

Pranav N Venkit

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE · NLP RESEARCHER

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Education

Pennsylvania State University

PH.D. IN INFORMATICS | ADVISED BY DR. SHOMIR WILSON

Research Interest: Natural Language Processing, Ethics in ML & AI, Social Informatics

2020 - 2025

CGPA: 3.95/4

Amrita School of Engineering

B.TECH IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Research Interest: Supervised Machine Learning, Full Stack Development, Text Analysis

2013 - 2017

CGPA: 8.0/10

Experience

Salesforce AI Research

AI RESEARCH INTERN

- Collaborating with the Interactive AI Team to develop Ethical AI and Trustworthy NLP solutions.
- Conducting ethnographic analysis to understand the impact of misaligned sociotechnical systems on diverse communities.
- Applying quantitative methods to identify and measure biases in RAG systems.
- We create the Answer Engine Evaluation benchmark to audit RAG and answer engines to effectively measure the effectiveness of these systems as a sociotechnical system.

May 2024 - Aug 2024

Palo Alto, CA

Pennsylvania State University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT | PRIVACY AND SES PROJECT | URBAN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

- Investigated the extent to which LLMs extract and potentially misuse Personally Identifiable Information from social media data.
- Utilized mixed-method techniques to compare the effectiveness of LLMs in extracting PII against human annotators.
- Employed synthetic data creation and social media counter-analysis to identify and examine the types of PII most vulnerable to extraction by LLMs.
- Applying supervised and unsupervised machine learning techniques to predict dispatcher behavior, with a specific focus on adverse outcomes affecting minority groups across different city zones.

July 2021 - Present

University Park, PA

Pennsylvania State University

GRADUATE ASSISTANT | PROJECT ION

- Collaborated with Dr. Patrick Dudas on a project focused on collaborative learning using dynamic visualizations in an online platform.
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative analyses, including exploratory interviews, survey analysis, and co-design methodology, to assess the efficacy of static and dynamic coding platforms and interactions.

Aug 2019 - July 2021

University Park, PA

Honeywell Technology Solutions

APPLICATION ENGINEER

- Implemented automation concepts, including Chat and Process Bots, and oversaw the integration of machine learning solutions in Engineering Operations by leading and collaborating with multiple stakeholder projects.
- Led the development of an Enterprise Service Bus, leveraging API communications, to enhance department-specific application architecture through process automation to reduce an average of 60 hours of redundant development per week.

Aug 2017 - July 2019

Bangalore, India

Selected Projects

A Community-Based Approach to Understand Cultural Harms within GAI

KEYWORDS: COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE, ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY, AI FOR GOOD

- In partnership with the University of Washington and under the mentorship of Dr. Aylin Caliskan, I employed a comprehensive mixed-methods approach, combining ethnographic analysis and quantitative techniques to investigate the cultural implications of Generative AI. This study aimed to uncover the harmful impacts of Generative AI on diverse cultural communities as a sociotechnical system

Nov 2023 - Present

Evaluation of RAG Systems and Answer Engines as a Sociotechnical System

KEYWORDS: RAG SYSTEM, ANSWER ENGINE, EVALUATION BENCHMARK

- The project, in partnership with the Interactive AI team at Salesforce Research, researched on creating an effective benchmark to evaluate the safety of answer engines and RAG systems in society. We effectively conducted a community based study to develop evaluation metrics to then audit public answer engines to understand their safety.

May 2024 - Aug 2024

Skills and Certifications

Programming Python, C, C++, Java, R

Web & Query Languages Processing, P5.js, D3.js, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL

Tools Anypoint Studio, Mulesoft ESB, Flourish, WebFlow

Certifications Coursera Certification of Exploratory Data Analysis issued by John Hopkins University

Publications and News Mentions

SELECTED PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE AND JOURNAL PAPERS

- **Venkit, P.**, Chakravorti, Gupta, V., Biggs, H., T., Srinath, M., Goswami, K., Rajtmajer, S., Wilson, S. (2024). An Audit on the Perspectives and Challenges of Hallucinations in NLP 2024 *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing- EMNLP '24*
- S, Ghosh, G. *, **Venkit, P. ***, Gautam, S.*, Wilson, S., Caliskan, A. (2024). Do Generative AI Models Output Harm while Representing Non-Western Cultures: Evidence from A Community-Centered Approach. *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society- AIES '24*
- Gupta, V., **Venkit, P.**, Wilson, S., Passonneau, R., (2024). CALM: A Multi-task Benchmark for Comprehensive Assessment of Language Model Bias. *Proceedings in the Conference on Language Modeling- COLM '24*
- **Venkit, P.**, Graziul, C., Goodman, M., Kenny, S., Wilson, S. (2024). Race and Privacy in Broadcast Police Communications. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction- CSCW '24 [Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Award]*
- **Venkit, P.**, Gautam, S., Ghosh, G. (2024). From Melting Pots to Misrepresentations: Exploring Harms in Generative AI. *Proceedings of GenAICHI '24 in CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems-GenAICHI In CHI '24*
- **Venkit, P.**, Srinath, M., Gautam, S., Venkataraman. S., Gupta, M., Passonneau, B., Wilson, S. (2023).The Sentiment Problem: A Critical Survey towards Deconstructing Sentiment Analysis- 2023 *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing- EMNLP '23 [Outstanding Paper Award]*
- **Venkit, P.**, Gautam, S., Panchanadikar, R., Huang, K., Wilson, S. (2023). Unmasking Nationality Bias: A Study of Human Perception of Nationalities in AI-Generated Articles. *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society- AIES '23*
- **Venkit, P.**, (2023). Towards a Holistic Approach: Understanding Sociodemographic Biases in NLP Models using an Interdisciplinary Lens. *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society- AIES '23*
- Srinath, M., Sundareswara, S., **Venkit, P.**, Giles, c., Wilson, S. (2023). Privacy Lost and Found: An Investigation at Scale of Web Privacy Policy Availability *ACM Document Engineering- DocEng '23 [Best Paper Award]*
- **Venkit, P.**, Srinath, M., Wilson, S. (2023). Automated Ableism: An Exploration of Explicit Disability Biases in Sentiment and Toxicity Analysis Models. *TrustNLP in the 61st Annual Meeting Of the Association for Computational Linguistics 2023- TrustNLP in ACL '23 [Best Paper Award]*
- **Venkit, P.**, Gautam, S., Panchanadikar, R., Huang, K., Wilson, S. (2023). Nationality Bias in Text Generation. *Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics- EACL '23*
- **Venkit, P.**, Srinath, M., Wilson, S. (2022). A Study of Implicit Language Model Bias against People with Disabilities. *International Conference on Computational Linguistics- COLING '22*

NEWS AND MEDIA MENTIONS

- Fetzer, Mary. "Broadcast police communications may pose privacy risks, especially to Black men" (**PennState News, 21 November. 2024**)
- Rankin, Kenrya. "Nothing About Us, Without Us: Disability Justice and AI" (**Mozilla Tech News, 9 June. 2024**)
- Katz, Sarah. "How can we make AI less biased against disabled people" (**Fast Company Tech, 11 March. 2024**)
- Fetzer, Mary. "Trained AI models exhibit learned disability bias, IST researchers say" (**PennState News, 30 Nov. 2023**)
- Smith, Lucy. "A Critical Survey Towards Deconstructing Sentiment Analysis: An Interview" (**AIHub News, 2 Nov. 2023**)
- Fetzer, Mary. "Most websites do not publish privacy policies, researchers say." (**PennState News, 25 Oct. 2023**)
- Tutella, Francisco. "Positive triggering method reduces nationality bias in large text generators" (**PennState News, 27 Apr. 2023**)
- Melillo, Gianna. "Common AI language models show bias against people with disabilities." (**The Hill, 14 Oct. 2022**)
- Wiggers, Kyle. "How Bias Creeps into the AI Designed to Detect Toxicity." (**VentureBeat, 9 Dec. 2021**)
- Hallman, Jessica. "Study of police language aims to find patterns that may lead to tragic outcomes." (**PennState News, 25 May. 2021**)

Awards & Honors

2024	EMNLP '24 Outstanding Reviewer , Was selected as one of the outstanding reviewer for the EMNLP 2024 conference.	Miami, USA
2024	CSCW '24 DEI Recognition Award , First authored paper on the analysis of BPC (broadcast police communication) and its impact on society won the diversity, inclusion and equity award at CSCW '24.	San Jose, Costa Rica
2023	EMNLP'23 Outstanding Paper Award , First authored paper on the critique of sentiment analysis was awarded the Outstanding Paper Award at EMNLP '23	Singapore
2023	DocEng '23 Best Paper Award , Collaborative work on analysis of privacy policy was awarded as the best student paper at DocEng '23.	Limerick , Ireland
2023	TrustNLP '23 Best Paper Award , First authored paper on disability bias in language model was awarded as one the best papers at ACL '23 Trust NLP workshop.	Toronto , Canada
2023	Nittany AI Challenge Semifinalist , Selected and awarded as one of the Top 20 teams in the AI Hackathon for ChoroNews: A News-based AI Timeline Summarization Application	State College , USA
2019	HackPSU Hackathon Winner , The Best SaaS Application award & Overall Best Application Runner-up Developed Beyond Tweet Platform that integrates census data and tweet sentiment for market predictions.	State College, USA

Social and Academic Service

	Scholarly Reviewer , FAccT '25/'24, EMNLP '24 Scientific Reports '24, CHI '24/'23, ACL '23, COLING '22	
	Conference Organizer and Volunteer , EMNLP 2023, FAccT 2023	
2025	Association for Computational Linguistics '25 , Area Chair	Vienna, Austria
2025	Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency '25 , Program Committee	Athens, Greece
2024	Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency '24 , Program Committee	Rio, Brazil
2023	TrustNLP Workshop at ACL '23 , Program Committee	Toronto , Canada
2020	Graduate Student Association in IST (GIST) , Vice President	Pennsylvania , USA