

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Discourse & Event Relation Aware Models for Fine-grained Media Bias Analysis



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Date : 18 July 2024 (Thu)
Time : 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Venue : PQ703

Abstract

News media play a vast role in shaping public opinion not just by supplying information, but by selecting, packaging, and shaping that information to persuade as well as inform. Our recent work focuses on sentence-level media bias analysis to identify sentences within an article that can illuminate and explain the overall bias of the entire article. In this talk, I will describe two discourse aware and event relation aware models for fine-grained sentence-level media bias analysis that consider leveraging broader context outside a sentence to recognize subtle ideological bias. We show that understanding the discourse role of a sentence in telling a news story, as well as its discourse relation with nearby sentences, can help reveal the ideological leanings of the author even when the sentence itself appears merely neutral or factual. We further show that interpreting events in association with other events in a document is critical for identifying bias sentences.

About the Speaker

Dr Ruihong Huang is an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station. She is also an adjunct associate professor in McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics at UTHealth Houston. Huang received her PhD in computer science at the University of Utah and completed a postdoc at Stanford University. She joined TAMU in Fall 2015 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor (with tenure) in 2021. Her research is mainly on Natural Language Processing (NLP), focusing on information extraction, discourse analysis and semantics. She is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award (2020).