

Michael Kaiser
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Education:

- September 2005 - July 2009 PhD at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK, funded by Microsoft Research through the PhD Scholarship Programme. Topic: *Acquiring Syntactic and Semantic Transformations in Question Answering*. Supervisors: Prof. Bonnie Webber and Dr. Miles Osborne.
- October 1999 - November 2004 Computational Linguistics at Saarland University, Germany. Diplom Thesis: *Question Answering by Searching Large Corpora with Linguistic Methods*. Grade: *very good* (1.4).
- September 2002 - April 2003 Exchange student at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.
- October 1997 - October 1999 Philosophy and Rhetoric at the University of Tuebingen, Germany. *Zwischenpruefung* in Philosophy in 1999 with *very good*.
- 1996 - 1997 Civil Service on an adventure playground in Stuttgart, Germany. Working with 6 to 12 year old kids, mainly teaching woodwork.
- 1994 - 1996 Leaving Certificate (1996). Fanny Leicht Gymnasium, Stuttgart. Major subjects: Mathematics, Politics.

Work experience:

- July 2007 - October 2007 Internship at Powerset, San Francisco. Worked on Natural Language Search.
- November 2004 - July 2005 Researcher at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). Worked on multimodal dialog systems in the TALK project.
- September 2003 - November 2003 Internship at VoxSurf, London, UK. Ported a VoiceXML application from English to German.
- 2001 - 2004 Research assistant at DFKI in the Intelligent User Interfaces Lab. (With interruptions when I was abroad.) Worked on natural language generation and dialogue systems.

Achievements:

- August 2006 Best Poster Award at the 11th ESSLLI Student Session.
- July 2006 Participated in the QA track at TREC 2006. Best result for *other* questions. Fourth best result for *factoids*. Fourth best *combined* result.
- June 2005 Accepted for a Microsoft Research European PhD Scholarship.
- July 2004 Participated in the QA track at TREC 2004. Fourth best result for *factoids*. Sixth best *combined* result.

Activities:

- 2007 Co-chair for Language and Computation at the Student Session of the 19th annual summer school in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), Dublin, Ireland.
- 2005 Co-organizer of the 37th edition of the (German) National Student Conference on Linguistics (StuTS).
- 2002 - Elected member of the students' representatives of the linguistic faculty of the Saarland University.
- 2001 Co-organizer of the 29th edition of the (German) National Student Conference on Linguistics (StuTS).

Invited talks:

- 12/09/07 *Question Answering based on Semantic Roles*
ICSI, UC Berkeley, California
- 17/11/06 *The University of Edinburgh at the TREC 2006 QA track*
Text REtrieval Conference, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Teaching:

- 2005 Software Project "Question Answering" at DFKI/Saarland University, (co-taught with Dr. Tilman Becker).
- 2002 Tutor for Software Project "VoiceXML Interpreter" at DFKI (course led by Jan Alexandersson and Dr. Tilman Becker).

Languages:

- German native speaker.
- English fluent, lived in the UK for five years.
- Latin intermediate, five years in school.
- French basic, three university courses.

Publications:

- Michael Kaisser, Marti Hearst, and John B. Lowe. **Improving Search Results Quality by Customizing Summary Lengths.** To appear in *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, ACL 2008*, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 2008.
- Michael Kaisser. **The QuALiM Question Answering Demo: Supplementing Answers with Paragraphs drawn from Wikipedia.** To appear in *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Demonstrations Session, ACL 2008*, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 2008.
- Michael Kaisser, and John B. Lowe. **Creating a Research Collection of Question Answer Sentence Pairs with Amazon’s Mechanical Turk.** To appear in *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, LREC 2008*, Marrakech, Morocco, 2008.
- Michael Kaisser, and Bonnie Webber. **Question Answering based on Semantic Roles.** In *Proceedings of the ACL 2007 Deep Linguistic Processing Workshop, ACL-DLP 2007*, Prague, Czech Republic, 2007.
- Michael Kaisser, Silke Scheible, and Bonnie Webber. **Experiments at the University of Edinburgh for the TREC 2006 QA track.** In *Proceedings of the 2006 Edition of the Text REtrieval Conference, TREC 2006*, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, 2006.
- Michael Kaisser. **Web Question Answering by Exploiting Wide-Coverage Lexical Resources.** In *Proceedings of the 11th ESSLLI Student Session*, Malaga, Spain, 2006.
- Ivana Kruijff-Korbayová, Tilman Becker, Nate Blaylock, Ciprian Gerstenberger, Michael Kaisser, Peter Poller, Verena Rieser, and Jan Schehl. **The Sammie Corpus of Multimodal Dialogues with an MP3 Player.** In *Proceedings the Fifth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, LREC 2006*, Genoa, Italy, 2006.
- Michael Kaisser. **QuALiM at TREC 2005: Web-Question Answering with FrameNet.** In *Proceedings of the 2005 Edition of the Text REtrieval Conference, TREC 2005*, Gaithersburg, USA, 2005.
- Ivana Kruijff-Korbayová, Nate Blaylock, Ciprian Gerstenberger, Verena Rieser, Tilman Becker, Michael Kaisser, Peter Poller, and Jan Schehl. **An experiment setup for collecting data for adaptive output planning in a multimodal dialogue system.** In *Proceedings of the 10th European Workshop on Natural Language Generation, ENLG-05*, Aberdeen, Scotland, 2005.
- Ivana Kruijff-Korbayová, Nate Blaylock, Ciprian Gerstenberger, Verena Rieser, Tilman Becker, Michael Kaisser, Peter Poller, and Jan Schehl. **Presentation strategies for flexible multimodal interaction with a music player.** In *Proceedings of the Ninth Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue, DIALOR 2005*, Nancy, France, 2005.
- Michael Kaisser and Tilman Becker. **Question Answering by Searching Large Corpora with Linguistic Methods.** In *Proceedings of the 2004 Edition of the Text REtrieval Conference, TREC 2004*, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, 2004.
- Christian H. Schulz, Dmitri Rubinstein, Dimitris Diamantakos, Michael Kaisser, Jan Schehl, Massimo Romanelli, Thomas Kleinbauer, Andreas Klüter, Dietrich Klakow, Tilman Becker, and Jan Alexander-son. **A Spoken Language Front-end for a Multilingual Music Data Base.** In *Dialog Systems based on XML Technologies*, Berlin, Germany, 2004.