Aida Ramezani

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Education

University of Toronto   2020 – 2025
Ph.D. in Computer Science
Supervisor: Professor Yang Xu
Thesis: Natural language inference of moral change

Sharif University of Technology   2016 – 2020
B.Sc. in Computer Engineering
GPA: 18.9/20

Awards

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

Journal Articles

Ramezani, A., Stellar, J. E., Feinberg, M., & Xu, Y. (in press). Historical reconstruction of human moralization with word association and text corpora. *Nature Communications*.

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. *Topics in Cognitive Science*. [**Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award**]

Conference Papers

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. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.* [**Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award**]

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

PRESENTATIONS

The discordance between embedded ethics and cultural inference in large language models.
Poster, EMNLP 2025

The discordance between embedded ethics and cultural inference in large language models.
Lightning talk, Schwartz Reisman Institute, October 2025

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," October 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 Experience

Head Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto

Computational Social Science	Fall 2025
Neural Networks and Deep Learning	Fall 2024
Computational Models of Semantic Change	Winter 2022

Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto

Neural Networks and Deep Learning	Winter 2024, Winter 2025
Natural Language Computing	Winter 2023, Winter 2024
Computational Linguistics	Fall 2023
Introduction to Computer Programming	Summer 2022
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Winter 2021, Fall 2022
Foundations of Computer Science	Fall 2021

Mentorship and Volunteering

Fields Institute   June 2025 – present
Mentored two 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 (2022).
- Mentored a computer science undergraduate student on moral language development (2021).

Graduate Mentorship   January 2024 – December 2024

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

EMNLP Volunteering   November 2025

Volunteered at EMNLP 2025 in Suzhou, China to help with conference organization, assist registration, support session chairs and speakers, help with poster session, and provide general assistance to conference attendees.

CS Academy   March 2025

Volunteered as a graduate mentor, and developed a research project for high school students on applications of AI in nutrition and food recommendation. Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto.

CL Colloquium   January 2024 – April 2024

Co-organized the Computational Linguistics speaker series at the University of Toronto.

PRISM   January 2024 – March 2024

Provided research mentorship to a group of 5 undergraduate computer science students at the University of Toronto.

Science Rendezvous   May 2023, May 2024

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

Technical Skills

Machine Learning	PyTorch, Transformers, JAX, PyG, Lightning, NetworkX, scikit-learn
Data Analysis	NumPy, Pandas, SciPy, statsmodels
Natural Language Processing	spaCy, NLTK
Deployment & Infrastructure	Kubernetes, GCP, Slurm
Experiment Tracking	Weights & Biases
Programming & Tools	Python, R, Java, C++, Bash, Linux, Git, LaTeX