

Papers

Characterizing Religious Rhetoric in the U.S. Congressional Record / 2025

Lavinia Dunagan and Dallas Card (Computational Humanities Research 2025)

- Analyzed 1.4 million speeches from the recent Congressional Record (starting in 1995)
- Built a keyword list using auxiliary corpora, Sermon Central and COCA, in order to measure religious language
- Used a paraphrase detection pipeline based on MPNet to identify references to the Bible

Missing Context: Natural Language Processing in the Archives / 2026

Lavinia Dunagan, Jesse Johnston, and Dallas Card (Cambridge Forum on AI: AI and Archives)

- Conducted a literature review of uses of NLP in archives
- Theorized about the affordances of LLMs in historical narration

TIDEs: A Transgender and Nonbinary Community-Labeled Dataset and Model for Transphobia Identification in Digital Environments / 2025

Francesca Lameiro, Lavinia Dunagan, Dallas Card, Eric Gilbert, and Oliver Haimson (FAccT 2025)

- Fine-tuned a language model (DeBERTa) to create a classifier for identifying transphobic posts on social media

You don't need a personality test to know these models are unreliable: Assessing the Reliability of Large Language Models on Psychometric Instruments / 2024

Bangzhao Shu, Lechen Zhang, Minje Choi, Lavinia Dunagan, Lajanugen Logeswaran, Moontae Lee, Dallas Card, David Jurgens (NAACL 2024)

- Assembled a suite of psychometric tests and evaluated many open-source language models using an accompanying measurement strategy

Exploring Linguistic Style Matching in Online Communities: The Role of Social Context and Conversation Dynamics / 2023

Aparna Ananthasubramaniam, Hong Chen, Jason Yan, Kenan Alkiek, Jiaxin Pei, Agrima Seth, Lavinia Dunagan, Minje Choi, Benjamin Litterer, and David Jurgens (ACL 2023)

- Used LIWC features and a formality classifier to characterize the different factors involved in linguistic style matching in conversations on Reddit

Bidimensional Leaderboards: Generate and Evaluate Language Hand in Hand / 2022

Jungo Kasai, Keisuke Sakaguchi, Ronan Le Bras, Lavinia Dunagan, Jacob Morrison, Alexander Fabbri, Yejin Choi, and Noah A. Smith (NAACL 2022)

- Proposed generalization of leaderboards that evaluated both metrics and models; demonstrated linear ensemble of metrics aligns best with humans

Transparent Human Evaluation for Image Captioning / 2022

Jungo Kasai, Keisuke Sakaguchi, Lavinia Dunagan, Jacob Morrison, Ronan Le Bras, Yejin Choi, and Noah A. Smith (NAACL 2022)

- Established THUMB, a rubric-based human evaluation protocol for image captioning models

Presentations

Promises of (Platform) Permanence: How People Die on Legacy.com

Lavinia Dunagan and Kevin Zheng (4S 2025)

- Scraped ~100,000 obituaries from Legacy.com, the largest obituary aggregator in the United States, and analyzed them using lexical methods and LLM-based occupation identification

- Used platform studies and archival theory to interpret our results

NLP in Archival Infrastructure

Lavinia Dunagan, Jesse Johnston, and Dallas Card (Archives as Data 2025)

- Conducted a literature review of uses of natural language processing in archives pursuant to a doctoral program milestone
- Theorized about the affordances of LLMs in historical narration for e.g. archival description

Religious Rhetoric in the U.S. Congressional Record

Lavinia Dunagan and Dallas Card (IC2S2 2024)

- Used a lexical model and a logistic regression-based classifier to estimate the prevalence of religious speech in Congress
- Identified partisan patterns in rhetorical references to the Bible via a neural embedding-based retrieval method

Education and Professional Experience

University of Michigan / Ph.D. in Information

August 2022 – June 2027 (expected), Ann Arbor, MI

- Selected classes: Causal Machine Learning, Methods in English, Sociological Theory, Networks, Information Studies
- 3.96 overall GPA
- Advised by Dallas Card

Tableau / Software Engineering Internship

Summer 2020, Seattle, WA

- Maintained a testing framework in Python and Java
- Took part in code reviews and team meetings
- Built a performance testing framework for a browser tool (final project)

University of Washington / B.S. in Computer Science

September 2017 – March 2022, Seattle, WA

- Minors in English and Linguistics
- 3.90 overall GPA, 3.76 in-major

University of Washington / Teaching Assistant

Summer 2019, Seattle, WA

- Assisted a UW English instructor with running an online class for matriculating students and gave personalized feedback on papers

Transition School, UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars

September 2016 – June 2017, Seattle, WA

- One year of intensive study in place of high school

Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship / Research potential

2023 – 2027

Hilen Prize / Outstanding undergraduate expository essay

June 2019

Dean's List / Consistently high GPA

2017 – 2021

Service

ACL / Reviewer

2024 – now