

Nicholas Tomlin

Education	University of California, Berkeley Ph.D. Candidate, EECS <i>Advisor: Dan Klein</i>	Aug 2019 – May 2025 (Expected)
	Brown University B.A. Mathematics and Linguistics <i>Advisor: Ellie Pavlick</i>	Aug 2015 – May 2019
Awards & Honors	Superalignment Grant , FAR AI (\$150K)	2024
	Best Paper Award , CVPR Workshop on Multimodal Algorithmic Reasoning	2024
	Evergreen Award for Undergraduate Researcher Mentoring, Berkeley EECS	2024
	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor , UC Berkeley	2023
	Highest Score ¹ , American Crossword Puzzle Tournament	2021
	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	2020
	Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award , Brown University	2017
Papers	Efficacy of Language Model Self-Play in Non-Zero-Sum Games Austen Liao*, Nicholas Tomlin *, Dan Klein Language Gamification Workshop @ NeurIPS (Spotlight), 2024.	
	Autonomous Evaluation and Refinement of Digital Agents Jiayi Pan, Yichi Zhang, Nicholas Tomlin , Yifei Zhou, Sergey Levine, Alane Suhr COLM, 2024.	
	Decision-Oriented Dialogue for Human–AI Interaction Jessy Lin*, Nicholas Tomlin *, Jacob Andreas, Jason Eisner TACL, 2024.	
	Ghostbuster: Detecting Text Ghostwritten by Large Language Models Vivek Verma, Eve Fleisig, Nicholas Tomlin , Dan Klein NAACL, 2024.	
	Revisiting Entropy Rate Constancy in Text Vivek Verma*, Nicholas Tomlin *, Dan Klein EMNLP Findings, 2023.	
	Pragmatics in Grounded Language Learning (Survey Paper) Daniel Fried*, Nicholas Tomlin *, Jennifer Hu, Roma Patel, Aida Nematzadeh EMNLP Findings, 2023.	
	Neural Unsupervised Reconstruction of Protolanguage Word Forms Andre He, Nicholas Tomlin , Dan Klein ACL, 2023.	

¹In April 2021, an early version of the Berkeley Crossword Solver (in conjunction with Dr.Fill) was the first AI system to outscore all human participants at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

Understanding Game-Playing Agents with Natural Language Annotations

Nicholas Tomlin, Andre He, Dan Klein

ACL, 2022.

Automated Crossword Solving

Eric Wallace*, Nicholas Tomlin*, Albert Xu*, Kevin Yang*, Eshaan Pathak*, Matthew L. Ginsberg, and Dan Klein

ACL, 2022.

LingView: A Web Interface for Viewing FLEx and ELAN Files

Kalinda Pride*, Nicholas Tomlin*, Scott Anderbois

Language Documentation and Conservation, 2020.

Emergent Compositionality in Signaling Games

Nicholas Tomlin, Ellie Pavlick

Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 2019.

Incremental Pragmatics and Emergent Communication

Nicholas Tomlin, Ellie Pavlick

Emergent Communication Workshop @ NeurIPS, 2018.

Popular
Articles

The Unspoken Language of Crossword Puzzles

Scott AnderBois, Kyle Mahowald, Nicholas Tomlin

The Atlantic, 2023.

Work

Microsoft Semantic Machines

Visiting Researcher

Hosts: Jacob Andreas and Jason Eisner

Aug 2022 – May 2024

Stanford University

Research Intern, CSLI REU

Advisor: Christopher Potts

May 2018 – Aug 2018

Teaching

Berkeley CS188: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Summer 2023

Co-instructor for course with 178 students. Managed a staff of 15 (u)GSIs, readers, and tutors. Responsibilities included designing and giving lectures, managing homework and project releases, organizing exams, and holding instructor office hours.

Berkeley CS288: Natural Language Processing

Spring 2022

Head teaching assistant for a course with 106 students. Responsibilities included creating two new programming assignments, holding office hours, and guest lecturing.

Brown CSCI1570: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Fall 2018

Teaching assistant for a course of 164 students. Responsibilities included writing and grading problem sets, holding office hours, proctoring written and oral exams, teaching recitation sections, and writing and grading the midterm and final exams.

	Brown LING0030: Introduction to Linguistic Theory	Fall 2018
	Teaching assistant for a course of 78 students. Responsibilities included grading problem sets and exams, holding office hours, and offering exam review lectures.	
	Brown MATH1530: Abstract Algebra	Fall 2017
	Head teaching assistant for a course of 62 students. Responsibilities included grading homeworks, managing graders, holding office hours, and teaching recitation sections.	
	Brown MATH1040: Fundamental Problems of Geometry	Spring 2017
	Grader for an undergraduate course in point-set topology and non-Euclidean geometry. Responsibilities included grading weekly problem sets and midterm exams.	
Invited Talks	Reasoning with Language Models	
	Johns Hopkins University	Apr 2025
	TTIC	Feb 2025
	BAIR Seminar	Feb 2025
	UMass Amherst	Feb 2025
	Stanford NLP Seminar	Feb 2025
	Brown University, LUNAR Lab	Jan 2025
	Language Models as Rational Agents	
	BAIR Natural Language Processing Workshop	Oct 2024
	Johns Hopkins University	Apr 2024
	USC Natural Language Processing Group	Oct 2023
	Detecting Text Ghostwritten by Language Models	
	Stanford University, Hoover Institute	Oct 2024
	Decision-Oriented Dialogue for Human–AI Collaboration	
	Berkeley Multi-Agent Learning Seminar	Sep 2023
	Language Generation, Grounding, and Pragmatics in Game-Playing Domains	
	DeepMind Multi-Agent Learning Group	Mar 2023
	Brown University Computer Science Department	Oct 2022
Guest Lectures	Berkeley CS288: Philosophy of Data and Evaluation. Panelist.	Fall 2024
	Brown CLPS 350: The Linguistics of Crossword Puzzles.	Spring 2024
	Berkeley CS188: Computational Rationality and LLMs.	Fall 2023
	Berkeley CS288: Philosophy of Evaluation and Data. Panelist.	Fall 2023
	Berkeley CS288: The Future of Natural Language Processing. Panelist.	Spring 2023
	Berkeley CS288: The Future of Natural Language Processing. Panelist.	Spring 2022
	Berkeley CS288: Pragmatics and Language Grounding.	Spring 2022
	Berkeley CS288: Pragmatics and Language Grounding.	Spring 2021
Department Service	Berkeley Equal Access for Application Assistance	2023
	Volunteer reviewer to provide feedback on PhD application materials to students from under-represented backgrounds.	

	Berkeley Student Committee for Faculty Hiring	2022-2023
	Attended and organized student interviews for EECS faculty candidates.	
	Berkeley PhD EECS Admissions	2019-2022, 2024
	Reviewed applications to Berkeley EECS for the Berkeley NLP Group.	
	Berkeley AI4ALL	2019, 2021-2022, 2024
	Co-instructor for one week-long AI program for high school students from underrepresented backgrounds. Designed and taught NLP course materials for four years.	
	Berkeley EECS Mentoring	2019-2022
	Mentor with the Berkeley AI Research Undergraduate Mentoring Program, EECS Buddy, and EECS Peers programs. Held weekly peer mentoring office hours.	
Reviewing	NeurIPS (Outstanding Reviewer)	2021-2024
	ACL Rolling Review	2022-2024
	ICLR	2021-2024
	ICML	2020-2022
	Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)	2022-2023
	ACL Student Research Workshop (ACL-SRW)	2021, 2024-2025
	Workshop on Underspecified and Implicit Language (Unimplicit)	2022
	Workshop on Visually Grounded Interaction and Language (ViGIL)	2021
Advising	Georgia Zhou. Undergraduate	2024 – Ongoing
	Angela He. Undergraduate	2024 – Ongoing
	Maggie Huan. MS Computer Science	2024 – Ongoing
	Nishant Bhakar. Undergraduate	2023 – Ongoing
	Austen Liao. Undergraduate	2023 – Ongoing
	Vivek Verma. BS/MS Computer Science (→ OpenAI)	2022 – Ongoing
	Andre He. Undergraduate (→ CMU PhD)	2021 – 2024
	Lily Zhang. MS Computer Science (→ Waymo)	2020 – 2021