

# Setareh Nasihati Gilani

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- SUMMARY** ◊ I am a computer science doctoral student with a strong theoretical and practical background in **Natural Language Processing, Dialogue Systems, and Human Computer Interaction**. I have honed my skills during tenure at several startups and larger companies such as Paypal Inc.
- EDUCATION**
- ◊ **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA, US [Expected] 2020  
Ph.D. in Computer Science.  
Advisor: David Traum.
  - ◊ **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA, US 2016  
M.Sc. in Computer Science.
  - ◊ **Sharif University of Technology**, Tehran, Iran 2014  
B.Sc. in Computer Engineering.
- TECHNICAL EXPERTISE**
- ◊ *Programming languages:* Python, Java, C++, Prolog, LISP
  - ◊ *Technologies:* Hadoop, MySQL, Android
- WORK EXPERIENCE**
- ◊ **PayPal, Software Engineering Intern**. Developed an email-routing system to improve customer service’s operation efficiency using text analytics and machine learning (Summer 2017).
  - ◊ **PayPal, Software Engineering Intern**. Developed an internally facing metadata resource management chatbot for engineers to expedite information gaining process (Summer 2016).
  - ◊ **Natural Language Dialogue Group at ICT, Research Assistant**. Developed multiple interactive dialogue systems using multimodal inference of real-time sensory data (Spring 2015-Present).
  - ◊ **USC, Teaching Assistant**. Natural Language Dialogue Systems, Artificial Intelligence (3 semesters)
- SELECT PUBLICATION**
- ◊ **Can a Signing Virtual Human Engage a Baby’s Attention?**  
S.N. Gilani, D. Traum, R. Sortino, G. Gallagher, K. Aaron-lozano, C. Padilla, L. Petitto. In International Conference on Autonomous Agents & Multiagent Systems (IVA 2019).
  - ◊ **Can a Virtual Human Facilitate Learning in a Young Baby?**  
S.N. Gilani, D. Traum, R. Sortino, G. Gallagher, K. Aaron-lozano, C. Padilla, L. Petitto. In International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2019).
  - ◊ **Multimodal Dialogue Management for Multiparty Interaction with Infants**  
S.N. Gilani, D. Traum, A. Merla, E. Hee, Z. Walker, B. Manini, G. Gallagher, L. Petitto. In ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI 2018 - **Best Paper Award**)
  - ◊ **Teaching Language to Deaf Infants with a Robot and a Virtual Human**  
B. Scassellati, J. Brawer, K. Tsui, S.N. Gilani, M. Malzkuhn, B. Manini, A. Stone, G. Kartheiser, A. Merla, A. Shapiro, D. Traum, L. Petitto. In ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (SIGCHI 2018).
  - ◊ **What Kind of Stories Should a Virtual Human Swap?**  
S.N. Gilani, K. Sheetz, G. Lucas, D. Traum. In International Conference on Autonomous Agents & Multiagent Systems (IVA 2016).
- HONORS AND AWARDS**
- ◊ **Best Paper Award** at ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction **ICMI 2018**
  - ◊ Received **honorable mention** for USC Registration Application contest by designing a multi-platform mobile application with innovative ways to register for courses.
  - ◊ **Gifted Student Award**. Entrance exam waiver for graduate program at Sharif University.
  - ◊ **Top 0.0001** in the nationwide university entrance exam among 300,000 participants, Iran, 2010.
  - ◊ Recipient of the **grant for undergraduate studies** from Iranian National Elites Foundation, for outstanding academic success (2010-2014).
  - ◊ Member of National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET).
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**
- ◊ **President** of the USC Iranian Graduate Student Association (2017-Present).
  - ◊ **Member** of the Student Scientific Chapter (SSC) of CE department in Sharif University(2012).
  - ◊ **Technical Staff**, 13th ACM/ICPC Asia Region (2012).