

Ashley (Ash) Lewis

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Research Interests

- My research focuses on mitigating hallucinations in interactive dialogue systems through efficient, data-driven approaches. I investigate scalable methods such as knowledge distillation, self-training, and synthetic data generation to improve the factual accuracy and reliability of domain-specific models. Additionally, I develop robust evaluation frameworks to better quantify hallucinations in dialogue settings, combining automated metrics with human evaluation for more effective assessment. My work aims to enhance the usability of AI-driven dialogue systems, particularly in resource-constrained environments, by optimizing training and evaluation methodologies to reduce misinformation while maintaining system efficiency.

Education

- 2019 – 2026  **The Ohio State University** Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics
Dissertation: *Mitigating Hallucinations in Interactive Dialogue Systems: Efficient, Data-Driven Approaches*
Advisor: Dr. Michael White
- 2010 – 2013  **University of Kentucky** B.A. in Linguistics, B.A. in English, minor in Spanish.

Invited Talks

- May 2026  [Women in Tech Global Conference 2026](#)
- February 2026  AI Ethics Workshop at Tsukuba University
(Tsukuba, Japan)
 Linguistics and Generative AI: Ethical and Social Perspectives
(Tsukuba, Japan)
 [Big Ten Academic Alliance – Love Data Week](#)
- December 2025  Dublin City University's NLP group meeting
- October 2025  [DataConnect Conference 2025](#)
Hallucination in AI Dialogues: Detection and Mitigation
- September 2025  Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences Fall Retreat
Introducing VISTA Score: Verification in Sequential Turn-Based Assessment

Invited Talks (continued)

- June 2025  [Columbus Data Analytics Wednesdays](#)
Hallucination in the Wild: A Field Guide for LLM Users
Spotting, Understanding, and Reducing AI Mistakes

Awards and Recognitions

- January 2026  Nominated for the College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Award for Mentoring Excellence (pending)
Nominated by: Linguistics Faculty
- October 2025  Best Reviewer for the [18th International Natural Language Generation \(INLG\) Conference](#)
- April 2025  Ilse Lehist Memorial Fund Graduate Research Award
-  [Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences \(CCBS\) Summer Graduate Award](#)
- March 2025  1st place in the [Buckeye Language Network \(BLN\) Research Symposium Graduate Student Poster Competition](#)
- July 2023  Best Poster – RISC Capstone Research Symposium
- June 2022  3rd place in the [Amazon AlexaPrize Taskbot Challenge](#)

Publications

- 1 A. Lewis, A. Perrault, E. Fosler-Lussier, and M. White, “VISTA: Verification in sequential turn-based assessment,” in *Proceedings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, M. Liakata, V. P. Moreira, J. Zhang, and D. Jurgens, Eds., San Diego, California, United States: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2026, pp. 40 685–40 714, ISBN: 979-8-89176-390-6.  DOI: [10.18653/v1/2026.acl-long.1890](https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2026.acl-long.1890).
- 2 S.-A. Hussain, D. I. Jackson, A. Lewis, E. Fosler-Lussier, and E. Sezgin, “Toward trustworthy chatbots: A protocol for red teaming for health related conversations,” *Scientific Reports*, 2026.
- 3 A. Lewis, M. White, J. Liu, T. Koike-Akino, K. Parsons, and Y. Wang, “Winning big with small models: Knowledge distillation vs. self-training for reducing hallucination in QA agents,” in *Proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Generation, Evaluation and Metrics (GEM²)*, O. Arviv, M. Clinciu, K. Dhole, et al., Eds., Vienna, Austria and virtual meeting: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2025, pp. 705–727, ISBN: 979-8-89176-261-9.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2025.gem-1.62/>.
- 4 R. Hase, M. R. U. Rashid, A. Lewis, et al., “Smoothed embeddings for robust language models,” in *Safe Generative AI Workshop*, 2024.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.16497>.
- 5 A. Allen, A. Lewis, Y.-C. Lin, T. Kaumenova, and M. White, “OSU CompLing at the GEM’24 data-to-text task,” in *Proceedings of the 17th International Natural Language Generation Conference: Generation Challenges*, S. Mille and M.-A. Clinciu, Eds., Tokyo, Japan: Association for Computational Linguistics, Sep. 2024, pp. 100–111.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.inlg-genchal.11/>.

- 6 A. Lewis, L. Mo, M.-C. de Marneffe, H. Sun, and M. White, “Insights of a usability study for KBQA interactive semantic parsing: Generation yields benefits over templates but external validity remains challenging,” in *Proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Human Evaluation of NLP Systems (HumEval) @ LREC-COLING 2024*, S. Balloccu, A. Belz, R. Huidrom, E. Reiter, J. Sedoc, and C. Thomson, Eds., Torino, Italia: ELRA and ICCL, May 2024, pp. 47–62.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.humeval-1.5>.
- 7 A. Lewis and M. White, “Mitigating harms of LLMs via knowledge distillation for a virtual museum tour guide,” in *Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Taming Large Language Models: Controllability in the era of Interactive Assistants!*, D. Hazarika, X. R. Tang, and D. Jin, Eds., Prague, Czech Republic: Association for Computational Linguistics, Sep. 2023, pp. 31–45.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.tllm-1.4/>.
- 8 L. Mo, S. Chen, Z. Chen, *et al.*, “Roll up your sleeves: Working with a collaborative and engaging task-oriented dialogue system,” in *Proceedings of the 24th Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue*, S. Stoyanchev, S. Joty, D. Schlangen, O. Dusek, C. Kennington, and M. Alikhani, Eds., Prague, Czechia: Association for Computational Linguistics, Sep. 2023, pp. 197–201.  DOI: [10.18653/v1/2023.sigdial-1.19](https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2023.sigdial-1.19).
- 9 L. Mo, A. Lewis, H. Sun, and M. White, “Towards transparent interactive semantic parsing via step-by-step correction,” in *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2022*, S. Muresan, P. Nakov, and A. Villavicencio, Eds., Dublin, Ireland: Association for Computational Linguistics, May 2022, pp. 322–342.  DOI: [10.18653/v1/2022.findings-acl.28](https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2022.findings-acl.28).
- 10 L. Mo, A. Lewis, H. Sun, and M. White, “INSPIRED: A large-scale dataset and simulation framework for exploring interactive learning in knowledge-based question answering,” in *Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Interactive Learning for Natural Language Processing*, 2022.  URL: <https://internlp.github.io/2022/documents/2022/papers/14.pdf>.
- 11 S. Chen, Z. Chen, X. Deng, *et al.*, “Bootstrapping a user-centered task-oriented dialogue system,” in *Alexa Prize TaskBot Challenge 1 Proceedings*, 2022.  URL: <https://www.amazon.science/alexaprize/proceedings/bootstrapping-a-user-centered-task-oriented-dialogue-system>.

Research Projects

2025-2026

VISTA Score: Verification in Sequential Turn-based Assessment

- Designed a dialogue-level factuality metric for detecting hallucinations in multi-turn AI systems.
- Decomposes conversations into atomic claims and tracks verified, contradicted, and subjective statements across turns.
- Demonstrated improved accuracy over FActScore on multiple conversational RAG benchmarks.
- Accepted to ACL 2026.

Summer 2024

Trustworthy Generative AI Internship at Mitsubishi Electric Research Lab. Boston, MA. See Publications (1, 3).

- Focus on hallucination reduction in an LLM question-answering system over product user manuals.
- Evaluation of LLM jailbreak-prevention models.
- Building internal ethics guidelines for AI/LLM use.

Research Projects (continued)

- 2022 –  **COSI Museum Tour Guide**, Creating a virtual museum tour guide for the COSI museum in Columbus, Ohio. See Publications (5).
- Design of system pipeline for a document-grounded dialogue agent in which the documents can be updated without needing to retrain the system models.
 - Design and implementation of the generation model, which takes the user question, the conversational context, and a related document to generate a response in real time.
 - Experimentation with LLMs for generation and evaluation.
- 2019 – 2023  **Conversational Interactive Semantic Parsing** See Publications (4, 8, 9)
- Designing an interactive framework by which a non-expert human user can explore a knowledge base via a natural-language dialogue.
 - Designing a crowdsourcing task on Amazon Mechanical Turk for the creation of a dataset intended for interactive semantic parsing research. Focus on ethical and fair payment and interaction with workers.
 - Collecting, annotating, and analyzing collected data.
 - Developing the generation component by implementing a pragmatics-inspired approach to reduce confabulation/hallucination and increase semantic fidelity.
 - Conducting a user study on AMT to test the viability of our system for real use.
- Summer 2023  **RISC Internship**
- Research for Intelligence & Security Challenges (RISC) program through the Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS).
 - Led a small team on an NLP-focused project for identifying author personality characteristics from written texts.
 - Selected as best poster in final capstone event. Presented work to high-level security/DoD officials.
- 2021–2022  **Amazon AlexaPrize Taskbot Challenge** Awarded 3rd Place. See Publications (6, 7)
- Participated in an international competition to develop a taskbot for Amazon Alexa that will dynamically and interactively help users walk through a DIY or cooking task.
 - Developed a content filtration system to prevent the taskbot from accepting inappropriate tasks.
 - Improved methods by which the taskbot explains instructions to a user in a sensible way, balancing brevity and clarity.

Skills

- Languages  English, Spanish (Intermediate), Korean (High Beginner), Polish (Beginner)
- Coding  Python, R, $\text{\LaTeX}$, SPARQL, SQL
- Systems  Machine Learning, PyTorch, Huggingface, etc.

Community Involvement

- 2026  **Area Chair**. Served as an Area Chair for the fifth edition of the Generation, Evaluation and Metrics (GEM) workshop (ACL 2026).

Community Involvement (continued)

- 2025  **Program Committee.** Served on the program committee for the 18th International Natural Language Generation (INLG) Conference
- 2023 –  **Graduate Studies Committee.** Formulating the policies and requirements for degrees in linguistics, ensuring students in the program are making reasonable progress towards the requirements, making policies around the admission process to the program.
- 2023  **Department Culture Working Group.** Designed to address graduate student issues as it relates to diversity, inclusion, conflicts, etc. within the Linguistics department.
- 2022 –  **Mentorship Program Committee.** Co-founder and organizer of a peer mentoring program for graduate students in the Linguistics department.
-  **Peer Mentor.** Mentoring a 1st/2nd year Linguistics Ph.D. student.
- 2020 – 2021  **Undergraduate Mentor.** Mentor to three undergraduate students in the Linguistics department.
- 2019 – 2021  **Development Committee.** Fundraising, program building, and newsletter publishing for the Linguistics Department.
- 2019 – 2020  **Speakers' Committee.** Organizing and coordinating guest speaker visits in the Linguistics Department.
- 2019 – 2021  **Social Media Administrator.** Maintaining social media presence for the Linguistics Department.

Previous Employment History

- 2017 – 2019  **English Teacher,** Budnae Public Elementary School. Daejeon, South Korea.
- 2015 – 2017  **Student Affairs Officer.** University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences. Lexington, KY.
- 2014 – 2015  **English Teacher.** Kids&Co Kindergarten. Warsaw, Poland.