Alyssa H. Smith

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Education
Massachusetts Institute of Technology   **Cambridge, MA**
Bachelor's of Science, June 2017. Cumulative GPA: 4.8. Burchard Scholar in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
Relevant Courses:
Design and Analysis of Algorithms (6.046); Intro. to Machine Learning (6.036); Intro. to Inference (6.008); Introduction to Algorithms (6.006); Advanced Natural Language Processing (6.806); Online Machine Learning Algorithms (6.883)
Northeastern University   **Boston, MA**
PhD Student in Network Science, September 2021 - present. Advisors: Prof. David Lazer & Prof. Brooke Foucault Welles

Skills
Programming Languages: Python 2.7 and 3.x; Java
Software Engineering Tools: Git; bash scripting and Unix command line; AWS
Data Science: data ETL pipelines (SQL databases, graph databases and GraphQL, S3, data cleaning/wrangling, h5py, and parallel loading/parsing); machine learning (Pytorch, Numpy, Pandas, sklearn, scipy); natural language processing (nltk)
Misc. Technical: web scraping, Redis, Elasticsearch
General: analytical writing; topical academic research; literature reviews; strong time management and context-switching abilities
Languages: French (conversational); Japanese (basic)

Relevant Experience
Boston University Visiting Researcher   **Boston, MA – March 2020 – March 2021**
I assisted the BU Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Media with machine learning research. Most recently, I worked on a project requiring parsing and cleaning a large dataset in order to perform unsupervised topic modeling.
KAYAK Technologies Data Scientist   **Cambridge, MA – May 2019 – May 2021**
I worked creatively and iteratively to design new models that impact user experience on the KAYAK website, with a great deal of freedom in model choice, design process, and evaluation; I collaborated with product managers and software engineers regularly to ensure that the project will be useful to stakeholders. I also was a co-lead of the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group.
Kensho Technologies Graph Data Engineer   **Cambridge, MA – June 2017 – April 2019**
Built and maintained models; handled data ingestion, pipelining, and testing; and designed services. Worked with diverse and often unpredictable data sources, and therefore had to create extremely robust, adaptable pipelines. Also worked on improving diversity and inclusion in the workplace.
Tumblr Product Analytics Intern   **New York, NY – Summer 2016**
Produced actionable insights through gathering and analysis of user data. Created a neural network language model of user-created tags and clustered users based on site usage data.
Berkman Center Summer Intern   **Cambridge, MA – Summer 2015**
Assessed the efficacy of municipal broadband programs in Massachusetts; published a MediaCloud blog post analyzing linking behavior in media coverage of the GamerGate controversy.

Work I've Done
PaCSS 2021 Infograffiti Workshop (August 2021)
I wrote example code for a workshop on data visualization, focusing on portraying subversive narratives. The code can be found here; my workshop collaborators have backgrounds in marketing, political science, and data analytics.
Undergraduate Thesis (June 2017)
I studied The Discourse, an online debate about the inclusion of asexuality in the LGBTQ+ community, on the social media platform Tumblr. Using online ethnography techniques, I sought to understand the origins and impact of The Discourse; I hope to continue research on online community formation and self-definition in my PhD. The full thesis can be found here.