

Responsibility in AI Systems & Experiences (RAISE) at the University of Washington presents:



Anjalie Field

Race and Racism in NLP

Friday April 22, 2022, 9-10am PT

Join: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/94636255672>

Abstract: Despite inextricable ties between race and language, common examples of racism in AI are typically drawn from computer vision or models using structured data, with less focus on text and natural language processing (NLP). In the first part of this talk, I will present results from a survey of 79 papers from the ACL anthology that mention race. These papers reveal various types of race-related bias in all stages of NLP model development as well as

persistent gaps in research on race and NLP, highlighting the need for more proactive consideration of how NLP systems can uphold racial hierarchies. I will then describe how our recent work aims to address some of these limitations while investigating social bias in Wikipedia, which is a popular source of training data for NLP models, and what continues to be challenging. Finally, I will conclude by focusing on the role of people in NLP development and the need for inclusion and justice in NLP research practices.

Bio: Anjalie Field is a PhD candidate at the Language Technologies Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and a visiting student at the University of Washington, where she is advised by Yulia Tsvetkov. Her work focuses on social-oriented natural language processing, specifically identifying and mitigating potential harms in text and text processing systems. This interdisciplinary work involves developing machine learning models to examine social issues like propaganda, stereotypes, and prejudice in complex real-world data sets, as well as exploring their amplification and ethical impacts in AI systems. Anjalie has published her work in NLP and interdisciplinary conferences, receiving a nomination for best paper at SocInfo 2020, and she is also the recipient of a NSF graduate research fellowship and a Google PhD fellowship. Prior to graduate school, Anjalie received her undergraduate degree in computer science, with minors in Latin and ancient Greek, from Princeton University.

RAISE is a UW-wide group of students and faculty interested in the broad space of responsibility in AI, trustworthy machine learning, human-centered computing and data science. As part of this group, our mission is to engage in scholarly, educational, and outreach activities that lead to foundational research in these areas.

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