Current as of February 26, 2026

Abram Handler

Assistant Professor, Leeds School of Business
University of Colorado, Boulder
https://www.abehandler.com

Areas of interest

Methods: Design science, natural language processing, human–computer interaction
Topics: News and media, computational social science

Education

2021 PhD in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Thesis: Natural Language Processing for Lexical Corpus Analysis
Advisor: Brendan O'Connor

2018 M.S. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2014 M.S. in Computer Science, University of New Orleans
Advisor: Vassil Roussev

2007 B.A. in Philosophy, Columbia University

Journal Publications

AI-Augmented Content Validation in Behavioral Research: Development and Evaluation of the RATER System. Jean-Charles Pillet, Kai Larsen, David Dobolyi, Magno Queiroz, **Abram Handler**, Jan Ketil Arnulf, Rajeev Sharma. MIS Quarterly, 2026.

Large Language Models Present New Questions for Decision Support. **Abram Handler**, Kai R. Larsen, Richard Hackathorn. International Journal of Information Management, Volume 79, December 2024. (Research Note)

ClioQuery: Interactive Query-Oriented Text Analytics for Comprehensive Investigation of Historical News Archives. **Abram Handler**, Narges Mahyar, Brendan O'Connor. ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems (TiiS), 2022. **Best paper of 2022, runner up**

Conference Publications

Computer science papers are often published at conferences, rather than in journals. EMNLP and NAACL are top conferences in natural language processing.

Toward an Information Systems Ontology. Roland Müeller, Sebastian Hüttemann, Kai R. Larsen, Sen Yan and Abram Handler. *DESRIST, 2022.*

Query-focused Sentence Compression in Linear Time. **Abram Handler** and Brendan O'Connor. *EMNLP, 2019.*

Investigating Sports Commentator Bias within a Large Corpus of American Football Broadcasts. Jack Merullo, Luke Yeh, **Abram Handler**, Alvin Grissom II, Brendan O'Connor and Mohit Iyyer. *EMNLP, 2019.*

Relational Summarization for Corpus Analysis. **Abram Handler** and Brendan O'Connor. *NAACL, 2018.*

Identifying civilians killed by police with distantly supervised entity-event extraction. Katherine Keith, **Abram Handler**, Michael Pinkham, Cara Magliozzi, Joshua McDuffie, and Brendan O'Connor. *EMNLP, 2017.*

Workshop papers

In computer science, workshop papers undergo light peer review. Admission to workshops is less competitive than admission to main conferences.

Rookie: A unique approach for exploring news archives. **Abram Handler** and Brendan O'Connor. *Data Science + Journalism workshop at KDD, 2017.*

Bag of What? Simple Noun Phrase Extraction for Text Analysis. **Abram Handler**, Matthew J. Denny, Hanna Wallach, and Brendan O'Connor. *Text as Data, 2016* and *NLP + Computational Social Science workshop at EMNLP, 2016.*

Visualizing textual models with in-text and word-as-pixel highlighting. **Abram Handler**, Su Lin Blodgett and Brendan O'Connor. *Workshop on Human Interpretability in Machine Learning at ICML, 2016*

Preprints

Human acceptability judgements for extractive sentence compression. **Abram Handler**, Brian Dillon, Brendan O'Connor. *arXiv*, 2019.

Grants

2025 **Abram Handler** and Oren Ziv and Luke Watson and Christophe Spanjers $5,100, "A Test for Collusion via Real Estate Analytics Software" Klump Research Award, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2025 Maria L. Pacheco and **Abram Handler**. $60,000, "Mapping the Changing Podcast Ecosystem with Large-Scale Computational Analysis." Research and Innovation Office, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2022 **Abram Handler**. $5,000 in Amazon Cloud Credits, "Race to AWS Credits Grant." From Research Computing (Office of Information Technology), University of Colorado, Boulder.

2021 Brian Keegan and **Abram Handler**. $6,500, "Payden Teaching Excellence Grant." From The College of Media, Communication and Information, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2018 Brendan O'Connor, **Abram Handler**, Brian Dillon, $25,500 (in crowd annotation credits), "Crowdsourced tree edit supervision for flexible sentence summarization and corpus exploration." From Figure Eight, Inc. through the AI for Everyone Challenge.

2015 **Abram Handler**, Steve Myers and Anne Mueller, $35,500 "Semantic timeline maker." From the Knight

Foundation through the Knight Foundation Prototype Fund.

Awards

2022 **Best paper, runner up** ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems
2020 **Outstanding reviewer award** at ACL and EMNLP conferences
2018 **Best reviewer award** at EMNLP conference (top 7%)
2015 **Excellence in journalism award**, New Orleans Press Club
2007 ***Magna cum laude***, Columbia University
2006 **Oxbridge scholars program**, Columbia University – Cambridge University
2003 **John Jay Scholar**, Columbia University
2003-2007 **Dean's list**, Columbia University (five semesters)

Teaching

University of Colorado, Boulder, Leeds School of Business

2026 MSBX 5425 Natural Language Processing for the Health Sciences
2026 BAIM 3220 Introduction to Python Programming
2025 MSBX 5425 Natural Language Processing for the Health Sciences
2024 MSBX 5425 Natural Language Processing for the Health Sciences (new course developed from scratch)
2023 BAIM 3220 Introduction to Python Programming (delived four times in 2023)

University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Information Science (INFO)

2022 INFO 2301 Quantitative reasoning
INFO 4602/5602 Information visualization
2021 INFO 2301 Quantitative reasoning (delivered twice in 2021)
INFO 3401 Information exploration
INFO 4604/5604 Applied machine learning (delivered twice in 2021)
INFO 3402 Information exposition
INFO 4700 Senior capstone
2020 INFO 2301 Quantitative reasoning
INFO 3401 Information exploration
INFO 4604 Applied machine learning

University of Massachusetts, Amherst • Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences

2019 Classroom instructor, Ethics and Artificial Intelligence (four sections)
2018 - 2019 Student advisor, UMass Industry Mentorship Program (two semesters)
2017 Summer graduate coordinator for the REUMass program for undergraduate researchers
2016-2018 Teaching assistant for graduate courses in graphical models and natural language processing (three semesters)

Advising

Graduate committee member, University of Colorado, Boulder

PhD Thesis: Skye Reese (ECEE)
Qualifying exams: Alexandra Leto (CS), Fairy Gandhi (IS), Shuai Zhang (IS)

MS Thesis: Cade Wilson (INFO), Fairy Gandhi (IS)

Invited talks and other presentations

Data visualization is different in virtual reality
2024 Texas Tech University (via Zoom)

Natural language processing can help estimate causal parameters in regression models
2023 Front Range Information Systems Seminar, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Designing the ClioQuery Text Analytics System
2022 Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado, Boulder

Using Phrases for Corpus Analysis
2022 Online tutorial series, NLP+CSS 201: Beyond the Basics, Virtual

Natural Language Processing for Lexical Corpus Analysis
2021 Lab meeting, Natural Language Processing Group (CompSem), University of Colorado, Boulder

Natural Language Processing for Corpus Analysis
2020 Seminar, Department of Information Science, University of Colorado, Boulder
2020 Lab meeting, Natural Language Processing Group (CompSem), University of Colorado, Boulder

Software Projects and Artifacts

2020-present **CanvasCLI**
An opinionated command-line interface for the Canvas learning management system.
`https://github.com/AbeHandler/CanvasCLI`

2020 **wmasscovid.com**
A website offering automatically-updated COVID statistics for Western Massachusetts. The site received thousands of visitors during the first months of the COVID pandemic.

2016 **Phrasemachine**
A `Python` package for finding phrases, with hundreds of users from around the world.
`https://github.com/slanglab/phrasemachine`

2014-2015 **Live election maps**
Leader of technical team which produced the first three live election maps in Louisiana.
`http://elections.thelensnola.org`

2014 **Document Cloud (Doc Split)**
Open source contributor: added support for the Tesseract rotation detection plugin.
`https://www.documentcloud.org`

Professional Service

Service to Field

Area Chair, ICIS 2026

Organizer, Front Range Information Systems Seminar 2026
Note: I organized a small conference at the Leeds School of Business for IS researchers across the Denver-Boulder region.

Blogger, 2024-2026
Note: I develop frequent posts about Information Systems intended to help new and experienced researchers better understand the field. I distribute the posts on `www.abehandler.com` and on LinkedIn. The posts have received tens of thousands of views from researchers around the world (2024-2026)

Reviewer, 2017-2026
MIS Quarterly (2022-2026), IJIM (2024, 2025), TMIS (2024), ICIS (2023-2024), EMNLP (2017-2021), ACL (2019-2021), ACL ARR (2021,2022), NAACL (2019,2021), AACL (2020), WNUT (2019), New Frontiers in Summarization (2019, 2021), ICWSM (2018-2020), ACM TOIS (2022)

Area Chair, 2023
Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (2023)

Service to Leeds School of Business and OLIA Division

Organizer, monthly brown bag research meetings for IS group (2024-2026)
Faculty and staff culture committee (2025-2026)
Academic honesty representative (2025-2026)
Graduate student excellence awards committee (2026)
Assist with PhD recruiting (2024-2026)
Developer of internal software tool to analyze teaching evaluations (2025)
Primary unit evaluation committee (2023, 2024)
Hiring committee (2022)

Service to Department of Information Science (INFO)

Academic Review and Planning Advisory Committee (2021)
Undergraduate Committee (2020-2021).

Courtesy Appointments

2022-present, Department of Information Science, University of Colorado, Boulder

Work Experience

2022-present **University of Colorado**, Assistant Professor, Leeds School of Business, Boulder, CO
- Tenure-track faculty member with the Organizational Leadership and Information Analytics group.

2020-2022 **University of Colorado**, Instructor, Department of Information Science, Boulder, CO
- Instructor of record for three courses each semester (see Teaching section).

2015-2020 **University of Massachusetts**, Research assistant and teaching assistant, Amherst, MA
- Conducted both individual and group research projects as member of SLANG lab.

2019 **BuzzFeed**, Data science intern, New York, NY
- Contributed to internal API for analyzing user comments.
- Developed a new method for detecting entity aliases, using comment data.

2018 **Agolo**, Natural language processing research intern, New York, NY
- Implemented state-of-the-art sentence compression technique in PyTorch.
- Developed a new method for summarizing entity relationships in news corpora.

2014-2015 **The Lens**, Software developer and data journalist, New Orleans, LA
- Cofounder and technical leader of news applications team.
- Produced interactive web stories.
- Analyzed heterogeneous textual records to programmatically identify corruption.

2013 **C4 Tech and Design**, Software developer, New Orleans, LA
- Worked as full-stack web developer using PHP, Git, Drupal, Javascript, CSS and HTML.

2011-2013 **Louisiana Office of Public Health** (Acadiana CARES), Software developer, New Orleans, LA
- Successfully refactored a mission-critical system for collecting and monitoring electronic lab reports.

2010 **Jefferson Parish Public Schools**, Digital Opportunity Trust intern, Gretna, LA
- Helped develop a new personnel system in PHP, SQL, CSS, HTML and JavaScript.

2007-2009 **The Bronx Defenders**, Investigator, Bronx, NY
- Assisted attorneys at a *pro bono* legal clinic.

2006 **Benenson Strategy Group**, Intern, Manhattan, NY
- Taught myself to program by automating routine tasks in Microsoft Excel.