

# Keynote: Distributional Representation of Complex Semantics

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## Abstract

Enabling machines with commonsense, the knowledge that virtually every person has, is an important quest towards artificial general intelligence. In this talk, I'm going to introduce the new initiative on commonsense AI, Project Alexandria, at Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2). I will first describe briefly the vision of this project and review some of the past research efforts on commonsense knowledge representation and reasoning, explaining why it is a difficult problem. In order to encourage the community to make progress on commonsense AI, our focus in the first year of Project Alexandria is to create a large-scale benchmark dataset. I will talk about our latest work on producing natural commonsense questions by pairing crowd workers to play games, and share some of the lessons we learned.

## Bio

Kuansan Wang is Managing Director and a Principal Researcher from Microsoft Research Outreach in Redmond, WA. He joined Microsoft Research in 1998, first as a researcher in the Speech Technology Group working on multimodal dialog system, then as an architect that designed and shipped various speech products, including the Voice Command on mobile that eventually becomes Cortana, and Microsoft Speech Server that is still powering Microsoft and partners' call centers. In 2007, he rejoined Microsoft Research to work on large scale natural language understanding and web search technologies, and is currently responsible for running the largest machine reading effort that uses intelligent agents to dynamically acquire knowledge from the web and make it available to the general public. Kuansan received his BS from National Taiwan University and MS and PhD from University of Maryland, College Park, respectively, all in Electrical Engineering. In addition to 120+ scholarly papers and 40+ patents he has published, his work has also been adopted into 10 international standards from W3C, Ecma and ISO.

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