

ALLEN CHANG

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📍 [allencchang](#)

I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania's NLP group, working on multimodal reasoning and evaluations.

My undergraduate research was on multimodal (language, vision, speech) human-machine interaction.

EDUCATION

- 2024-Present **University of Pennsylvania**
Ph.D. Computer and Information Science
Advisor: Mark Yatskar
- 2020-2024 **University of Southern California**
B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Applied & Computational Mathematics
Advisors: Maja Matarić, Jesse Thomason, Stefanos Nikolaidis
Summa Cum Laude, Cumulative GPA: 3.9 / 4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2023 **Carnegie Mellon University**
Robotics Institute Summer Scholar
Advisor: Jean Oh
- Summer 2022 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
MIT Haystack Observatory REU Intern
Advisor: Mary Knapp
- Summer 2021 **Tsinghua University**
Research Fellow
Advisor: Shaoxu Song

PUBLICATIONS (✦ INDICATES EQUAL CONTRIBUTION)

- 2026 **ResearchQA: Evaluating Scholarly Question Answering at Scale**
TACL **Across 75 Fields with Survey-Mined Questions and Rubrics**
Li S. Yifei ✦, **Allen Chang** ✦, Chaitanya Malaviya, and Mark Yatskar.
Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 2026. [PDF](#)
- 2025 **PAL: Designing Conversational Agents as Scalable, Cooperative**
CSCW **Patient Simulators for Palliative-Care Training**
Neil K. R. Sehgal ✦, Hita Kambhamettu ✦, **Allen Chang** ✦, Andrew Zhu ✦,
Lyle Ungar, and Sharath C. Guntuku.
Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW), 2025.
[PDF](#)
- 2024 **Quality-Diversity Generative Sampling for Learning**
AAAI **with Synthetic Data**
Allen Chang, Matthew C. Fontaine, Serena Booth, Maja J. Matarić, and
Stefanos Nikolaidis.
Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2024. [PDF](#)

- 2023 **Multimodal Speech Recognition for Language-Guided Embodied Agents**
 INTERSPEECH **Allen Chang**, Xiaoyuan Zhu, Aarav Monga, Seoho Ahn, Tejas Srinivasan, and Jesse Thomason.
Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (INTERSPEECH), 2023. [PDF](#)
[Oral presentation.](#)
- 2023 **Removing Radio Frequency Interference from Auroral Kilometric Radiation with Stacked Autoencoders**
 ICASSP **Allen Chang**, Mary Knapp, James LaBelle, John Swoboda, Ryan Volz, and Philip. J. Erickson.
International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2023. [PDF](#)
- 2022 **Evaluating Temporal Patterns in Applied Infant Affect Recognition**
 ACII **Allen Chang** ✨, Lauren Klein ✨, Marcelo R. Rosales, Weiyang Deng, Beth A. Smith, and Maja J. Mataric.
Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII), 2022. [PDF](#)
[Oral presentation.](#)

AWARDS & HONORS

Scholarships

- 2024 **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)**
 National fellowship recognizing Ph.D. students pursuing STEM research.
- 2023 **Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship**
 National scholarship recognizing UGs pursuing STEM research.
- 2022 **USC Provost's Undergraduate Research Fellowship**
 Research scholarship for UGs. Awarded, funding declined due to another concurrent fellowship.
- 2022 **USC Viterbi School of Engineering CURVE Research Fellowship**
 Research scholarship for UGs.
- 2021 **USC Academic Achievement Award Scholarship**
 Scholarship for UGs pursuing multiple degrees.

Awards, Distinctions, & Prizes

- 2024 **National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges Scholar**
- 2024 **USC Discovery Scholar**
- 2024 **USC Global Scholar**
- 2021 **USC CIMES Engineering Mathematics Prize**

Honor Programs & Societies

- 2024 **USC Engineering Honors with Distinction in Research**
- 2022 **Tau Beta Pi Honor Society**
- 2021 **Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society**

TEACHING

- Fall 2025 **UPenn CIS 530: Natural Language Processing**
Head Teaching Assistant
- 2021-2023 **USC Center for AI in Society's Student Branch (CAIS++)**
Curriculum Lead

Spring 2021 **USC CSCI 170: Discrete Methods in Computer Science**
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

INVITED TALKS

June 11, 2024 **Cohere For AI, Community Talk Seminar**
Title: Quality-Diversity Generative Sampling (QDGS) for Learning with Synthetic Data

SERVICE

Leadership

2025-Present **UPenn Computer & Information Science Doctoral Student Association (CISDA)**
Chair in Training (Sep 2025-Present)

2021-2023 **USC Center for AI in Society's Student Branch (CAIS++)**
Co-President (May 2022-May 2023) • Project Lead (Jul 2022-May 2023) • Curriculum Lead (Aug 2021-Dec 2022) • Vice President of Operations (Aug 2021-Apr 2022)

2020-2022 **USC Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)**
Vice President (Jan 2022-May 2022) • Operations Co-Chair (Dec 2020-Dec 2021) • Events & Membership Coordinator (Aug 2020-Nov 2020)

Reviewing

2025 **NAACL / Student Research Workshop**

2024 **ACL / ARR Review**

Volunteering

2025 **UPenn Computational Linguistics lunch (CLunch) Seminar Organizer**

2024 **Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)**

2022 **Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)**