Sofia Serrano

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor   Fall 2024-
Department of Computer Science, Lafayette College

Education

University of Washington   2017-2024
PhD in Computer Science and Engineering, advised by Noah A. Smith
Selected coursework: Machine Learning, Statistical Methods in Computer Science, Natural
Language Processing

Carleton College   2013-2017
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science (with Honors) and Mathematics (GPA 4.00)
Selected coursework: Advanced Algorithms, Combinatorics, Abstract Algebra
Studied at Aquincum Institute of Technology in Budapest   Fall 2015
Selected coursework: Computer Vision, Combinatorial Optimization, Theory of Computing

Publications

"Stubborn Lexical Bias in Data and Models." Sofia Serrano, Jesse Dodge, and Noah A. Smith.
2023. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*, pages 8131–8146.

"All That's 'Human' Is Not Gold: Evaluating Human Evaluation of Generated Text." Elizabeth
Clark, Tal August, Sofia Serrano, Nikita Haduong, Suchin Gururangan, and Noah A. Smith.
2021. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th
International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 7282–7296.
Chosen as an **outstanding paper.**

"Is Attention Interpretable?" Sofia Serrano and Noah A. Smith. 2019. In *Proceedings of the 57th
Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 2931–2951.

Working Papers

"Language Models: A Guide for the Perplexed." Sofia Serrano, Zander Brumbaugh, and Noah
A. Smith. 2023.

"Troubles in Text: Using Natural Language Processing to Recognize Government
Rationalizations for Rights Abuses." Sarah K. Dreier, Sofia Serrano, Emily K. Gade, and Noah
A. Smith. Presented at Politics and Computational Social Science (2020) and at the American
Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021).

"Religiosity and Public Policy in Congress: A Text Analysis of U.S. Federal Legislators' Religious
Rhetoric and Policy Attitudes." Sarah Dreier, Lucy H. Lin, Sofia Serrano, Emily Gade, and
Noah A. Smith. Presented at the Conference on New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data
(2018) and at Politics and Computational Social Science (2019).

Guest Lectures, Invited Talks, Etc.

Panelist at *AI Literacy Across the Curriculum* symposium   Summer 2024
Lafayette College

Gave an invited talk for BIC in the UW/Fred Hutch Center for AIDS Research   Spring 2024
University of Washington

Gave two invited talks for the UW Tacoma Computer Literacy seminar series	Spring 2023
University of Washington Tacoma	
Moderated a campuswide panel on demystifying ChatGPT for academics	Spring 2023
University of Washington	
Gave a talk on large language models for UW CSE's Security Seminar (CSE 590Y)	Spring 2023
University of Washington	
Gave two guest lectures for undergraduate NLP (CSE 447)	Fall 2022
University of Washington	
Gave a guest lecture for graduate and undergraduate NLP (CSE 447, 517)	Winter 2022
University of Washington	
Gave a guest lecture for POLS 585 Text-as-Data	Fall 2021
Emory University	
Gave a talk for Women's Research Day event	Spring 2020
University of Washington	

Mentoring

Mentored the following UW undergrads and MS students on research projects:

▪ Ananya Bajaj (→ continued MS in Data Science at UW)	Spring 2023
▪ Xiaoning Bu (→ MS student in CS at Columbia)	Fall 2022-Winter 2023
▪ Lavinia Dunagan (→ PhD student in UMSI at UMichigan)	Summer 2022
▪ Mourad Heddaya (→ PhD student in CS at UChicago)	Summer 2019-Summer 2020

Mentor for UW CSE Pre-Application Mentorship Service	2020-2021
University of Washington	
First Year Graduate Student Mentor	2018-2020
University of Washington	

Teaching Experience and Professional Development

"Designing Your First Lafayette Courses" module certificate	Summer 2024
Designed by CITLS at Lafayette College	
Instructor of record for undergraduate NLP (CSE 447)	Winter 2023
University of Washington	
Teaching Assistant for combined graduate/undergraduate NLP (CSE 447, 517)	Winter 2021
University of Washington	
Teaching Assistant for graduate NLP (CSE 517)	Winter 2020
University of Washington	

Service

Reviewer:
- ACL: 2023
- ACL ARR: January 2022, April 2022, emergency reviewer in June 2023, October 2023, emergency reviewer in December 2023, February 2024, June 2024
- COLM: 2024
- EACL: 2021
- EMNLP main conference: 2021, 2022, 2023
- EMNLP industry track: 2023, 2024

- NLP4PI: 2021, 2022, 2024
- TeachNLP: 2024
- UnImplicit: 2024
- WiNLP: 2024

PhD Visit Days co-chair of Prospective Student Committee   Winter 2024
University of Washington

Panelist for virtual panel about grad school   Fall 2023
Carleton College

Coordinator for Diverse Genders in CSE Reception at PhD Visit Days   Winter 2023
University of Washington

Grad student panelist for new grad orientation   September 2019
University of Washington

PhD Visit Days Scheduler-in-Chief for NLP   Winter 2019
University of Washington

Panelist for virtual panel about grad school   October 2018
Whitman College

UW NLP retreat organizer   Summer/Fall 2018
University of Washington

Research Experience

Research Assistant in Natural Language Processing group with Noah A. Smith   2017-2024
University of Washington

Research project with Anna Rafferty   Summer 2015-Spring 2017
Focus: Bayesian inference for diagnosing student misconceptions
Carleton College

Combinatorics and Algorithms for Real Problems REU   Summer 2016
University of Maryland, College Park

Awards and Honors

University of Washington Excellence in Teaching Award Finalist, 2024

Outstanding paper at ACL 2021

Grace Hopper 2016 Scholar

Damon Merit Scholarship, Carleton College, 2016

Phi Beta Kappa