Aida Ramezani

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Education

University of Toronto 2020 – November 2025
Ph.D. in Computer Science
Supervisor: Professor Yang Xu
Research Focus: Natural Language Processing, Morality, Computational Social Science, AI Ethics, Cultural Analytics

Sharif University of Technology 2016 – 2020
B.Sc. in Computer Engineering

Awards

Data Science Institute Fellowship, University of Toronto 2025

Cognitive Science Society Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award 2024, 2025

Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society Graduate Affiliation 2022 – 2025

Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society Graduate Fellowship 2021 – 2022

Recognition of Excellence Award, University of Toronto 2020

Publications

Ramezani, A., Stellar, J. E., Feinberg, M., & Xu, Y. (under review). Historical reconstruction of human moralization. *Nature Communications*.

Ramezani, A., & Xu, Y. (2025). The discordance between embedded ethics and cultural inference in large language models. In *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.

Zhu, W., Ramezani, A., & Xu, Y. (2025). Visual moral inference and communication. [**Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award**]. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Ramezani, A., Stellar, J. E., Feinberg, M., & Xu, Y. (2024). Evolution of the moral lexicon. *Open Mind*, 8, 1153–1169.

Ramezani, A., Liu, E., Lee, S. W. S., & Xu, Y. (2024). Quantifying the emergence of moral foundational lexicon in child language development. *PNAS Nexus*, 3(8).

Ramezani, A., & Xu, Y. (2024). Moral association graph: A cognitive model for automated

moral inference. [**Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award**]. *Topics in Cognitive Science*. (Shorter version appeared in *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*).

Ramezani, A., & Xu, Y. (2023). Knowledge of cultural moral norms in large language models. In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.

Ramezani, A., Liu, E., Ferreira Pinto Junior, R., Lee, S. W., & Xu, Y. (2022). The emergence of moral foundations in child language development. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Ramezani, A., Stellar, J. E., Feinberg, M., & Xu, Y. (2022). Evolution of moral semantics through metaphorization. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Ramezani, A., Zhu, Z., Rudzicz, F., & Xu, Y. (2021). An unsupervised framework for tracing textual sources of moral change. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2021*.

Work Experience

Cohere May 2025 – August 2025

Intern of Technical Staff, Machine Learning Engineering

Microsoft + Nuance Communications May 2023 – July 2023

Research and Development Intern, Natural Language Processing

Talks

Computational reconstruction of human moralization
NLP Reading Group, University of Melbourne, September 2025

Automatic reconstruction of human morality
Computational Cognitive Science Lab, UC Berkeley, April 2025

Visual moral inference and communication
Oral, CogSci 2025

AI and reconstruction of human morals through text
Poster, Mila Workshop on "NLP in the Era of Generative AI, Cognitive Sciences, and Societal Transformation," 2024

Moral association graph: A cognitive model for moral inference
Oral, CogSci 2024

The emergence of the moral foundational lexicon in child language development
Moral Language Workshop, Institut Jean Nicod, December 2023

Machine inference of moralization across timescales
Morality Lab, University of Toronto, November 2023

Moral norm variation in large language models
ARIA 2023, University of Toronto, November 2023

Knowledge of cultural moral norms in large language models
Poster, ACL 2023

The emergence of moral foundations in child language development
Oral, CogSci 2022

Evolution of moral semantics through metaphorization
Poster, CogSci 2022

Teaching

Computational social science, Lead TA, University of Toronto, Fall 2025

Neural networks and deep learning, Lead TA, University of Toronto, Fall 2024

Neural networks and deep learning, TA, University of Toronto, Winter 2024

Natural language computing, TA, University of Toronto, Winter 2023, Winter 2024

Computational linguistics, TA, University of Toronto, Fall 2023

Introduction to computer programming, TA, University of Toronto, Summer 2022

Computational models of semantic change, TA, University of Toronto, Winter 2022

Introduction to artificial intelligence, TA, University of Toronto, Winter 2021, Fall 2022

Foundations of computer science, TA, University of Toronto, Fall 2021

Mentorship and Volunteering

Fields Institute June 2025 – July 2025
Mentored three undergraduate students working on computational models of cross-cultural moral cognition.

Undergraduate Mentorship 2021 – present

- Mentoring a computer science undergraduate student on NLP for moral character inference (2025 – present).
- Mentored a computer science undergraduate student on moral semantic change (Summer 2022).
- Mentored a computer science undergraduate student on moral language development (Summer 2021).

Graduate Mentorship January 2024 – December 2024

Mentored a computer science master's student on vision-based moral inference.

CL Colloquium January 2024 – April 2024

Co-organized the Computational Linguistics speaker series.

PRISM January 2024 – March 2024

Provided research mentorship to a group of 5 undergraduate computer science students.

Science Rendezvous May 2023, May 2024

Co-organized youth outreach programs about AI safety and ethics.

Skills

Programming	Python, Java, C, Linux, LaTeX, Markdown
Machine Learning	PyTorch, Transformers, Hugging Face, NumPy, Pandas, SciPy, Statsmodels, Scikit-learn, PyG, JAX, RL4LM, Weights & Biases
Data Science	R, Data Visualization