

Yiorgos (Georgios) Chochlakis [ˈjɔrɣos xoˈxlakis]

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

modeling subjective language tasks with LLMs; scalable multimodal, multilabel & multilingual affective analysis; language grounding and grounding language; scientific rigor & reproducibility

EDUCATION

University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA 08/2021 – Present
MSc & PhD in Computer Science (Expected Graduation: 05/2026)

GPA: 4.0/4.0

Advisor: Prof. Shri Narayanan

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Athens, Greece 09/2015 – 10/2020
BSc & MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering (5-year joint degree)

GPA: 9.56/10.0 (98th percentile)

Thesis advisor: Prof. Alexandros Potamianos

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Applied Science Intern, AWS, Bellevue, WA 05/2024 – 08/2024
Developed methods for robustness in audio-textual representation learning, achieving SOTA emotion recognition with missing modalities (68.3% Unweighted Accuracy in MSP-Podcast 1.11)

Applied Science Intern, AWS, Santa Clara, CA 05/2023 – 08/2023
Developed methods for robustness in audio-visual representation learning

Machine Learning Engineer, Behavioral Signals, Los Angeles, CA 12/2020 – 07/2021
Improved speaker identification, caller matching and diarization; tested models for deployment

Machine Learning Intern, SCiO, Lefkippos Attica Technology Park, Greece 07/2019 – 08/2019
Built dataset with relevant features and model for rice cultivation in India

PROJECTS

Capital One Grant, USC, Los Angeles, CA 01/2025 – Present
Multiagent LLMs for emotional appraisal of financial data

Everyday Respect, USC, Los Angeles, CA 12/2022 – Present
Measuring & improving police officer communication during motor vehicle stops

DARPA INCAS, Information Science Institute, USC, Los Angeles, CA 09/2021 – Present
Identifying meaningful early indicators of influence campaigns from social media
Developing SOTA models to handle multilingual data, and a novel annotation scheme

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, SAIL, USC, Los Angeles, CA 05/2021 – Present
Conducting research in multilingual and multimodal affective analysis on social media
Developing scalable, generalizable, and robust models for emotion recognition

Undergraduate Research Assistant, SLP group, NTUA, Greece 03/2020 – 11/2020
Developed novel framework for generative zero-shot learning for my diploma thesis

Research Intern, IIT, NCSR Demokritos, Greece 10/2019 – 06/2020
Published research on elevation surface reconstruction using deep learning

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

G. Chochlakis, A. Potamianos, K. Lerman, S. Narayanan. *Aggregation Artifacts in Subjective Tasks Collapse Large Language Models Posteriors*. NAACL, 2025.

G. Chochlakis, A. Potamianos, K. Lerman, S. Narayanan. *The Strong Pull of Prior Knowledge in Large Language Models and Its Impact on Emotion Recognition*. ACII, 2024.

G. Chochlakis, G. Mahajan, S. Baruah, K. Burghardt, K. Lerman, S. Narayanan. *Using Emotion Embeddings to Transfer Knowledge between Emotions, Languages, and Annotation formats*. ICASSP, 2023.

HONORS & AWARDS

Fellowship, CapitalOne 2025
Designated as fellow after submitting grant application; ranked among top 6 applicants

Scholarship, Gerondelis Foundation 2023-2024
“Rewarding excellence” in Greek students pursuing graduate studies in the US

Top Reviewer, NeurIPS 2022
Ranked among the top 8% of reviewers for the conference and all its different tracks

Highest GPA in school of ECE Award, Thomaidis Foundation Grant, NTUA 2019-2020
Achieved 10.0/10.0, tied 1st among 1500+ students

Publication Award, Thomaidis Foundation Grant, NTUA 2020
For publishing a paper in an indexed venue as an undergraduate

ACADEMIC SERVICE

SAIL, USC, Los Angeles, CA

Founded and ran the lab’s 17-member reading group, inviting outside speakers

Mentoring undergraduate and graduate students

IEEE K-12 Outreach program, USC, Los Angeles, CA

Served as *team lead* for Fall 2022 USC campus visit for approx. 90 students

Presented introduction and a demo in Spring 2022 USC campus visit to approx. 90 students

Google ExploreCSR program, USC, Los Angeles, CA

Served as *student mentor* for Spring 2023 for approx. 50 students

Peer-reviewing

ICASSP: 2025, 2024, 2023

NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks track: 2024, 2023, 2022

CHI: 2025