Jade Marion

Department of Psychology

University of Texas at Austin

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX   Expected May 2021
  Bachelor of Science in Psychology
  Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
  Minor in Arabic
  GPA: 3.64

HONORS THESIS

Title: Language of Racism and Nostalgia: Examining conversations related to the removal of Confederate symbols

Synopsis: The project investigates the language of online discussions about social change since the death of George Floyd, focusing on conversations related to the confederate flag and statues. To do this, 121 threads were identified on Reddit where users wrote comments discussing their opinions for and against the symbols. The thesis uses linguistic analysis such as topic modeling and parts of speech analysis to explore how opposing viewpoints on Confederate symbols are expressed linguistically. The goal of this project is to understand how communities discuss social change and whether or not there is a potential relationship between viewpoints on confederate symbols and attitudes towards race and racism.
Advisors: Dr. Kate Blackburn and Dr. James W. Pennebaker

RESEARCH INTERESTS

  Natural language and human behavior, language and thought, race, culture, social attitudes, deception, bilingualism, and neurolinguistics

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW AND IN PROGRESS

Backburn, K., McGlone, M., Metz, G., Chunara, A., **Marion, J.**, & Hernandez, R. (under review).
      Sorry not sorry: Linguistic similarities and differences between full and partial public apologies.
      Submission under consideration at *Communication Research Reports*.
Contribution: Manuscript writing and secondary analysis on data set

Marion, J. & Blackburn, K. (in progress). Racism and nostalgia: Examining conversations related to the
      removal of confederate symbols.
Contribution: Identified Reddit threads to develop data set of over 100,000 comments that will be used to complete linguistic analysis

Marion, J., Hernandez, R., Jumonville, G., Zewail, A., & Blackburn, K. (in progress). Language of False
      Confessions: A Text Analysis of Legal Statements made by DNA.
Contribution: Co-principal investigator working to build corpora of false confessions and collect government documents related to false confession cases from district attorney offices around the country

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND ACADEMIC PROJECTS

HuthLab   Sep. 2020 - Present
Department of Computer Science, The University of Texas, Austin, TX

Research Assistant
Advisor: RJ Antonello
- Researching how semantic processing is represented in the brain using natural language processing and machine learning computational models in Python
- Using fMRI data to developing research project on the differences between semantic processing and syntactical processing in the brain in order to create semantic based encoding models that can also understand syntax
- Acquiring proficiency in Python, neural networks, machine learning, brain imaging, and fMRI data

Computers, Language, Individuals, & Modern Behavior Research Group   Aug. 2019 - Present
Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin
Research Assistant
- Leading, as co-principle investigator, the building of a new corpus of transcripts of false confessions from cases of exonerees to research the linguistic patterns of deception and interrogation
- Designing original research project and employing big data statistical methodology to analyze internet and social media data to explore topics such as racism and social change
- Writing major research papers to submit for publication and collaborating with lab members to develop new projects
- Oversaw sessions of traditional psychology experiment on body movement

The Writings on The Wall: A Comparative Study of Border Cities   Nov. 2018 – October 2019
President's Award for Global Learning: Middle East, The University of Texas, Austin, TX
Research Team Member
Advisors: Dr. CJ Alvarez and Dr. Amelia Weinreb
- Developed international research project to investigate the lived experiences, social changes, artistic expressions, and local histories evident in cities separated by border walls in Israel/Palestine and US/Mexico.
- Co-wrote a research proposal to win $1000 grant
- Pitched a presentation to award donors and university faculty

Computational Linguistics Final Project - El Lenguaje de el F   Jan. 2019 – Oct. 2019
Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas, Austin, TX
Co-creator
- Used natural language processing, tokenization, and parts of speech tagging in Python to create an automatic translator that converts Spanish sentences into the Pig-Latin like gibberish colloquially known as El Languaje de el F

Statistics Final Project - Childhood Divorce on College Students   Aug. 2018 – Dec. 2018
Department of Psychology, The University of Texas, Austin, TX
Research Team Member
- Collaborated with three fellow researchers to conduct a survey on college students' experiences with childhood divorce and their current level of engagement on campus
- Wrote independent APA style research paper to organize, present, and discuss data and results
- Acquired proficiency in Excel and SPSS while completing data analysis

IE Pre-graduate School Internship   Aug. 2018 – Dec. 2018
Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas, Austin, TX
Researcher and Mentee

- Devised preliminary research project on the linguistic environment, patterns, and perspectives of Arabic-Spanish bilingualism Chile
- Wrote prospectus and literary review on the Palestinian diaspora in South America

CONFERENCE/POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Black Doctoral Conference   Oct.2020
Virtual
Language of Racism and Nostalgia: Examining conversations related to the removal of Confederate symbols
A discussion of the codebook development and data collection process for a big data research project in social psychology. Explores how to operationalize psychological study of racism using linguistic analysis

Society of Personality and Social Psychology.   Feb. 2021
Virtual (Originally Austin, TX, but changed due to COVID-19)
Language of Racism and Nostalgia: Examining conversations related to the removal of Confederate symbol
Description
A presentation on the initial results of linguistic analysis such as topic modeling and parts of speech analysis of a big data study of online political discussions

Society of Personality and Social Psychology   Feb. 2021
Virtual (Originally Austin, TX, but changed due to COVID-19)
Sorry not sorry: Linguistic similarities and differences between full and partial public apologies
A virtual presentation of paper currently under review

Society of Personality and Social Psychology   Feb. 2021
Virtual (Originally Austin, TX, but changed due to COVID-19)
Language of False Confessions: A Text Analysis of Legal Statements made by DNA
A presentation on the development of a novel corpus and LIWC analysis of false confessions

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Black Doctoral Conference   Oct.2020
Virtual

Society of Personality and Social Psychology   Feb. 2020
New Orleans, LA

AWARDS AND HONORS

Departmental Honors   August 2020 - Present
High performing students in the psychology department develop original research project
for a senior honors thesis working under the mentorship of faculty

University Honors   Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Spring 2020
An award given to the top preforming students of the semester

Finalist for the President's Award for Global Learning   Oct. 2019
Awarded $1000 for a meritorious research proposal and pitch which involved interdisciplinary
study and civic engagement

National Security Education Program: Arabic Flagship Program   August 2017 – Present
A merit-based program that supports students aiming to develop professional proficiency in Arabi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UTalk Ruffalo Noel Levitz, Austin, TX   Oct. 2018- Aug. 2020
Remote Community Engagement Specialist; Lead Caller; Student Fundraiser
- Engaged in community outreach during COVID – 19 to raise funds for students negatively impacted by the pandemic using interpersonal, telecommunication skills, and deep knowledge of university programs and opportunites
- Directed weekly trainings for new hires and supervised new hires during first weeks in the call center
- Raised over $90,000 for UT colleges, scholarships, and undergraduate graduate programs as a top performer
- Mitigated conflicts and resolved concerns of parents and alumni donors

Amaanah Refugee Services, Austin, TX   June 2019- Aug. 2019
Summer Intern
- Developed and implemented client feedback survey in three languages – Arabic, English, and Spanish
- Presented data and conclusions about client experience to administration to inform program development

Stuart J Nathan PhD and Associates, Austin, TX   May 2016- Aug. 2016
Summer Intern
- Performed clerical duties in mental health services office while following HIPPA privacy practices

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

Intercultural Conversations, Austin, TX   Aug. 2020- Present
Faculty Liaison
- A member of the founding executive board, creating an organization that provides a safe place for students to get involved in intercultural discussions, rather than debates, on difficult topics and social issues
- Leading the coordination of faculty panels and guest speakers on social issues relevant to upcoming meetings
- Collaborating with fellow executive board members to design, develop, and facilitate productive discussion

Project Princess- Lonestars, Austin, TX   Feb. 2018- Present
General Member, Member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Volunteer
- Volunteering with service group sending girls to prom for free to celebrate the female educational experience
- Collaborating with fellow committee members to design better diversity and inclusion policies within the organization and ensure equality, respect, and compassion

Refugee Student Mentor Program, Austin, TX   Jan. 2018- May 2019
Mentor and Volunteer
- Led weekly mentorship meetings with Arabic speaking refugee students in local Austin Schools
- Provided test assistance and academic support to encourage higher scholastic performance

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
The International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi)
Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi)

RELEVENT COURSEWORK & SKILLS

Statistics and Research Design
Forensics Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Abnormal Psychology
Child Language
Experimental Psychology
Computational Linguistics
Syntax and Semantics
Phonetics
Phonology
Language and Computers
Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC)
Data Collection and Analysis
Manuscript, Grant, and Research Proposal Writing
Communication and Presentation
Project Management
Conversational Spanish
Advanced Arabic
Python and Natural Language Processing (NLP) Language Models

References available upon request.