Applied Science, Electrical Engineering 2011 - 2013  
Supervisor: Prof. Brendan Frey

Bachelor of Applied Science (with Honours), Mechanical Engineering 2006 - 2010

## Relevant Industry Experience

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**ElementAI (ServiceNow)** Toronto, Canada  
*Staff Applied NLP Scientist* Dec 2020 - June 2021

**Wattpad, (acquired by NAVER WEBTOON)** Toronto, Canada  
*Staff Product & Research Data Scientist* Oct 2020 - Dec 2020  
*Senior Product & Research Data Scientist, Tech Lead* May 2017 - Oct 2020

**Spotify** Boston, USA  
*Machine Learning Engineer* Sep 2016 - May 2017

**Meta, (acquired by Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)** Toronto, Canada  
*Machine Learning Engineer* Mar 2014 - Aug 2016

## Honours, Scholarships & Grants

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ELIZA Scholarship, DAAD (€ 8700) 2024

Travel Grant, European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (€ 3000) 2022

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA), NSERC (2x, total \$8000) 2008, 2009

Dean's List, University of Toronto 2007 - 2010

General Motor of Women in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Award, University of Toronto (3x, total over

\$10k)	2007 - 2009
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Admission Scholarship, University of Toronto	2006
Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering Admission Scholarship, University of Toronto	2006

## Services

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Reviewer/Program committee:

NLP	EMNLP (2020, 2022), ACL (2020, 2023), EACL (2021), NAACL (2021), ACL Rolling Review (2022-)
ML/AI	NeurIPs (2023, 2024), ICLR (2024, 2025), ICML (2024), COLM (2024, 2025), AAI (2024)
Workshops	RepL4NLP (2024, 2025), WinNLP@EMNLP (2024)

Women in Data Conference, Invited Industry Mentor, Toronto	2019
Google Go North Conference, Invited Industry Mentor, Toronto	2017
ECE Department Annual Graduate Students Conference, Organizer, University of Toronto	2012
Graduate Student Union Student Representative, University of Toronto	2012 - 2013

## Talks

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Seminar, Invited Talk (Cultural NLP), Ontario Tech University and University of Toronto	2024
Seminar, Invited Talk (PEFT & Cross-lingual Transfer), Berliner Hochschule für Technik	2024
CHIA Annual Conference on AI for Good, Poster Presentation, University of Cambridge	2024
Women in Data Science Conference, Invited Talk, Toronto	2019
Vector Institute Endless Summer School, Invited Talk, University of Toronto	2018

## Teaching Experience

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Current Topics in Natural Language Processing, Guest Lecture (Cultural NLP), MBZUAI	2025
Literature Management for PhD Students, Seminar, TU Darmstadt	2024
Electrical Fundamentals (ECE101), Tutorial, University of Toronto	2011
Fundamentals of Computer Programming (APS106), Lab, University of Toronto	2010
Grade 12 Physics / Chemistry, William International College, Toronto	2007

## Mentorship

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Nils Kovačić (with Dr. Hiba Arnaout), TU Darmstadt	BSc Thesis, Culturally-aware NLP, Emotion
Kai Li, TU Darmstadt	BSc Thesis, Culturally-aware NLP, Multimodality
Jonas Stadtmüller, TU Darmstadt	MSc Thesis, Continual Learning, Multimodality
Laurenz Kammeyer, TU Darmstadt	BSc Thesis, Prompting
Amir Ganiev, University of Toronto	BASc PEY
Amanda Steinhauer, University of Toronto	BASc PEY

## Selected Publications

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11. **Chen Liu**, Anna Korhonen and Iryna Gurevych. Cultural Learning-Based Culture Adaptation of Language Models. *Preprint - ARR reviewed*, 2025.
10. **Chen Liu**, Iryna Gurevych and Anna Korhonen. Culturally Aware and Culturally Adapted NLP: A Taxonomy and Survey. *Accepted at TACL (To appear)*, 2025.

9. **Chen Liu** and Iryna Gurevych. Early Period of Training Impacts Out-of-Distribution Generalization. *Preprint - under review*, 2024. (A workshop version is accepted at HiLD@ICML 2024)
8. **Chen Liu**, Fajri Koto, Timothy Baldwin, and Iryna Gurevych. Are Multilingual LLMs Culturally-Diverse Reasoners? An Investigation into Multicultural Proverbs and Sayings. NAACL-HLT, 2024.
7. **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, Ivan Vulić, and Iryna Gurevych. Improving Generalization of Adapter-Based Cross-lingual Transfer with Scheduled Unfreezing. NAACL-HLT, 2024.
6. **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, Anna Korhonen, Ivan Vulić, and Iryna Gurevych. Delving Deeper into Cross-lingual Visual Question Answering. *EACL - Findings*, 2023.
5. Gregor Geigle, **Chen Liu**, Jonas Pfeiffer, and Iryna Gurevych. One does not fit all! On the Complementarity of Vision Encoders for Vision and Language Tasks. RepL4NLP@ACL, 2023.
4. **Chen Liu**<sup>\*</sup>, Gregor Geigle<sup>\*</sup>, Robin Krebs, and Iryna Gurevych. FigMemes: A Dataset for Figurative Language Identification in Politically-Opinionated Memes. EMNLP, 2022.
3. Amir Ganiev, Colton Chapin, Anderson De Andrade, and **Chen Liu**. An Architecture for Accelerated Large-Scale Inference of Transformer-Based Language Models. NAACL - *Industry Track*, 2021.
2. **Chen Liu**, Anderson De Andrade, and Muhammad Osama. 2019. Exploring Multilingual Syntactic Sentence Representations. W-NUT@EMNLP, 2019.
1. **Chen Liu**, Muhammad Osama, and Anderson De Andrade. DENS: A Dataset for Multi-class Emotion Analysis. EMNLP, 2019.