

HANS USZKOREIT, Short Bio



Hans Uszkoreit is Professor of computational linguistics at Saarland University. At the same time he serves as Scientific Director at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) where he heads the DFKI Language Technology Division and coordinates the DFKI Berlin site. By cooptation he is also Professor of the Computer Science Department at Saarland U.

Uszkoreit grew up in East Berlin, where he became part of a circle of young people opposing the totalitarian East German regime. After being expelled from high school and spending fifteen months in prison for subversive agitation, mainly for protesting against the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, he saw no chance to continue his education in East Germany. Thus he escaped to West Berlin where he could finish school and then study Linguistics and Computer Science at Technische Universität Berlin. With a group of young journalists, he co-founded the Berlin city magazine *Zitty*, for which he worked as a part-time editor and writer while being a student.

In 1977, he received a Fulbright Grant for continuing his studies at the University of Texas at Austin. During his time in Austin he also worked as a research associate in a large machine translation project. A second Fulbright grant allowed him to enter the Ph.D. program, which he completed in 1984 with a Ph.D. in linguistics. From 1982 until 1986, he worked as a computer scientist at the Artificial Intelligence Center of SRI International in Menlo Park, Ca. During this time he was also affiliated with the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford U. as a senior researcher and later as a project leader. In 1986 he spent six months in Stuttgart on an IBM Research Fellowship at the Science Division of IBM Germany and returned to Stuttgart later that year to work for IBM as a team leader in the project LILOG (Linguistic and Logical Methods for the Understanding of German Texts). At the same time he also taught at the U. of Stuttgart.

In 1988 Uszkoreit was appointed to a newly created chair of Computational Linguistics at Saarland University and started the Department of Computational Linguistics and Phonetics. In 1989 he became the head of the newly founded Language Technology Division at DFKI.

Uszkoreit is Principal Investigator of the Cluster of Excellence "Multimodal Computing and Interaction" of the German Science Foundation and PI at the new Special Collaborative Research Division (SFB 1102) "Information Density and Linguistic Encoding." He is also main coordinator of the International Erasmus Mundus Masters Program in Language and Communication Technologies.

Hans Uszkoreit is Coordinator of the European Network of Excellence META-NET with 60 research centers in 34 countries. In this function he has been a main editor of the 31 Language White Papers on the state of European Languages in the digital age (2012) and of the Strategic Research Agenda for Multilingual Europe (2013). He is also a Permanent Member of the International Committee of Computational Linguistics (ICCL), Honorary Professor at Technische Universität Berlin, Member of the European Academy of Sciences, Past Member of the Board of the European Language Resources Association (ELRA), Past President of the European Association for Logic, Language and Information, and serves on several international editorial and advisory boards. For the last 20 years has initiated and coordinated many international and national collaborative projects in machine translation and other areas of language technology.

He is co-founder of XtraMind Technologies GmbH, Saarbruecken (now part of Attensity Inc.), Acrolinx GmbH, Berlin, and Yocoy Technologies GmbH, Berlin. From 2005-2011, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the international initiative dropping knowledge.

Uszkoreit's research in various areas of language technology is documented in more than 200 publications. In 2012 he received a Google Faculty Research Award for results he achieved together with his group in the area of relation extraction and in 2013 another Google Research Award together with Feiyu Xu and Roberto Navigli with support for a focused project in Google's Language Understanding Program. Together with his DFKI team and groups at universities and industrial companies he is currently starting new research projects that combine new methods in web-scale text analytics with powerful methods in general big-data analytics.

Uszkoreit's main research interests are computer models of human understanding and production, advanced applications of language and knowledge technology such as semantic information systems and machine translation, cognitive foundations of language and knowledge, the role of information and language technology in society, deep linguistic processing and the syntax and semantics of human language.

Publications of last four years:

2014

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