

Abira Sengupta

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Summary: My PhD thesis on multi-agent systems to represent reasoning with explicit representation of expectation can solve the collective action problem was submitted under the supervision of Professor Stephen Cranefield (University of Otago, New Zealand) and Professor Jeremy Pitt (Imperial College, London). I am an affiliated researcher at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and was there as a visiting researcher for three months in 2024. After submitting my thesis, I worked for four months at the University of Otago as a postdoctoral research assistant after receiving a CRG grant. I worked as a research assistant in the computer science department at Otago University in 2021. I am a member of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy (CAIPP) at Otago since I am passionate about fair and transparent AI. I am also an IEEE and SINZ member. I received a CRG grant and worked as a postdoctoral research assistant on AI in telehealth systems. As a visiting scientist at the Indian Statistical Institute, I've been using explainable AI to work on three projects related to climate change. I worked on my pre-PhD research at the Indian Statistical Institute in collaboration with the University of Technology, Sydney.

🎓 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Information Science (📅 2019 - 2022, graduate in 2024)
University of Otago, New Zealand.
 - Supervisor: Prof. Stephen Cranefield
 - Co-supervisor: Prof. Jeremy Pitt
- Master of Technology (M.Tech) in Computer Science (📅 2011 - 2013)
West Bengal University of Technology, India. (GPA: 8.87/10)
- Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Computer Science (📅 2006 - 2010)
West Bengal University of Technology, India. (GPA: 7.43/10)
- Math Honours
I completed two years of a three-year honours course before switching to BTech.

🔍 RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (🏠 Multi-Agent Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Planning)

- PhD Research at the Information Science Dept, Univ. of Otago, NZ (Submitted)
 - Thesis Title: A generic approach to reasoning about collective action problems using expectations.
 - Funding: PhD funded by Marsden Fund, in collaboration with Imperial College.
 - Research paper accepted in COINE 2021 and COINE 2023, and another paper from the bursary period wanted to submit to the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research.

Thesis Summary: My work focuses on the use of logical reasoning regarding expectations and generalised representation to help computational agents to solve a range of collective action problems. The different applications of expectation-related reasoning, such as expectation, team reasoning norms, norm, and norm emergence from emotion, were explained in this work. The central claim of my research is to build a generalised

computational model in which symbolic representations of norms are used as an input and an Event Calculus (Prolog-based) is used to represent how explicit reasoning of expectation is generated and how it is fulfilled or violated.

- Post-PhD Research (📅 2023)
 - I worked as a data analyst for a Telehealth project (one journal paper is about to be submitted).
- Research Assistant at the Computer Science Dept. Univ. of Otago, NZ (📅 2021)
 - A short project on the computational analysis of text data for emotion recognition.
- Research collaboration at the Information Science Dept. Univ. of Otago, NZ.
 - **Prediction of Wildfire Using Explainable AI.**

Project: We propose a framework that adopts recent advances in methods for obtaining optimal models along with the application of SHAP values to obtain the most important features affecting Wildfire prediction models' performance. We apply this framework for both the purpose of detecting the conditions under which a forest fire is likely to start, and once a fire has begun, predicting the area burned by it.

- A Preliminary Investigation of LEACH, TEEN, and DEEC Towards Wireless Sensing Application (Extension of MTech Thesis)

Project: In wireless sensor networks, the nodes operating in a distributed environment operate on a limited source of energy and rely on efficient power optimisation protocols to operate for the appropriate duration of their wireless data-sensing applications. In this paper, we present a comparative analysis of three prominent hierarchical clustering protocols: LEACH, TEEN, and DEEC.

- Pre-doctoral Research at the Indian Statistical Institute (📅 2017 - 2018)
 - **Research: Machine Learning applied to facial image and pin-code detection.**
 - 3 papers were published in collaboration with Univ. of Technology, Sydney, and the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).

Project: During my pre-PhD research, I collaborated with the ISI CVPR department under the supervision of Dr. Umapada Pal. Convolutional neural networks were used to detect the pin-code in both structural and unstructured postal documents, as well as to authenticate facial images. CNN has been found to be effective at identifying individuals from degraded face images.

+ RESEARCH SUPERVISION:

- In collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute, I started mentoring a PhD student. The study focuses on the use of machine learning methodologies for climate prediction.
- Co-supervised the final year thesis of one Master of Information Science student at Kalyani Government Engineering College in 2020-2021. In that project, we classified various types of road obstacles using a convolutional neural network. We also used the YOLO algorithm to classify and locate various types of objects in front of the car.
- Research project supervision for four Bachelor students of Computer Science at Narula Institute of Technology in 2017-2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Tutor/Demonstrator at the University of Otago, NZ (📅 2019 - 2024: 9 semesters)
 - 2023: Digital Health, DIGH 708 & 709, Review innovations in Digital Health technology that promote well-being and self-management.
 - 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021: COMP 120, Data Science using R.
 - 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020: INFO 204, Machine learning using Python coding.
 - 2022: INFO 301, Software development.
 - 2021: INFO 310, Software and system development using JAVA.
 - 2019: COMP 101, R and SQL coding.
- Guest Lecturer (part-time) at several universities in Kolkata, India (📅 2013 - 2018)
 - Jadavpur University - Taught multimedia systems.
 - Kalyani Govt Engg College - Taught Algorithms, Automata, Graphics, and Multimedia.
 - Aliah University - Taught Sensor Networking theory.
 - Narula Institute of Technology - Taught C, Multimedia, and Networking theory.

+ PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

- RESEARCH FUNDING/GRANTS
 - 57250 NZD: Marsden scholarship (3 years PhD studies).
 - 2964 NZD: Pūtea Tautoko - Student Relief Fund.
 - 2800 NZD: Departmental award.
 - 3500 NZD: Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme
- MEMBERSHIP
 - Member of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy (CAIPP), NZ.
 - Member of the Artificial Intelligence Researchers Association (AIRA), NZ.
 - Student member of IEEE.
 - Member of Software Innovation NZ (SINZ).
- PEER REVIEW
 - Conferences: SMC-2023
- WORKSHOP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
 - School of Computing Postgraduate Symposium 2023, University of Otago.
 - HRC Telehealth 2023, University of Otago.
- GRANT
 - Commerce Research Grant Round 2-2023.
- PROFESSIONAL POSITION
 - Affiliated researcher (continue)
 - Visiting Scientist at Indian Statistical Institute (Mar, April, 2024).
 - Postdoctoral research assistant at the University of Otago (Nov, 2023 to Feb, 2024).

📌 REFERENCES

- Prof. STEPHEN CRANEFIELD (Relation: Primary Supervisor)
 - Affiliation: Professor, School of Computing, University of Otago, NZ.
 - Email: stephen.cranefield@otago.ac.nz, Phone: +64 3 479 8083
- DR. SARBANI PALIT (Relation: Supervisor)
 - Affiliation: Lecturer, HOD of the Indian Statistical Institute.
 - Email: palitsarbani@gmail.com
- DR. BRENDON WOODFORD (Relation: Tutored for him and Collaborating.)

- **Affiliation:** Lecturer, School of Computing, University of Otago, NZ.
- **Email:** brendon.woodford@otago.ac.nz, Phone: +64 3 479 5432.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Abira Sengupta, Fathima Nuzla Ismail, “Modelling Methane Emissions for Selected Countries Using Explainable AI”, (Nature Computational Science, 2024) [submitted]**
- **Fathima Nuzla Ismail, Abira Sengupta, “Big Data Blueprint Architecture for Large Organizations”, (ACM SenSys, 2025) [submitted]**
- **Fathima Nuzla Ismail, Abira Sengupta, “Teaching and Learning Experience with the Kahoot feedback system”, (Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education, 2024) [submitted]**
- **Abira Sengupta, Fathima Nuzla Ismail, “Software as a Medical Device: Design and Compliance”, (ICCAE, 2025) [submitted]**
- **Abira Sengupta, Fathima Nuzla Ismail, “Modelling methane emissions from rice paddies using machine learning”, (IVCNZ, 2024) [Accepted].**
- **Abira Sengupta, Brendon J. Woodford, “Recent Advances in Explainable Machine Learning Models for Wildfire Prediction”, (Applied Computing and Geosciences, 2024) [submitted]**
- **Abira Sengupta, Stephen Cranefield, Jeremy Pitt, “Generalising Axelrod's Metanorms Game through the use of explicit domain-specific norms”, (COINE) 2023.**
- **Fathima Nuzla Ismail, Abira Sengupta, Brendon J. Woodford, Sherlock A. Licorish, “A Comparison of One-class versus Two-class Machine Learning Models for Wildfire Prediction in California”, (AUSDM) 2023: 1-14.**
- **Abira Sengupta, Stephen Cranefield, Jeremy Pitt, “Solving social dilemmas by reasoning about expectations”, (COINE) 2021: 1-18.**
DOI:https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-16617-4_10
- **Abira Sengupta, Saurabh Malgaonkar, Nikita Mehrotra, Tejas Hirave, “A Preliminary Investigation of LEACH, TEEN and DEEC Towards Wireless Sensing Application”, (ICCICT) 2021: 1-6. DOI: 10.1109/ICCICT50803.2021.9510108**
- **Abhijit Das, Abira Sengupta, Muhammad Saqib, Umapada Pal, Michael Blumenstein, “More Realistic and Efficient Face-Based Mobile Authentication using CNNs”, (IJCNN) 2018:1-8. DOI: 10.1109/IJCNN.2018.8489070**
- **Abhijit Das, Abira Sengupta, Miguel A. Ferrer, Umapada Pal, Michael Blumenstein, “Linking face images captured from the optical phenomenon in the wild for forensic science”, (IJCB) 2017: 781-786. DOI: 10.1109/BTAS.2017.8272770, Citations-2**
- **Nabin Sharma, Abira Sengupta, Rabi Sharma, Umapada Pal, Michael Blumenstein, “Pincode detection using deep CNN for postal automation”, (IVCNZ) 2017: 1-6.**
DOI: 10.1109/IVCNZ.2017.8402501, Citations-13.

POSTER PRESENTATION

- **Abira Sengupta, Stephen Cranefield, “Normative Reasoning Based On Emotions In Multi-Agent System To Solve Social Dilemmas”, (Student Research Symposium of Otago) 2021.**
- **Abira Sengupta, Stephen Cranefield, Jeremy Pitt “Generalising Axelrod’s metanorm game with the expectation event calculus”, (Artificial Intelligence Researchers Association (AIRA), NZ). <https://www.ainz.ai/2022-posters>**