

S. ZAHRA RAZAVI

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Spoken Dialogue Systems, Natural Language Understanding and Reasoning, Machine Learning, Intelligent Virtual Agents, Text Classification

EDUCATION

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY *Sep. 2014 - Present*

PhD in Computer Science

Main Research Topic: Designing a dialogue manager for an open-ended conversational virtual agent

University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran *Sep. 2008 - June 2011*

Master of Science, Electrical Engineering-Control (Intelligent Control)

Final Thesis: Design of local decision makers for improvement of quality of learning attention control and decision fusion.

Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran *Sep. 2003 - June 2008*

B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (Control Engineering)

Final Project: Analysis and Simulation of Cooperative Robot Systems.

HIGHLIGHTED COURSES

Natural Language Understanding, Machine Learning, Logical Foundations of AI, Computational Semantics, Data Science for Linguistics, Advanced Algorithms, Pattern Recognition

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher at RD part by Tamas Gostar Kish (TGKCO) *Jan. 2012 - Jun. 2014*

Tehran, Iran

Area of research: Smart homes, Programming and testing the control boards

Researcher by Researchers of Nanotechnology corporation *Sep. 2006 - Dec. 2007*

Tehran, Iran

Area of research: Feasibility study on Application of smart total analysis systems to reservoir fluid characterization

Research Intern at TAM (Advanced Manufacturing Technology in Automotive Industry) Iran Khodro Company *Jul. 2006 - Sep 2006*

Tehran, Iran

Area of research: Design and test of the L90 Break control system

Education consultant in Roshangar Pre-University Center *Jul. 2004 - Sep 2005*

Tehran, Iran

TEACHING ASSISTANCE EXPERIENCE

Logical Foundations of AI Course professor: Prof. Lenhart Schubert	<i>Fall 2016</i>
Advanced Algorithm Course professor: Prof. Daniel Stefankovic	<i>Spring 2016</i>
Undergraduate Seminar Course professor: Prof. James Allen	<i>Fall 2015</i>
Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning Course professor: Prof. Babak N. Araabi	<i>Fall 2010</i>

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, C/C++, Lisp, familiar with Prolog, Dr. Scheme, Haskell, Ruby, R
Machine Learning tools: Scikit-learn, NLTK, Pandas, Numpy

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

English: Fluent (IELTS Aug. 2019 scores: R:8, L:8.5, W:7.5, S:7)
German: Pre-Intermediate (Goete Zertifikat B1 2012 score: 265/300)
GRE 2013 scores: Verbal: 145/170, Quantitative: 170/170, Analytical writing: 3.0/6.0
Persian: Native Fluency

PUBLICATIONS

- Investigating Linguistic and Semantic Features for Turn-Taking Prediction in Open-Domain Human-Computer Conversation*
S. Zahra Razavi, Benjamin Kane, Lenhart K. Schubert Interspeech 2019
- Dialogue Design and Management for Multi-Session Casual Conversation with Older Adults*
S. Zahra Razavi, Lenhart K. Schubert, Benjamin Kane, M. Rafayet Ali, Kimberly A. Van Orden, Tianyi Ma IUI User2Agent Workshop, 2019
- Managing Casual Spoken Dialogue Using Flexible Schemas, Pattern Transduction Trees, and Gist Clauses*
S. Zahra Razavi, Lenhart K. Schubert, M. Rafayet Ali, M. Ehsan Hoque
Fifth Annual Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems, 2017
- The LISSA virtual human and ASD teens: An overview of initial experiments*
S. Zahra Razavi, M. Rafayet Ali, Tristram H. Smith, Lenhart K. Schubert, M. Ehsan Hoque
International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents, 2016

Pre-print submissions

- Discourse Behavior of Older Adults Interacting With a Dialogue Agent Competent in Multiple Topics*
S. Zahra Razavi, Lenhart K. Schubert, Kimberly A. Van Orden, M. Rafayet Ali 2019
arXiv preprint arXiv:1907.06279
- A Virtual Conversational Agent for Teens with Autism: Experimental Results and Design Lessons*
M. Rafayet Ali, **S. Zahra Razavi**, Abdullah A. Mamun, Reina Langevin, Reza Rawassizadeh, Lenhart

HONORS AND AWARDS

- University of Rochester RA scholarship *2014-Now*
- CRA scholarship to attend Grad Cohort workshop *2016 and 2017*
- Department Scholarship to attend Grace Hopper conference *2016*
- Scholarship from RWTH Aachen to attend in "Learn German- Experience Aachen"
3-week summerschool in Aachen, Germany *2009*
- MSc. University entrance exam: rank 6 among >3,0000 participants
in Electrical Engineering group *2008*
- BSc. GPA: rank 1 among 33 students in Control Engineering field in Sharif University *2008*
- BSc. University entrance exam: rank 92 among >300,000 participants
in Mathematics and Physics field in the whole country *2003*

INVITED TALKS

An Automated Conversational Agent for Helping Teens with Autism Disorder, In ACM New York Celebration of Women in Computing (NYCWIC 2017), Henrietta, NY,

EXTRA-CIRRUCULAR

Co-organized "YRRSDS 2017" and "YRRSDS 2018" (The Annual Young Researchers Roundtable on Spoken Dialogue Systems)

REFERENCES

Lenhart K. Schubert

Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester
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Ehsan M. Hoque

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester
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Scott Grimm

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