

Simran Khanuja

PhD in Computer Science | Carnegie Mellon University

🌐 simran-khanuja.github.io @ khanuja.simran7@gmail.com 🌐 github.com/simran-khanuja
🎓 Google Scholar 🐦 twitter.com/simi_97k

Education

-	Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Aug 2022	PhD in Computer Science (NLP), QPA: 4.12/4.00 Advisor: Prof. Graham Neubig	
Aug 2020	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani	Goa, India
Aug 2015	B.E. (Honors) Computer Science; M.Sc.(Hons.) Economics, CGPA: 8.81/10.00	

Experience

Aug 2022	Google Research Natural Language Understanding [🌐]	Bangalore, India
Aug 2020	Pre-Doctoral Researcher Advisor: Dr. Partha Talukdar Collaborators: Dr. Sebastian Ruder, Dr. Alexis Conneau Projects: Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages (MuRIL), Merging Pre-trained Language Models using Distillation (MergeDistill), Multilingual Neural Semantic Parsing for Google Assistant (mNSP), Cross-Lingual Text Speech Embeddings (XTeSE)	
Jul 2020	Microsoft Research Project Mélange [🌐]	Bangalore, India
Jul 2019	Research Intern (Bachelor Thesis) Advisors: Dr. Sunayana Sitaram, Dr. Monojit Choudhury Projects: General Language Understanding and Evaluation for Code-Switching (GLUECoS), Code-Mixed Natural Language Inference, Adapting TULR for Code-Mixing	

Selected Publications

- [16] **Towards Automatic Evaluation for Image Transcreation** [PDF]
[Simran Khanuja](#)*, Vivek Iyer*, Claire He, Graham Neubig
Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics [NAACL '25]
- [15] **Pangea: A Fully Open Multilingual Multimodal LLM for 39 Languages** [web | PDF | code | models]
Xiang Yue*, Yueqi Song*, Akari Asai, Seungone Kim, Jean de Dieu Nyandwi, [Simran Khanuja](#), Anjali Kantharuban, Lintang Sutawika, Sathyanarayanan Ramamoorthy, Graham Neubig
International Conference on Learning Representations [ICLR '25]
- [14] **[Best Paper Runner-Up] HILITE: Human-in-the-loop Interactive Tool for Image Editing**
Arya Pasumarthi, Armaan Sharma, ..., Diyi Yang, Graham Neubig, [Simran Khanuja](#)
2024 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (Undergraduate Symposium) [IEEE BigData '24]
- [13] **NaturalBench: Evaluating Vision-Language Models on Natural Adversarial Samples** [PDF]
Baiqi Li, Zhiqiu Lin, Wenxuan Peng, Jean de Dieu Nyandwi, Daniel Jiang, Zixian Ma, [Simran Khanuja](#), Ranjay Krishna, Graham Neubig, Deva Ramanan
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems [NeurIPS '24]
- [12] **[Best Paper] An image speaks a thousand words but can everyone listen? On image transcreation for cultural relevance** [web | PDF | code | talk]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Sathyanarayanan Ramamoorthy, Yueqi Song, Graham Neubig
Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing [EMNLP '24]
- [11] **DeMuX: Data-efficient Multilingual Learning** [PDF | code]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Srinivas Gowriraj, Lucio Dery, Graham Neubig
Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics [NAACL '24]
- [10] **GlobalBench: A Benchmark for Global Progress in Natural Language Processing** [PDF]
Yueqi Song, Catherine Cui, [Simran Khanuja](#), Pengfei Liu, ..., Graham Neubig
Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing [EMNLP '23]

- [9] **Multi-lingual and Multi-cultural Figurative Language Understanding** [PDF | code]
Anubha Kabra*, Emmy Liu*, [Simran Khanuja*](#), Alham Fikri Aji, ..., Graham Neubig
Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics [ACL '23 Findings]
- [8] **Evaluating Inclusivity, Equity, and Accessibility of NLP Technology: A Case Study for Indian Languages** [PDF]
[Simran Khanuja*](#), Sebastian Ruder*, Partha Talukdar
European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics [C3NLP | SIGTYP | EACL '23]
- [7] **[Best Paper] FLEURS: Few-Shot Learning Evaluation of Universal Representations of Speech** [PDF]
Alexis Conneau*, Min Ma*, [Simran Khanuja*](#), Yu Zhang, ..., Ankur Bapna
IEEE Spoken Language Technology Workshop [SLT 2022]
- [6] **MuRIL: Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages** [PDF | large | base]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Diksha Bansal, Sarvesh Mehtani, Savya Khosla, ..., Partha Talukdar
[Media](#): [Economic Times](#) | [Indian Express](#) | [Google AI Blog](#) [Technical Report: Mar '21]
- [5] **MergeDistill: Merging Pre-trained Language Models using Distillation** [PDF]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Melvin Johnson, Partha Talukdar
Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Virtual) [Findings of ACL'21]
- [4] **GLUECoS: An Evaluation Benchmark for Code-Switched NLP** [PDF | code | website]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Sandipan Dandapat, Anirudh Srinivasan, Sunayana Sitaram, Monojit Choudhury
Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Virtual) [ACL'20]

Other Publications

- [3] **A New Dataset for Natural Language Inference from Code-mixed Conversations** [PDF | data]
[Simran Khanuja](#), Sandipan Dandapat, Sunayana Sitaram, Monojit Choudhury
International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation [CALCS, LREC'20]
- [2] **Unsung Challenges of Building and Deploying Language Technologies for LRL Communities** [PDF]
Pratik Joshi, Christain Barnes, Sebastin Santy, [Simran Khanuja](#), Sanket Shah, Anirudh Srinivasan, Satwik Bhat-tamishra, Sunayana Sitaram, Monojit Choudhury, Kalika Bali
International Conference on Natural Language Processing, Hyderabad, India [ICON'19]
- [1] **Dependency Parser for Bengali-English Code-Mixed Data enhanced with a Synthetic Treebank** [PDF | code]
Urmi Ghosh, [Simran Khanuja](#), Dipti Misra Sharma
International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories [TLT, SyntaxFest'19]

Academic Service

Lecturer CMU-11737 (Multilingual NLP) on Image-Text Modeling for Multilingual NLP ([slides](#))
Reviewer NAACL'24, EMNLP '23, ACL'23, MRL@EMNLP'21, TALLIP'20
Sub-Reviewer EMNLP'21, EMNLP'20, ACL'20

Volunteer Service

AI For Education In engagement with [Inspiring Teachers](#) to use my research to create educational content for children in Ghana. Also in engagement with [Linguistics Justice League](#) to help localize stories for children for their multilingual story app in 108 languages, using my research.

Talks and Interviews

“Invited Keynote: Image Transcreation for Cultural Relevance”

- > Slides | Video
- > AmericasNLP, NAACL '24 July 2024

“Image Transcreation for Cultural Relevance”

- > University of Edinburgh March 2024

- “Multimodality for Multilingual NLP: The need, an application, and open questions”**
- > Slides
 - > [Google Research](#) | [Microsoft Research](#) | [Indian Institute of Science \(IISc\)](#) | [Microsoft IDC](#) January 2024
- “Decode with Google”**
- > [Speaker List](#) | [Talk \(2:28:00 onwards\)](#) (registration required) [🌐] August 2022
- “An Introduction to (Modern) TensorFlow”**
- > [CVIT Summer School, IIIT Hyderabad](#) [🌐] August 2021 (Remote)
- “Journey into Research”**
- > [Rotaract Club, BITS Hyderabad](#) [🌐] January 2021 (Remote)
 - > [Google Research, India](#) December 2020 (Remote)
- “ICSE National Topper”**
- > [India Times](#) | [Times of India](#) | [Indian Express](#) May 2013 (Pune, India)

Teaching and Leadership

- Multilingual NLP (Graduate Course), CMU** *Teaching Assistant* Fall '23
- > TA for 11737-Multilingual NLP at CMU, taught by Dr. Lei Li. Design assignments and guide course projects for teams.
- Student Research Symposium, CMU** *Co-Organizer* Aug '23
- > Co-organizing the [student research symposium](#) at CMU, a LTI-wide event for students to share their research.
- LTI LLM Hackathon, CMU** *Co-Organizer* Apr '23
- > Co-organizing the [LTI LLM Hackathon](#) at CMU!
- AI Undergrad Mentorship Program, CMU** *Mentor* Spring '23
- > Mentor to undergraduate students starting out with NLP research at CMU.
- Coffee Club Mentorship Program, Google** *Co-Lead* July '21 - July '22
- > Co-Lead of the Coffee Club program at Google India.
 - > Enabling women employees to seek mentorship from senior executives across Google.
- An Introduction to (Modern) TensorFlow** *Co-Instructor* Aug '21
- > Conducted a hands-on Tensorflow tutorial session attended by **100+** members from Academia.
- BITS Alumni Mentorship Program** *Mentor* Aug '20 - Aug '21
- > Mentorship for undergraduate students looking to secure research theses opportunities. My mentee secured a year-long thesis at Microsoft Research, India!
- IKDD NLP Session** *Host* Aug '21
- > Hosted the NLP networking session at IKDD 2021 where [Dr. Monojit Choudhury](#) was our guest speaker!
- Fireside Chat with Jeff Dean** *Host* Sep '20
- > Hosted a Fireside Chat with Jeff Dean on his virtual Google India visit!
- Music Society, BITS Goa** *Core Member* Aug '17 - Aug '18
- > Managed events of the Music Society, BITS Goa as one of the five core members in the organizational team and gave performances as a vocalist.

Student Mentorship

- > [OpenNLP Labs Summer Cohort](#) [Miscellaneous]
- > [Arnav Yayavaram](#) [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad]
- > [Siddharth Yayavaram](#) [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad]
- > [Yueqi Kaylin Song](#) [Undergraduate, CMU]
- > [Sathyanarayanan Ramamoorthy](#) [MIIS, CMU]
- > [Srinivas Gowriraj](#) [MIIS, CMU]
- > [Helen Wang](#) [Undergraduate, CMU]