Dr.ChenShani

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Education

2019-2023	**Ph.D., Computation and Information Processing (ELSC)**	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
	• Advisor: Professor Dafna Shahaf	
2017-2019	**M.Sc., Computation and Information Processing, Magna Cum Laude**	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
	• Interdisciplinary international excellence program	
	• Advanced courses in information processing, theory of deep learning, statistics	
2011- 2017	**B.A., Psychology and Management, Cum Laude**	The Open University of Israel, Israel
	• Began studying at the age of 16	
	• Autodidactic program	
	• Dean's excellence award for the 2014-2015 academic year	

Experience

2024-2026	**Postdoctoral researcher** with Professor Dan Jurafsky and Professor Jennifer Eberhardt	Stanford University, CA, USA
2022-2023	**NLP Consultant**	Nartis.ai, Israel
2022	**Visiting Researcher** with Professor Jilles Vreeken	Helmholtz Center for Information Security (CISPA), Saarbrucken, Germany
2019-2022	**NLP Research Scientist at Amazon**	Amazon Research, Alexa Shopping team, Israel
	• Co-founded the Alexa Humor team	
	• Large pretrained language models (BERT, GPT-2/3, T5), PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace	
2019-present	**Reviewer** (ACL, EMNLP, SIGIR, CIKM, KDD)	
2017-present	**Researcher at Professor Dafna Shahaf's Lab**	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
	• Computational surprise, humor & creativity	
	• AI, NLP, DL	
2015-2017	**Manager** of Marketing and Public Relations	Psagot Institute, Israel
	• Managed teams of over 30 employees	
2015-2017	**Research Assistant**	Vital technologies, Israel
	• Conducted cognitive-behavioral experiments	
	• Data processing and statistical analysis	
2013-2014	**Research Assistant**	The Open University's behavioral lab, Israel
	• Conducted cognitive-behavioral experiments	
2013-2015	**Psychotechnical Diagnoser & Commander**	Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel
	• Interviewed security service candidates to determine their quality data	

Honors & awards

2023	**DSI Outstanding Publication Award**	
	• The Data Science Institute at Bar-Ilan University Award for Outstanding Publication	
	• Awarded for the paper "Evaluating Response Generation to Playful Shopping Requests" (ECIR'23)	
2022	**NeurIPS Travel Grant**	
	• The thirty-sixth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2022, New Orleans, LA	
	• The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC)	
2017-present	**Excellence Scholarship**	
	• The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC)	
2014-2015	**Dean's Excellence Award** for the academic year	
	• The Open University	

Peer-reviewed publications and presentations

2023   **Toward Concept-Aware Large Language Models**
C. Shani , J. Vreeken & D. Shahaf
- The 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP** Findings), Singapore

2023   **FAME: Flexible, Scalable Analogy Mappings Engine**
S. Jacob, **C. Shani** & D. Shahaf
- The 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**), Singapore

2023   **The Lean Data Scientist: Recent Advances towards Overcoming the Data Bottleneck**
C. Shani, Y. Zarecki & D. Shahaf
- Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery (**CACM**), DOI: 10.1145/3551635
- WiML workshop, co-located with the thirty-sixth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**) 2022, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
- Innovative Ideas in Data Science workshop, The Web Conference (**WWW**) 2020, Taipei, Taiwan

2023   **Computational Humor in No Joke (invited talk)**
- AI week, Tel-Aviv University,Israel
- TUM Campus Heilbronn Global Technology Forum, Germany

2023   **Evaluating Response Generation to Playful Shopping Requests**
N. Shapira, O. Kalinsky, A. Libov, **C. Shani** & S. Tolmach
- The 45th European Conference on Information Retrieval (**ECIR**) 2023, Stavanger, Norway
- DSI **Outstanding Publication Award** Winner (Bar-Ilan)

2022   **``Alexa, Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" Characterizing Playful Requests to Conversational Agents**
C. Shani, A. Libov, S. Tolmach, L. Lewin-Eytan, Y. Maarek & D. Shahaf
- The Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**) Extended Abstracts 2022, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
- Amazon Machine Learning Conference (**AMLC**) 2020, Seattle, Washington, USA

2022   **Can Computers Understand Humor?**
C. Shani & D. Shahaf
- Frontiers for Young Minds, 10:982604. DOI: 10.3389/frym.2022.982604

2022   **``It is Impossible to Buy Love Because Love is Free": Generating Responses to Playful Shopping Requests (poster)**
N. Shapira, O. Kalinsky, A. Libov, **C. Shani** & S. Tolmach
- Amazon Machine Learning Conference (**AMLC**) 2022, Dallas, Texas, USA

2022   **What Is So Surprising About Surprise? (poster)**
C. Shani , J. Halpern & D. Shahaf
- Edmond and Lily Safra Center (**ELSC**) annual meeting 2022, Ein-Gedi, Israel

2021   **How Did This Get Funded?! Automatically Identifying Quirky Scientific Achievements**
C. Shani, N. Borenstein & D. Shahaf
- Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**) 2021, Bangkok, Thailand
- Poster and blitz oral presentation at the Jerusalem Brain Community (**JBC**) annual meeting 2020, Mitzpe Ramon, Israel

2021   **``Ha-ha, you're so funny" Do customers want Alexa to get their jokes? (poster)**
C. Shani, A. Libov, S. Tolmach, L. Lewin-Eytan, Y. Maarek & D. Shahaf
- Amazon Machine Learning Conference (**AMLC**) 2021, Seattle, Washington, USA

2020   **Language (Re)modeling: Towards Embodied Language Understanding**
R. Tamari, **C. Shani**, T. Hope, M. R.L. Petruck, O. Abend & D. Shahaf
- Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**) 2020, Seattle, Washington, USA
- The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Seminar on Computational Linguistics (**ISCOL**) 2020, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

2019   **When Should I Respond? Ranking E-mails According to Predicted Response Time (poster and blitz oral presentation)**
C. Shani, Y. Lipiner Nir & D. Shahaf
- Edmond and Lily Safra Center (**ELSC**) annual meeting 2019, Ein-Gedi, Israel

2019   **Effects of Positive Psychology Intervention on Subjective and Work Wellbeing of Psychotherapists In CBT Training (poster)**
M. Barkavi-Shani, **C. Shani**, R. M. Bermejo, Ó. Sánchez-Hernández
- World Congress of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (**WCBT**) 2019, Berlin, Germany

Teaching

2023	**T.A. for ``Introduction to Data Science''**	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
2023	**T.A. for ``NLP for Medicine''** (graduate winter school)	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
2023	**Lecturer for ``Human-Computer Interaction''**	Tel-Aviv University (TAU), Israel
2022	**Data analysis T.A. for ``System Neuroscience''** (graduate students)	Technische Universität München (TUM), Germany
2021	**Lecturer for ``Introduction to Data Science''**	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
2019-2022	**Tutor** for machine learning, linear algebra and probability courses	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Volunteering & extracurricular activities

2023-present	**Mentor** at Queen B (advancing women in STEM) Mentor grand women in STEM	
2020-2022	**Mentor** at JerusML (Jerusalem's Machine Learning Community) Mentor data scientists during their first steps in industry	
2019-2020	**Programming instructor** at Queen B • A nonprofit organization that teaches teenage girls programming • Weekly basis • mentored hackathons	
2017-2021	Participation in **student council** of ELSC's direct Ph.D. program	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
2017-2019	Volunteer at the Jerusalem Brain Science Community (JBC), events coordinator	
2016-2017	Participation in the first **model UN** competitions • Won **first place** & **second place**	The Open University
2010-2011	**Established a start-up company** • "Young Entrepreneurs" program • Invention, manufacture, marketing, distribution, and selling of a solar panel for outdoor activities	
2009-2010	volunteered with **special needs children**	
2009-2010	Volunteered with **people suffering from mental illnesses**	Pardesiya Psychiatric Hospital

Languages

Hebrew - native
English - fluent