Curriculum Vitae
Shreya Havaldar

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania   August 2021 - May 2026 (anticipated)
PhD Computer and Information Science
Advisors: Lyle Ungar, Eric Wong

University of Southern California   August 2017 - May 2021
*B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Applied & Computational Mathematic*s
Advisor: Morteza Dehghani
Summa cum laude

RESEARCH STATEMENT

I research sociotechnical alignment of LLMs, focusing on quantifying and mitigating cultural bias. I am broadly interested in helping LLMs understand subjective constructs that vary across people and cultures, such as linguistic style (e.g. emotion, politeness), implied language, and social norms. I am currently working on: (1) Techniques to improve cultural awareness of LLM generations, (2) Aligning LLM evaluation with domain-expert intuition, and (3) My thesis!

AWARDS & HONORS

MIT Rising Stars in EECS (2025)
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2023)
Best Paper Award at WASSA @ ACL (2023)
Area Chair Award at AACL (2023)
USC Computer Science Outstanding Student Award (2021)
USC Computer Science Outstanding Service Award (2021)
USC Presidential Scholarship (~$30,000/year)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS *(* indicates equal contribution, full list on Google Scholar)*

Havaldar, S., Rai, S., Cho, Y.M., & Ungar, L. (2025). Culturally-Aware Conversations: A Framework & Benchmark for LLMs. *4th Workshop on Bridging Human-Computer Interaction and Natural Language Processing (EMNLP).*

Havaldar, S., Alvari, H., Palowitch, J., Hosseini, M. J., Buthpitiya, S., & Fabrikant, A. (2025). Entailed Between the Lines: Incorporating Implication into NLI. *ACL.*

Havaldar, S.*, Stein, A.*, Wong, E., & Ungar, L. (2025). Towards Style Alignment in Cross-Cultural Translation. *ACL.*

Jin, H.*, **Havaldar, S.*,** Kim, C.*, Xue, A.*, You, W.*, et al. (2025). The FIX Benchmark: Extracting Features Interpretable to eXperts. *DMLR.*

Havaldar, S., Giorgi, S., Talhelm, T., Guntuku, S. C., & Ungar, L. (2024). Building Knowledge-Guided Lexica to Model Cultural Variation. *NAACL.*

Havaldar, S., Pressimone, M., Wong, E., Ungar, L. (2023). Comparing Styles across Languages. *EMNLP.*

Havaldar, S., Rai, S., Singhal, B., Liu, L., Guntuku, S. C., & Ungar, L. (2023). Multilingual Language Models are not Multicultural: A Case Study in Emotion. *13th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment, & Social Media Analysis (ACL). **Best Paper Award.***

Lyu, Q.*, **Havaldar, S.***, Stein, A.*, Zhang, L., Rao, D., Wong, E., Apidianaki, M., & Callison-Burch, C. (2023). Faithful Chain-of-Thought Reasoning. *AACL. **Area Chair Award.***

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UPenn Department of Computer Science   January 2026 - present
Lecturer
CS1900 (Introduction to Designing LLM Agents)
- Created a new undergraduate class at Penn focused on methods for interacting with LLMs and building robust LLM agents.

UPenn Department of Computer Science   August 2022 - May 2023
Teaching Assistant
CS5300 (Computational Linguistics), CS3990 (Mathematics of Machine Learning)
- Assisting with creating/testing curriculum, holding weekly office hours to help students with theoretical understanding and homework assignments

USC Department of Computer Science   Fall 2018 - May 2021
Teaching Assistant
CS170 (Discrete Methods in Computer Science), CS270 (Intro to Algorithms)
- Designed and led weekly discussion sections, held office hours to help students with theoretical understanding and homework assignments

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Spotify (New York City, NY) — Summer 2025
Research Scientist Intern
- Working on modeling user signals from interactive comments/feedback on podcast episodes; analyzing how user subjectivity influences interaction on Spotify's platform.

Google Deepmind (Mountainview, CA) — May - November 2024
Student Researcher
- Worked on measuring LLM performance in implied language understanding + analyzing how personal/cultural subjectivity influences implication.
- Worked on a large-scale dataset to benchmark cultural understanding of various Gemini models (internal project).

Microsoft - MSAI (Bellevue, WA | Remote) — Summer 2020, Summer 2021
Software Engineering & Data Science Intern
- Configured a topic extraction pipeline to include database ingestion to include 10,000+ tenant-level features for the Microsoft Search, Assistance, and Intelligence team.
- Led research and experimentation for a proposed topic classification model using various supervised learning methods and domain-specific feature selection.

LEADERSHIP

Women in Machine Learning (WiML) @ UPenn — Spring 2024 - present
President, Founder
- Started a chapter of WiML at UPenn to create and foster a community for underrepresented genders in ML; organizing meetups and events for PhD students, postdocs, and faculty.

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence — Fall 2017 - Spring 2020
President, Event Coordinator
- Led the AAAI USC student chapter; planned AI-focused workshops, hackathons, and outreach events; developed workshops on various ML topics.

AthenaHacks — Spring 2019 - May 2021
Logistics Organizer
- Worked on the Logistics committee to plan Southern California's largest all-female hackathon and empower high school/university women in the technology field

USC Undergraduate Center for AI in Society (CAIS++) — Fall 2019 - May 2021
Curriculum Lead
- Held weekly ML lessons for a cohort of 8 undergraduate students, focused on the fundamentals of applied and theoretical machine learning.