

Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson

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EDUCATION

University of Copenhagen, Pioneer Centre for Artificial Intelligence <i>ELLIS PhD Fellow in Computer Science</i> <i>Advised by Serge Belongie and Ryan Cotterell (ETH Zürich)</i>	Copenhagen, Denmark <i>Autumn 2022 – Summer 2026</i>
University of Iceland <i>MS in Computer Science – First Class with Distinction</i>	Reykjavík, Iceland <i>October 2021</i>
University of Iceland <i>BA in Philosophy – First Class</i>	Reykjavík, Iceland <i>June 2012</i>
University of Iceland <i>BS in Mathematics – First Class</i>	Reykjavík, Iceland <i>October 2011</i>

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Researcher <i>University of Iceland</i>	September 2025 – <i>Reykjavík</i>
Visiting Researcher <i>ETH Zürich</i>	September 2024 – August 2025 <i>Zürich</i>
NLP Researcher / CTO <i>Miðeind ehf – Language technology</i>	November 2019 – February 2023 <i>Reykjavík</i>
Senior Developer <i>Trackwell ehf</i>	January 2018 – October 2019 <i>Reykjavík</i>
Developer / PM / CTO <i>Cooori ehf – Icelandic / Japanese ed-tech company</i>	August 2012 – March 2017 <i>Tokyo</i>
Research Assistant <i>University of Iceland, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences</i>	February 2010 – August 2012 <i>Reykjavík</i>

TEACHING

Philosophy of Computation <i>Head TA, ETH Zürich</i>	Spring 2025
Large Language Models <i>TA, ETH Zürich</i>	Spring 2025
Advanced Topics in Machine Learning <i>TA, ETH Zürich</i>	Autumn 2024
Vision and Image Processing <i>TA, University of Copenhagen</i>	Autumn 2023
Mathematical Analysis and Probability Theory <i>TA, University of Copenhagen</i>	Autumn 2023
Introduction to Language Technology <i>Head Teacher, University of Iceland</i>	Autumn 2021
AI Lifecycle <i>Guest lecturer, University of Iceland</i>	Spring 2021
Introduction to Logic <i>TA, University of Iceland</i>	Spring 2012
Mathematical Analysis <i>TA, University of Iceland</i>	Autumn 2009

TALKS

Transducing Language Models <i>University of Iceland Centre for Artificial Intelligence</i>	April 2026
Transducing Language Models <i>CHI-FRO on-site at MIT</i>	January 2026
Looking Back on the Icelandic Language Technology Program <i>ASTIN</i>	November 2024
How Correct is Your VLM? <i>Visipedia Workshop</i>	April 2024
Language Models and Innovation <i>University of Iceland Innovation Award Ceremony</i>	May 2023
Representation Learning and Neural Network <i>Arion Bank</i>	March 2022
IceBERT – Language Models for Icelandic <i>Icelandic Linguistics Society</i>	November 2021
Artificial Intelligence and Question Answering <i>Icelandic Computer Science Society</i>	November 2021
Language and Artificial Intelligence <i>Reykjavík City Library</i>	September 2021
Machine Translation, an Important Option <i>Reykjavík University</i>	May 2021

- [1] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Anej Svete, Josef Valvoda, Reda Boumasmoud, Brian DuSell, and Ryan Cotterell. “Causally Evaluating the Learnability of Formal Language Tasks”. In: *Proceedings of the 43rd International Conference on Machine Learning. ICML 2026* (proceedings forthcoming). 2026. URL: <https://icml.cc/virtual/2026/poster/31245>.
- [2] Samuel Kiegeand, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Tim Vieira, and Ryan Cotterell. “On the Proper Treatment of Units in Surprisal Theory”. In: *Proceedings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers). ACL 2026* (oral; proceedings forthcoming). 2026. URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2604.28147>.
- [3] Annika Simonsen, Barbara Scalvini, Uni Johannesen, Iben Nyholm Debess, Hafsteinn Einarsson, and **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**. “BRAGD: Constrained Multi-Label POS Tagging for Faroese”. In: *Proceedings of the 15th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2026). LREC 2026* (proceedings forthcoming). 2026. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2026.lrec-1.1271/>.
- [4] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson***, Samuel Kiegeand*, Tianyu Liu, Reda Boumasmoud, Ryan Cotterell, and Tim Vieira. “Transducing Language Models”. In: *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference on Learning Representations. ICLR 2026* (arXiv: 2603.05193). 2026. URL: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=qOyF214xmg>.
- [5] Jannek Ulm, Kevin Du, and **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**. “Contrastive Decoding for Synthetic Data Generation in Low-Resource Language Modeling”. In: *Proceedings of the First BabyLM Workshop. BabyLM @ EMNLP 2025*. 2025. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2025.babylm-main.2/>.
- [6] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Kevin Du, Niklas Stoehr, Serge Belongie, Ryan Cotterell, Nico Lang, and Stella Frank. “Taxonomy-Aware Evaluation of Vision-Language Models”. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR). CVPR 2025*. 2025. URL: https://openaccess.thecvf.com/content/CVPR2025/html/Snaebjarnarson_Taxonomy-Aware_Evaluation_of_Vision-Language_Models_CVPR_2025_paper.html.
- [7] Shauli Ravfogel, Anej Svete, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, and Ryan Cotterell. “Gumbel Counterfactual Generation From Language Models”. In: *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations. ICLR 2025*. 2025. URL: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=TUC0ZT2zIQ>.
- [8] Sebastian Loeschcke*, Mads Tofttrup*, Michael J. Kastoryano, Serge Belongie, and **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**. “LoQT: Low-Rank Adapters for Quantized Pretraining”. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*. Vol. 37. **NeurIPS 2024** (also **WANT @ ICML 2024** oral; best paper award). 2024. URL: https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper_files/paper/2024/hash/d0c6bc641a56bebee9d985b937307367-Abstract-Conference.html.
- [9] Niklas Stoehr, Kevin Du, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Robert West, Ryan Cotterell, and Aaron Schein. “Activation Scaling for Steering and Interpreting Language Models”. In: *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2024. Findings of EMNLP 2024*. 2024. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.findings-emnlp.479/>.
- [10] Evgenia Ilyinskaya, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Hanne Krage Carlsen, and Björn Oddsson. “Brief communication: Small-scale geohazards cause significant and highly variable impacts on emotions”. In: *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences* 24.9 (2024). **NHESS 2024**. URL: <https://nhess.copernicus.org/articles/24/3115/2024/>.
- [11] Kevin Du, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Niklas Stoehr, Jennifer White, Aaron Schein, and Ryan Cotterell. “Context versus Prior Knowledge in Language Models”. In: *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers). ACL 2024*. 2024. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.acl-long.714/>.

- [12] Nico Lang, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Elijah Cole, Oisín Mac Aodha, Christian Igel, and Serge Belongie. “From Coarse to Fine-Grained Open-Set Recognition”. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*. **CVPR 2024**. 2024. URL: https://openaccess.thecvf.com/content/CVPR2024/html/Lang_From_Coarse_to_Fine-Grained_Open-Set_Recognition_CVPR_2024_paper.html.
- [13] Steinunn Rut Friðriksdóttir, Annika Simonsen, Atli Snær Ásmundsson, Guðrún Lilja Friðjónsdóttir, Anton Karl Ingason, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, and Hafsteinn Einarsson. “Ice and Fire: Dataset on Sentiment, Emotions, Toxicity, Sarcasm, Hate speech, Sympathy and More in Icelandic Blog Comments”. In: *Proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Threat, Aggression & Cyberbullying @ LREC-COLING-2024*. **TRAC @ LREC-COLING 2024**. 2024. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.trac-1.9/>.
- [14] Peter Ebert Christensen, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Andrea Dittadi, Serge Belongie, and Sagie Benaim. “Assessing Neural Network Robustness via Adversarial Pivotal Tuning”. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*. **WACV 2024** (oral). 2024. URL: https://openaccess.thecvf.com/content/WACV2024/html/Christensen_Assessing_Neural_Network_Robustness_via_Adversarial_Pivotal_Tuning_WACV_2024_paper.html.
- [15] Idan Schwartz*, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson***, Hila Chefer, Serge Belongie, Lior Wolf, and Sagie Benaim. “Discriminative Class Tokens for Text-to-Image Diffusion Models”. In: *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)*. **ICCV 2023**. 2023. URL: https://openaccess.thecvf.com/content/ICCV2023/html/Schwartz_Discriminative_Class_Tokens_for_Text-to-Image_Diffusion_Models_ICCV_2023_paper.html.
- [16] Svanhvít Lilja Ingólfssdóttir, Pétur Ragnarsson, Haukur Jónsson, Haukur Símonarson, Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson, and **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**. “Byte-Level Grammatical Error Correction Using Synthetic and Curated Corpora”. In: *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*. **ACL 2023** (oral). 2023. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.acl-long.402/>.
- [17] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Annika Simonsen, Goran Glavaš, and Ivan Vulić. “Transfer to a Low-Resource Language via Close Relatives: The Case Study on Faroese”. In: *Proceedings of the 24th Nordic Conference on Computational Linguistics (NoDaLiDa)*. **NoDaLiDa 2023**. 2023. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.nodalida-1.74/>.
- [18] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson** and Hafsteinn Einarsson. “Cross-Lingual QA as a Stepping Stone for Monolingual Open QA in Icelandic”. In: *Proceedings of the Workshop on Multilingual Information Access (MIA)*. **MIA @ NAACL 2022**. 2022. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2022.mia-1.4/>.
- [19] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson** and Hafsteinn Einarsson. “Natural Questions in Icelandic”. In: *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference*. **LREC 2022**. 2022. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2022.lrec-1.477/>.
- [20] **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson***, Haukur Barri Símonarson*, Pétur Orri Ragnarsson, Svanhvít Lilja Ingólfssdóttir, Haukur Jónsson, Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson, and Hafsteinn Einarsson. “A Warm Start and a Clean Crawled Corpus - A Recipe for Good Language Models”. In: *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference*. **LREC 2022**. 2022. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2022.lrec-1.464/>.
- [21] Haukur Barri Símonarson, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Pétur Orri Ragnarsson, Haukur Jónsson, and Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson. “Miðeind’s WMT 2021 Submission”. In: *Proceedings of the Sixth Conference on Machine Translation*. **WMT 2021**. 2021. URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2021.wmt-1.9/>.
- [22] Anna Björk Nikulásdóttir, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, et al. “Help Yourself from the Buffet: National Language Technology Infrastructure Initiative on CLARIN-IS”. In: *Proceedings of the CLARIN Annual Conference 2021*. **CLARIN 2021**. 2021. URL: https://office.clarin.eu/v/CE-2021-1938-CLARIN2021_ConferenceProceedings.pdf.

[23] Haukur Páll Jónsson, Haukur Barri Símonarson, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, Steinþór Steingrímsson, and Hrafn Loftsson. “Experimenting with Different Machine Translation Models in Medium-Resource Settings”. In: *Text, Speech, and Dialogue (TSD 2020)*. **TSD 2020**. 2020. ISBN: 978-3-030-58323-1. URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58323-1_10.

[24] Vivian P. W. Miao, Sheeba S. Manoharan, **Vésteinn Snæbjarnarson**, and Ólafur S. Andrússon. “Expression of lec-1, a mycobiont gene encoding a galectin-like protein in the lichen *Peltigera membranacea*”. In: *Symbiosis* 57.1 (2012). **Symbiosis 2012**. ISSN: 1878-7665. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-012-0175-1>.

OTHER

CHI-FRO / GenLM	2025–
SwissAI Multimodal Project	2024
TrustLLM – Horizon Europe	2023–2024
Icelandic Language Technology Transfer Fund (Markáætlun í tungu og tækni)	2022–2023
The University of Iceland Science and Innovation Motivational Award	Summer 2021
Icelandic Student Innovation Fund	Spring 2020
Icelandic Student Innovation Fund	Summer 2010
Participant at International Chemistry Olympiads <i>Moscow and Budapest</i>	Summer 2008 and 2009

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewing/Program Committee: NAIM (2026), CVPR (2026), LREC (2026), NeurIPS (2026, 2025, 2024), ICML (2026, 2025), ICLR (2026, 2025), ACL (2026, 2025, 2024, 2023), COLING (2022), EMNLP (2025, 2024), Bioinformatics (2012). ELLIS PhD applications (2025, 2024, 2023)

Chairing: Co-chair at *Machine Learning and Statistical Methods* session at LREC 2022.

Supervision: Christoffer Ringgaard, BSc, University of Copenhagen, 2023. Jannek Ulm, MSc, ETH Zürich, 2025.

Thesis Examiner: Automatic Abstractive Summarization for Icelandic Text, 60 ECTS, Þór Sverrisson, University of Iceland, 2023.