

Hans William Alexander Hanley

Semantic Modeling • Natural Language Processing • LLM Safety • Multilingual Representation Learning

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I build scalable methods for interpreting and evaluating large language models, including multilingual representation-learning systems, semantic modeling pipelines, and LLM-based evaluators and agents for high-fidelity reasoning and content analysis. My PhD research uncovered latent structure in massive text ecosystems, aligned LLM behavior across languages and domains, and supported safer, more reliable deployment of model-driven systems.

EDUCATION

Stanford University **PhD, Computer Science, 2025** | **MS, Computer Science, 2024**
GPA: 4.02; Advisor: Zakir Durumeric; Meta Research PhD Fellow; NSF GRFP; Stanford EDGE Doctoral Fellow
University of Oxford **MSc, Statistical Science, 2020** | **MSc, Computer Science, 2019**
Distinction (Highest Honors); Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Graduating Scholar at Worcester College
Princeton University **BSE, Electrical Engineering, 2018**
Highest Honors, GPA: 3.982; Information Security & Privacy Concentration; Phi Beta Kappa; Tau Beta Pi; Sigma Xi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Meta, Research Scientist, CAS / Central Applied Sciences **2025–Present**
• Research, build, and deploy large-scale multilingual and multimodal LLM pipelines to model content semantics, identify creator verticals, and understand user interaction behavior across Instagram (over 3 billion users) for downstream recommender systems.
• Develop LLM-based evaluation methods and production metrics to assess political content quality, reply/comment impact, safety and integrity risks, and downstream effects on user experience.
Google Research, Health AI Student Researcher **Summer 2024**
• Designed LLM-based agents for structured querying and high-fidelity reasoning over large clinical datasets; implemented verification layers to detect reasoning failures under distribution shifts.
• Built evaluation frameworks measuring accuracy, safety, and adversarial robustness for LLM-mediated medical data interactions.
Digital Forensics Research Lab, Atlantic Council — Research Intern **Summer 2021**
• Investigated global misinformation and influence operations; authored seven reports analyzing cross-platform inauthentic behavior, foreign influence operations, and propaganda narratives (e.g., COVID-19 conspiracy networks, Iran/Russia/China operations, VPN adoption in Nigeria).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS & SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Tracking the Takes and Trajectories of News Narratives **USENIX Security 2025**
• Built a large-scale narrative-tracking system combining specially fine-tuned (e.g., LoRA) encoder-LLM semantic similarity models and zero-shot stance detection to track 146K narratives across 4K+ news sites and understand narrative pathways (e.g., anti-vaccine and anti-Ukraine influence campaigns).
Across the Firewall: Foreign Media’s Influence on Chinese Social Media **PNAS 2025**
• Quantified foreign-media penetration into Chinese platforms using cross-lingual alignment pipelines to detect narrative borrowing on the Russo–Ukrainian War.
Hierarchical Level-Wise News Article Clustering via Multilingual Matryoshka Embeddings **ACL 2025**
• Proposed multilingual Matryoshka embeddings enabling controllable semantic granularity (coarse-to-fine); achieved SOTA on SemEval 2022 Task 8 and built scalable hierarchical clustering pipelines surfacing stories, narratives, and macro-themes.
TATA: Stance Detection via Topic-Agnostic and Topic-Aware Embeddings **EMNLP 2023**
• Developed contrastive embedding models for topic-agnostic and topic-aware stance detection; achieved SOTA zero-shot performance (0.771 F1 on VAST) and improved cross-topic generalization in multi-domain news corpora.

SKILLS

Programming Python, Java, C, C++, C#, Go, SQL, R, MATLAB; Git; PyTorch, TensorFlow, Hugging Face
ML/LLM Transformers; LLM fine-tuning; multilingual modeling; interpretability; feature attribution; contrastive learning; LLM-based evaluation; safety & robustness analysis
Languages English (native); Mandarin Chinese (HSK Level 4)

SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

- CSCW 2025 Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 4%).
- Rising Stars in Data Science (Stanford/UCSD/UChicago); Meta Research PhD Fellow; NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP); Stanford EDGE Doctoral Fellow; University of Oxford Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Graduating Scholar.
- Charles Ira Young Memorial Tablet & Medal; SEAS Hayes–Palmer Prize; George B. Wood Legacy Prize.