

# Natural Language Processing for Social Sciences

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**Rada Mihalcea**

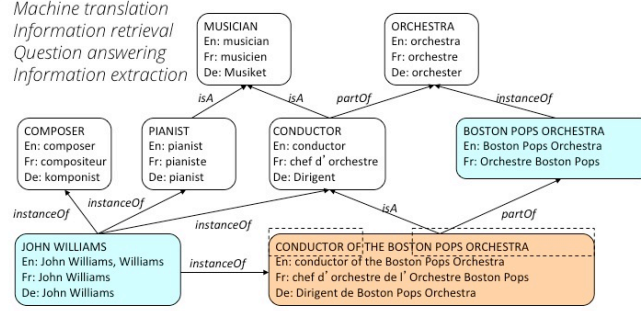
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# Language and Information Technologies

**Faculty:** Rada Mihalcea, **seven PhD students:** Mahmoud Azab, Aparna Garimella, Shibamouli Lahiri, Konstantinos Pappas, Steve Wilson, Charlie Welch, Laura Wendlandt, **three postdoctoral fellows:** Mohamed Abouelenien, Carmen Banea, Veronica Perez-Rosas, **M.S., undergrad students.**

## Text semantics and linguistic resources

Applications to  
Machine translation  
Information retrieval  
Question answering  
Information extraction

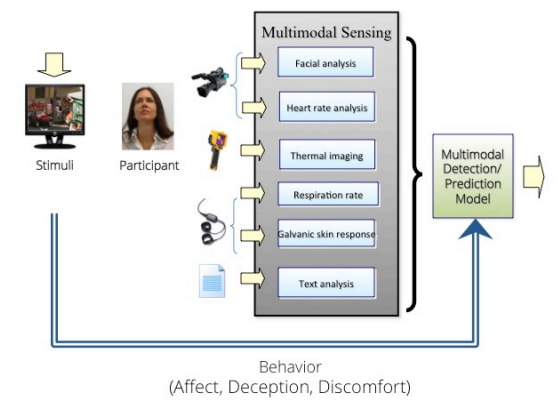


John Williams served as the principal conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra



## Big social media data

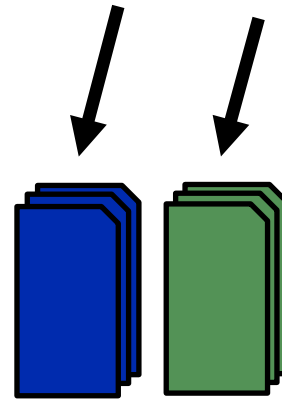
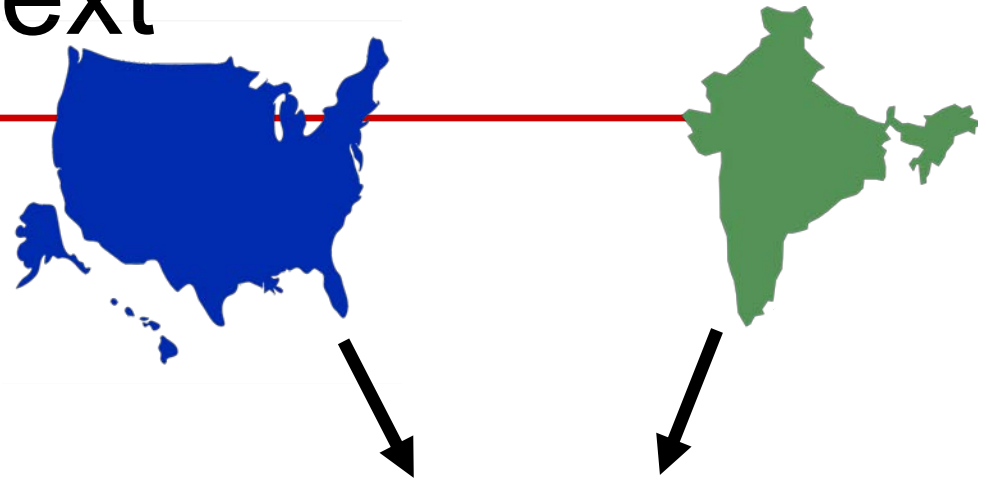
## Multimodal models



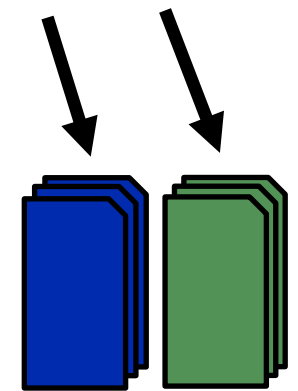
Research in: **text semantics** (word/text similarity, large semantic networks), **behavior analysis** (multilingual opinion analysis, multimodal models for deception detection, affect recognition, alertness detection), **big data for cross-cultural analysis** (geotagging, understanding cross-cultural differences and worldview), **educational applications** (digital advising, PEGASE: pedagogical search engine, automatic short answer grading)

# Values from Text

- What do people talk about when asked about their **values** and **everyday behaviors**?
- Can we learn about values and behaviors in different cultures from language use?



*Values essays*

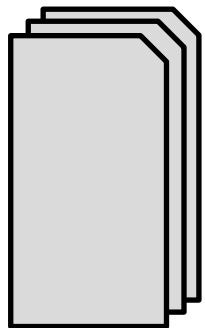


*Behavior essays*

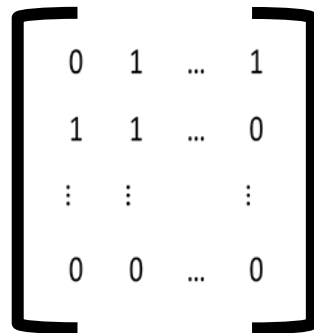
# Methodology: topic models

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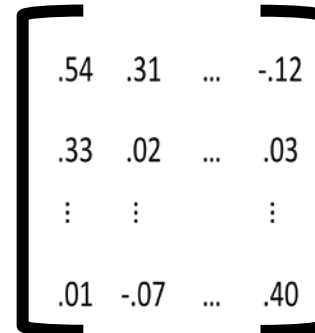
- Find out what general topics, or themes, people mentioned in either the value or behavior essays, e.g., the **Meaning Extraction Method** (Chung and Pennebaker, 2008).



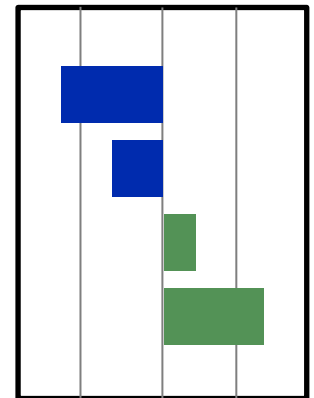
*Written essays*



*Term-document matrix*



*PCA +  
varimax  
rotation*



*Quantified  
theme usage*

# Value Themes

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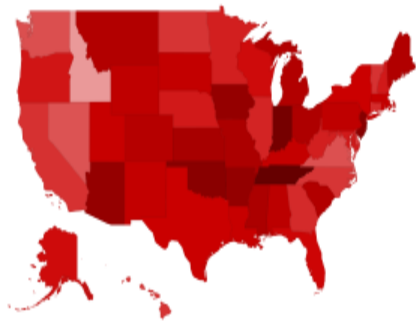
# + Example Words

Theme	Example Words	LCR
Hard Work	job, work, hard	
Financial	spend, money, time	
Respect	moral, respect, person	
Faith	faith, god, belief	
Understanding	understand, teach, right	
Honesty	honest, truth, sure	
Familial Love	love, family, child	
Relationships	friend, family, people	
Sharing Thoughts	see, speak, mind	
Caring	compassion, kind, equal	
Positivity	happy, feeling, great	
Rule Following	rule, follow, society	
Family Support	support, provide, husband	
Decision Making	decision, future, consider	
Peaceful	human, peace, respect	

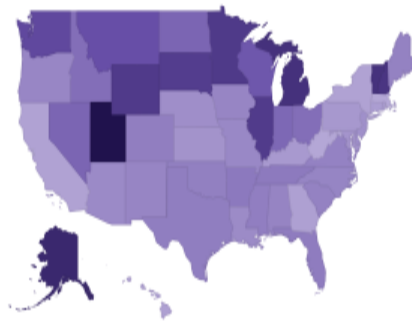
# Location from Text

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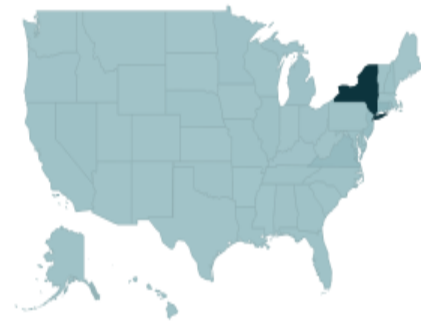
Hypothesis: the geographical variability of language can be exploited in order to construct improved geolocation models.



today



lake



bronx

Distribution of three selected words across the 50 U.S. states.

$$WLH(w) = \max_{s \in S} \frac{P(w|s)}{P(w)}$$

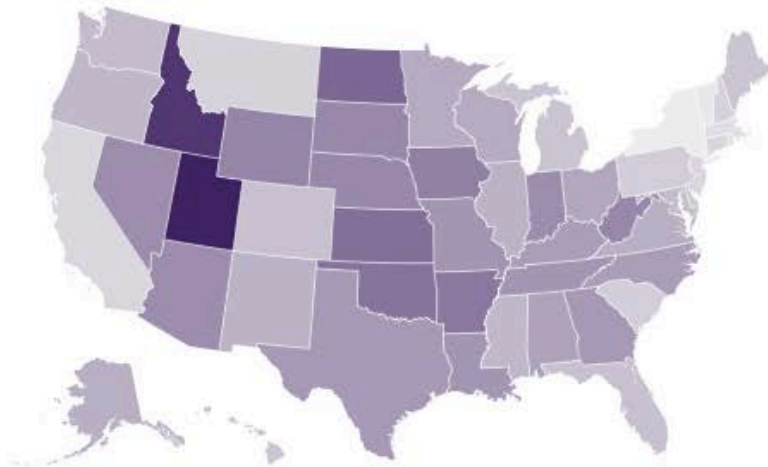
# Psycho-linguistic Maps

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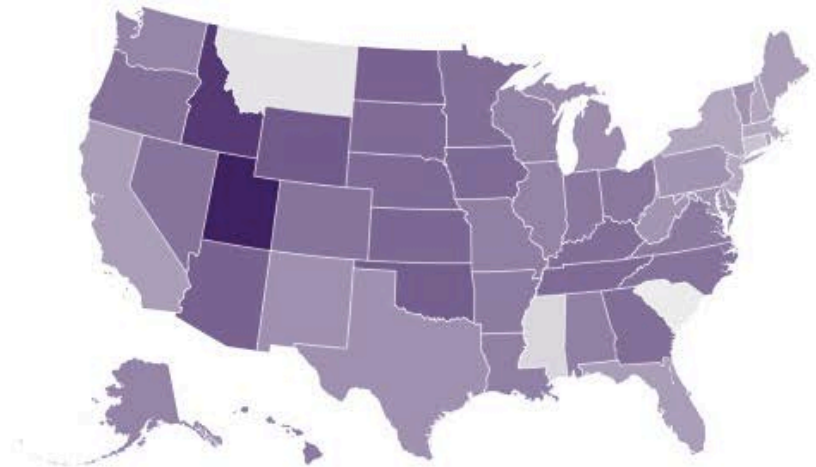
Correlation: 0.84



FAMILY



POSITIVE EMOTION



# Cross-cultural Analysis of Worldview

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(Mexicans)

The Sun is:

strong

big

(Germans)

The Sun is:

warm

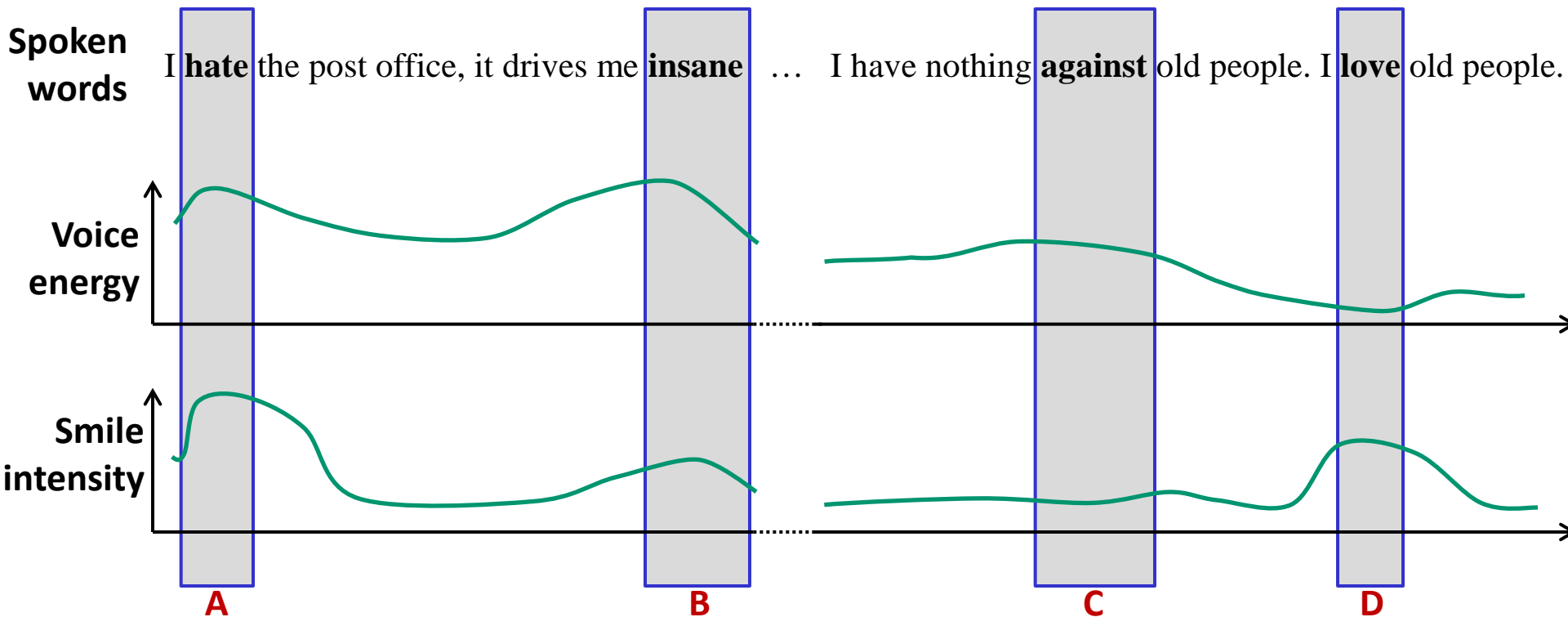
nice

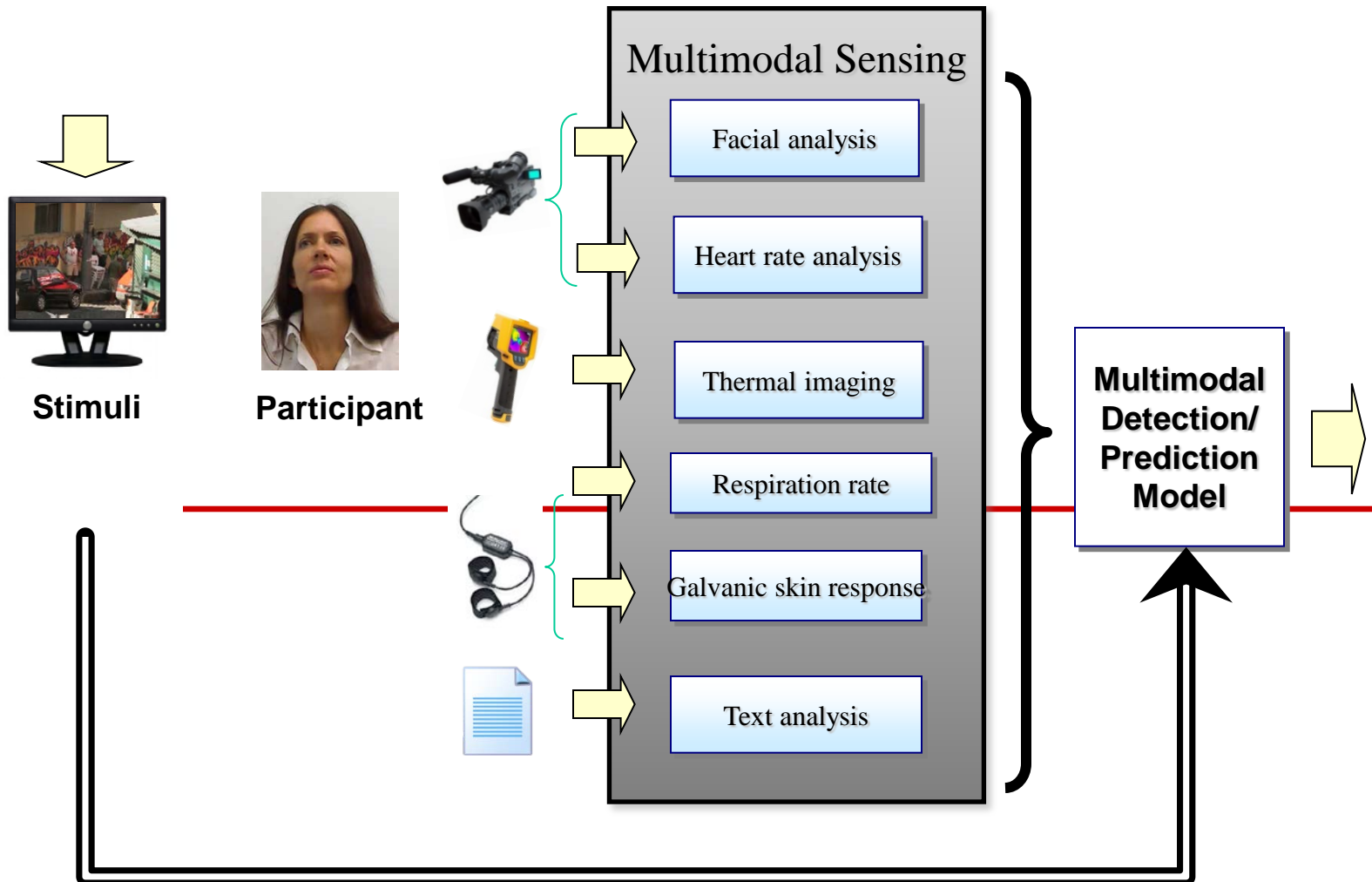
- Analysis of linguistic expressions to identify differences in worldview
- Machine learning framework on word usage instances
  - Are there differences in how Mexicans and Germans perceive the Sun?
  - How is achievement regarded in Singapore versus U.S.?



# Multimodal Behavior Analysis

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**Behavior**  
(Affect, Deception, Stress, Discomfort)