

# TAL AUGUST

510 421 9208 ◊ talaugust6@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

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- University of Washington** Seattle, WA  
PhD, Computer Science January 2023  
Advisors: Katharina Reinecke & Noah A. Smith
- Tufts University** Medford, MA  
BS, Computer Science May 2017  
Cumulative GPA: (3.98/4.0)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Allen Institute for AI** January 2023 - Present  
*Postdoc / Young Investigator, Semantic Scholar* Seattle, WA
- Leading and mentoring projects on interdisciplinary scholarly communication
- Allen Institute for AI** June 2021 - December 2021  
*Research Intern, Semantic Scholar* Seattle, WA
- Designed intelligent reading interface for non-experts reading medical research papers
- UW Computer Science & Engineering** September 2017 - January 2023  
*Graduate Research Assistant* Seattle, WA
- Projects include conducting online experiments and building tools for adapting language to different reader audiences
- Microsoft Research AI** June 2019 - September 2019  
*Research Intern* Redmond, WA
- Worked with Dr. Shamsi Iqbal to design and implement user study investigating mobile microtask writing process
- Tufts University Department of Computer Science** September 2016 - May 2017  
*Research Assistant* Medford, MA
- Studied user mental workload with Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy sensors (fNIRs) and
- Tufts University** June - August 2016  
*Researcher and Course Developer* Medford, MA
- Collaborated on faculty and student team to conceptualize multi-disciplinary, higher level design course

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- University of Washington** September 2019 - May 2020  
*Teaching Assistant, HCI & NLP Capstone Courses* Seattle, WA
- Organized and taught weekly sections providing design and research feedback for 20+ students
- Tufts University** September 2014 - May 2017  
*Writing Fellow, Head Arabic and Computer Science Tutor* Medford, MA
- Assigned specific writing-intensive courses to support peers in writing process

- Organized weekly drop-in hours and facilitated discussions among students of diverse backgrounds

**Orient Occident Foundation**

*English Instructor*

September 2015 - December 2015

*Rabat, Morocco*

- Led conversation groups in English grammar and language skills with sub-Saharan African immigrants

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Refereed Conference Papers

1. **Tal August**, Lucy Lu Wang, Jonathan Bragg, Marti A. Hearst, Andrew Head and Kyle Lo, *Paper Plain: Making medical research papers approachable to healthcare consumers with natural language processing*, ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI), 2023.
2. Jackson Stokes<sup>1</sup>, **Tal August**<sup>1</sup>, Robert A. Marver, Alexei Czeskis, Franziska Roesner, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Katharina Reinecke *How Language Formality in Security and Privacy Interfaces Impacts Intended Compliance*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2023.
3. **Tal August**, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Generating Scientific Definitions with Controllable Complexity*, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2022.
4. Elizabeth Clark, **Tal August**, Sofia Serrano, Suchin Gururangan, and Noah A. Smith, *All That's 'Human' Is Not Gold: Evaluating Human Evaluation of Generated Text*, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2021. **\*Outstanding Paper Award\***
5. Amanda Baughan<sup>1</sup>, Nigini Oliveira<sup>1</sup>, **Tal August**, Naomi Yamashita, and Katharina Reinecke, *Do Cross-Cultural Differences in Visual Attention Patterns Affect Search Efficiency on Websites*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2021. **\*Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5%)\***
6. **Tal August**, Lauren Kim, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Writing Strategies for Science Communication: Data and Computational Analysis*, Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2020.
7. David Wadden, **Tal August**, Qisheng Li, and Tim Althoff, *The Effect of Moderation on Online Mental Health Conversations*, Conference on Web and Social Interaction (ICWSM), 2020. **\*Outstanding Study Design Paper\***
8. **Tal August**, Shamsi Iqbal, Michael Gamon, and Mark Encarnación, *Characterizing the Mobile Microtask Writing Process*, Human Computer Interaction With Mobile Devices and Services (MobileHCI), 2020.
9. **Tal August**, Dallas Card, Gary Hsieh, Noah A. Smith and Katharina Reinecke, *Explain like I am a Scientist: The Linguistic Barriers of Entry to r/science*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020.
10. Amanda Baughan, **Tal August**, Naomi Yamashita, and Katharina Reinecke, *Keep it Simple: How Visual Preferences for Simple or Complex Websites Impact Search Efficiency*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020.
11. Tomoki Shibata, Alena Borisenko, Anzu Hakone, **Tal August**, Leonidas Deligiannidis, Chen-Hsiang Yu, Matthew Russell, Alex Olwal, and Robert J.K. Jacob, *An Implicit Dialogue Injection System for Interruption Management*, ACM ICPS Augmented Humans International Conference (AH), 2019.

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<sup>1</sup>Equal Contribution

12. **Tal August** and Katharina Reinecke, *Pay Attention, Please: Formal Language Improves Attention in Volunteer and Paid Online Experiments*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2019.
13. **Tal August**, Nigini Oliveira, Chenhao Tan, Noah A. Smith, and Katharina Reinecke, *Framing Effects: Choice of Slogans Used to Advertise Online Experiments Can Boost Recruitment and Lead to Sample Biases*, Proceedings of ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW), 2018.
14. Manuel Nordhoff, **Tal August**, Nigini Oliveira and Katharina Reinecke, *A Case for Design Localization: Diversity of Website Aesthetics in 44 Countries*, Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2018.

### Workshop Papers

1. Narshion Ngao, Zeyu Wang, Lawrence Nderu, Tobias Mwalili, **Tal August** and Keshet Ronen *Detecting Urgency in Multilingual Medical SMS in Kenya*, Student Research Workshop @ Asia Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (AAACL), 2022.
2. **Tal August**, Maarten Sap, Elizabeth Clark, Katharina Reinecke, and Noah A. Smith, *Exploring the Effect of Author and Reader Identity in Online Story Writing: the StoriesInTheWild Corpus*, Workshop on Narrative Understanding, Storylines, and Events (NUSE) @ Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2020.

### SERVICE

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<b>Organizer</b>	CSE Interactive Systems Seminar
<b>Organizer</b>	DUB Retreat Organizing Committee
<b>Organizer</b>	DUB Doctoral Colloquium
<b>Reviewer</b>	CHI 2019/21/22/23, CSCW 2021/22, ACL 2021/22, EMNLP 2021/22, ICWSM 2022
<b>Reviewer</b>	ACL Student Research Workshop 2020/21
<b>Reader</b>	UW Pre-Application Mentorship Service (PAMS), 2021/22
<b>Reader</b>	PhD Program Admissions (CSE) 2020/21

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

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<b>ACL Outstanding Paper</b>	2021
<b>CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5%)</b>	2021
<b>ICWSM Outstanding Study Design Paper</b>	2020
<b>Twitch Research Fellowship</b>	2020
<b>UW Endowed Fellowship in Computer Science &amp; Engineering</b>	2018
<b>Tufts Phi Beta Kappa</b>	2017
<b>Tufts Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award</b>	2017
<b>Tufts Priscilla N. Dunne Prize in Psychology</b>	2017
<b>Tufts Dean's List</b>	2013-2017
<b>Participant on Tufts Innovates! Grant</b>	2016
<b>Tufts Entrepreneurial Leadership Grant</b>	2015