Dr. Marjorie McShane

Dr. McShane is a faculty member of the Cognitive Science Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Co-director of the Language-Endowed Intelligent Agents (LEIA) lab. She earned her PhD from Princeton University in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Since then she has been working on computational linguistics and intelligent agent modeling.

Abstract: The early vision of AI included the goal of endowing intelligent systems with human-like language processing capabilities. This proved harder than expected, leading the vast majority of natural language processing practitioners to pursue less ambitious, shorter-term goals. Whereas the utility of human-like, meaning-oriented language processing is unquestionable, its feasibility is quite justifiably questioned. In this talk, I will not only argue that some approximation of human-like language processing is possible, I will present a program of R&D that is working on making it a reality. This vision, as well as progress to date, is described in the book Linguistics for the Age of AI (MIT Press, 2021).