



University of  
Pittsburgh®

Informatics and Networked Systems  
School of Computing and Information

You are receiving this email because you are enrolled in the MSIS/MST graduate degree programs within the Department of Informatics and Networked Systems at the School of Computing and Information. Each weekly newsletter will feature important updates on career/academic and job opportunities, department and school events, enrollment guidance and upcoming academic deadlines.



Spring Term Office Hours-Starting Tuesday, January 31, 2023:  
Available in Person in IS Building Room 706  
Tuesday: 2pm-4pm  
Thursday: 11am-12pm or 1pm-2pm

## Announcements

**Have you recently seen an 'Academic Advisement Hold' on your student PeopleSoft account?**

In most cases, this is normal as the Registrar places such holds right before enrollment opens for the next term. **You don't have to do anything; the holds will be removed prior to your open enrollment period.**

You may also have a hold if you still need to **submit transcripts from a prior degree (particularly if you are in your first term in the program)**. If that applies to you, please see this page to find out how to have official transcripts submitted: <https://www.sci.pitt.edu/student-resources/newly-admitted-students/new-graduate-student-faq>

**Are you familiar with the Enrollment Appointment Process?**

Your enrollment appointment is the day and time when you can register for the Fall Term Academic Year 2023-2024. This can be found in your PeopleSoft Student Services Center under the section titled 'Enrollment Dates.'

**Those students who are farther in the degree program will have an earlier enrollment appointment than those who just started.**

You can find additional information on Enrollment Appointments here: [Enrollment | Office of the University Registrar | University of Pittsburgh](#)

- Enrollment appointments are assigned according to credits earned. Those students with the highest number of earned credits will be given the earliest appointments.
- **Students cannot enroll in classes prior to the date and time of their assigned enrollment appointment.**
- **Enrollment appointments cannot be changed once set.**

## Events

DINS Seminar Series

**Natural Language Processing (NLP) with User Feedback**



*Speaker: Xiaozhong Liu, School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering at Indiana University Bloomington*

March 1, 2023

11 am to 12 noon

Virtual -- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93422077271>

Meeting ID: 934 2207 7271

In an active cyberspace ecosystem, Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms and tasks are essential components. The massive text content is often accompanied with abundant heterogeneous data, e.g., click logs, knowledge graphs, chronological search history, and computational user profiles, which provide us

opportunities of taking advantage of data heterogeneity for further advancing NLP algorithms. By leveraging various kinds of user-generated data and sophisticated deep learning methodologies, we proposed a number of algorithms and applications to address different novel and classical research questions, and, moreover, we also successfully validated and adopted them on industry platforms to serve millions of users. In this talk, I will present three cases: 1) Cybercrime Detection with Berrypicking Behaviors, 2) Natural Language Generation (NLG) with Click-logs, and 3) Multi-role Dialogue Mining with Multi-task Pretraining. In these works, user-centric heterogeneous data and text information are jointly encapsulated by using innovative representation learning and multi-task learning.

Bio: Xiaozhong Liu is an Associate Professor from School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering at Indiana University Bloomington. He also serves as senior consultant to Alibaba DAMO Academy, the research arm of Alibaba, and leads large-scale NLP projects. He has published more than 150 papers in leading computer science conferences and information science journals, e.g, PNAS, JASIST, AAI, SIGIR, IJCAI, EMNLP, ACL and WWW, and holds nine patents in AI and NLP. His areas of research interest include Data Science, NLP, Explainable AI, Graph Mining, Cybercrime and Security, and Computational Social Science. Currently, his algorithm APIs are called more than 170 million times per day on different active eCommerce and Web Search platforms and effectively outperforms predecessor methods by 10% on average.

### Faculty Colloquium: "Interpretable Deep Generative Models"



Monday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

130 North Bellefield, 538/539 Conference Room

RSVP for Zoom information: [https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bEnPpfqNmncp8RE](https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bEnPpfqNmncp8RE)

Abstract: Deep generative models have made significant progress in a variety of real-world applications.

However, these models are often interpreted as black-boxes without the ability to understand what knowledge they learn in their latent representations. Before we can widely deploy deep generative models in high-stakes tasks such as self-driving cars or medical diagnosis, we need to understand the decision-making process of these models. This is an important research question with many practical implications, allowing us to 1) explain what knowledge generative models learn and what kind of controls they provide (ICCV'21, WACV'22), 2) facilitate new forms of creativity and human-AI collaboration (WACV'23, NeurIPS WS'22, CVPR WS'22, ACM CC'22), 3) enable more transparent and fair models by identifying and fixing potential biases (ECCV'22).

In this talk, I will present our recent work from CATLAB on interpreting and manipulating the latent space of GANs (ICCV'21, WACV'22). I will also talk about generative models in creative content generation and discuss human-AI collaborated designs as part of the How to Generate (Almost) Anything project

(<https://howtogeneratealmostanything.com>). Finally, I will briefly discuss our recent efforts to address issues related to fairness and ethics in generative models, and conclude my talk with future work.

**Bio:** Pinar Yanardag Delul (<https://pinguar.org>) received her PhD in Computer Science from Purdue and completed her postdoctoral research at MIT Media Lab. She is currently a principal investigator at Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, where she leads CATLAB (<https://catlab-team.github.io>). Her research interests are in the area of generative adversarial networks (GANs) and developing deep learning approaches to enable creativity and human-AI collaboration. Her research has been published at conferences such as NeurIPS, ICCV, and KDD, and featured in mainstream media (e.g., The Washington Post, BBC, CNN) and magazines (e.g., Motherboard, Rolling Stone). She is also CEO of AI Fiction, a creative design studio focused on the entertainment industry, for which she received a Creative Director nomination at the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards for her work on the Westworld TV series. During her studies, she was supported by Fulbright Fellowship, and Google Anita Borg Scholarship.

## Career/Academic Opportunities

### FREE PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

SCI Peer Advising will be offering free headshots on Monday, February 27 starting at 5pm in IS Building Room 522. Professional attire is required, and headshots are taken on a first come first served basis. This is a great way to build and promote your personal and professional brand for internships, career fairs and networking opportunities.

A flyer is attached here for your convenience, please feel free to pass it along to anyone interested.

### **AWS Pittsburgh Cloud Computing Student Gathering**

March 31, 2023

10am-12pm Eastern Standard Time

[University of Pittsburgh Campus, The William Pitt Union, Lower Lounge](#)

3959 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

**Registration is required: [aws-pitt-students.splashthat.com](https://aws-pitt-students.splashthat.com)**

Amazon Web Services (AWS) Academic Advocacy is in town and eager to meet with students in the Greater Pittsburgh Area!

This event will gather cloud-interested students and introduce AWS's new programs for university students. During this session, we will learn about cloud computing through a hands-on activity and discuss career pathways with a panel of AWS employees. Students of all years and disciplines are welcomed.

Come to learn, connect, and network with professionals and students. Learn more about AWS Academic Advocacy at [s12d.com/students](https://s12d.com/students).

## Enrollment Dates

March 5, 2023 through March 12, 2023-University Spring Term Recess for students (no classes)

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*For those planning on graduating in Spring of 2023 (otherwise known as term 2234 in PeopleSoft), you must apply to graduate to get your diploma (**and, of course, successfully complete all appropriate coursework!**)*

*Here is the timeline for Term 2234:*

*Graduation Application Opens – 10/1/22*

***Graduation Application Late Fee Begins – 12/1/22***

***Graduation Application Closes – 4/1/23***

***Final Day for ETD Paperwork & D-Scholarship Upload – 4/24/23***

*Please be advised that if you have not yet applied to graduate, you will be charged a \$25 late fee. I would also be aware of the ETD Paperwork and D-Scholarship deadline ([Complete Your Thesis or Dissertation | School of Computing and Information | University of Pittsburgh](#)) if you are working on a Master's Thesis.*

**\*\*\*\*\*Please be advised, that if you have any questions, you can always reach out to me via the email and phone number below. \*\*\*\*\***

Regards,

James Petraglia (Pa-trail-ya)