Dane Malenfant

Email: dane.malenfant@mila.quebec

Education

McGill University 2025
MSc., Computer Science

McGill University May 2022
B.A., Computer Science with minors in Psychology and Computer Science

University of Regina May 2018
Certificate, French as a Second Language

Referred Works

Conference

1. Sun, C., Yang, W., Jiralerspong, T., **Malenfant, D**., Alsbury-Nealy, B., Bengio, Y., & Richards, B. A. (2023). Contrastive Retrospection: honing in on critical steps for rapid learning and generalization in RL. Thirty-Seventh Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems.

Workshop

1. **Malenfant, D**., & Richards, B. (2025). The challenge of hidden gifts in multi-agent reinforcement learning. The 18th European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning. September 19, 2025.

2. Meehan, M., **Malenfant, D**., & Piper, A. (2022). Causality Mining in Fiction. In Proceedings of Text2Story - Fifth Workshop on Narrative Extraction From Texts held in conjunction with the 44th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2022). April 10, 2022 (Vol. 3117, pp. 25–34).

3. Epstein, I., **Malenfant, D**., Parker, S., Wardrop, C. (2024). Inconsistencies in Artificial Intelligence Strategy Alignment of NATO Member States. 2024 Harms and Risks of AI in the Military. December 2, 2024

Selected Awards

- **$250** Best Poster Award at HBHL Symposium May 2025

- **$1243** ISCEI Travel award February 2025

- **$300** Best Poster Award at Montréal AI and Neuroscience Conference October 2024

- **$32000** NSERC CGSM September 2024

- **$12500** Rathlyn Fellowship December 2023

Presentations

Poster

1. **Malenfant, D**., & Richards, B. (2025). The challenge of hidden gifts in multi-agent reinforcement learning. The 18th European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning. Tuebingen, Germany, September 19, 2025.

2. **Malenfant, D**., Richards, B. (2024). Reciprocity in Spite of Inconsistent Time Preferences. Healthy Brains, Healthy Lives Symposium. Montréal, Québec, October 22, 2024.

3. **Malenfant, D**., Richards, B. (2024). Reciprocity in Spite of Immediate and Sparse Rewards. Seventh Montréal Artificial Intelligence and Neuroscience Conference. Montréal, Québec, October 22, 2024.

4. Epstein, I., **Malenfant, D**., Parker, S., Wardrop, C. (2024). Inconsistencies in Artificial Intelligence Strategy Alignment of NATO Member States. 2024 Harms and Risks of AI in the Military. December 2, 2024

Selected Invited Talks

Taiwanese-Canadian Frontiers of Science. CIFAR (2025, October 26)

Robust AI Training and Sustainability. MuTEK Forum (2025, August 20)

Indigenous in AI/ML. Neurips. (2024, December 12)

Lightning Talk Montréal AI and Neuroscience Conference (2024, October 22)

Skills

Programming Languages: C/C++, Python, Java, R, Matlab, SQL, Neo4j, Bash, Git, x86, Rmarkdown, HTML, Ocaml (functional programming), LaTex

Frameworks: Pytorch, Tensorflow, Numpy, Slurm, WandB, Matplotlib

Natural Languages: English (**Native**), French (**B2** DELF attesté), Michif

Academic Service

Supervision

Emergent Pro-Social Behavior in RL Agents Through Indigenous Culture   2024 - 2025
Undergraduate Student Project

Reviewer

Foundation Models for the Brain and Body Workshop   August 2025

Second Workshop on Aligning Reinforcement Learning Experimentalists and Theorists   August 2025

The European Workshop for Reinforcement Learning   June 2025

Committee Roles

Mila AI Pathfinders Advisory Board Member   March 2024 - Present

Mila EDI Committee Member   October 2022 - March 2024

Professional Experience
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AI 4 Humanity, Mila   Montréal, QC
Indigenous Projects Consultant   November 2023 - April 2024

Indigenous AI Consultant   May 2023 - August 2023

Software Engineer Consultant   June 2023 - August 2023

LiNC Lab, Mila - Québec AI Institute + The Neuro   Montréal, QC
Research Assistant   August 2022 - August 2023

Research Intern   July 2022 - August 2022

Branches, Enrollment Services, McGill University   Montréal, QC
Interim Program Coordinator Manager   October 2022 - April 2023

Assistant Program Coordinator   August 2022 - August 2023

RBC   Remote, Canada
Cybersecurity Analyst   May 2021 - August 2021

Selected Media
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Interviews

Félix Poncelet-Marsan. *Dane Malenfant poursuit son engagement dans le milieu de l'IA au MUTEK Forum*. Lien Multimédia (2025, July 22) https://lienmultimedia.com/spip.php?article107684

Allison Cohen. *Dane Malenfant: Embedding the Indigenous Value of Reciprocity into AI Systems*.
 The World We Are Building Podcast (2024, November 4)
https://open.spotify.com/episode/0Wuvh4xdqjfWgHWhnyBsQg?si=J43bLLaLTd24WhbPU5b1FA

Sarah Lebeau. *Recognizing the healing power of research*. (2024, May 30). McGill University Advancement. https://giving.mcgill.ca/all-stories/recognizing-healing-power-research

Shawn Spruce. *Native America Calling: Safeguards on Artificial Intelligence*. (2024, April 23). https://indianz.com/News/2024/04/23/native-america-calling-safeguards-on-artificial-intelligence

Affiliations

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)   October 2022 - Present

Métis Nation — Saskatchewan (MNS)   August 2019 - Present

Extracurricular and Volunteerism

AISES McGill
Advisor to the Club President   September 1st, 2024 - Present

Mila
Neurips Virtual Screening Volunteer   December 13, 2023

McGill NeuroTech
Machine Learning Co-Lead   May 2022 - January 2023

Machine Learning Member   November 2021 - May 2022

Encode Justice Canada
Hackathon Judge   September 30, 2022

Outreach Coordinator   May 2022 - January 2023

Content Writer   October 2021 - April 2022

Translators Without Borders
Freelance Translator   July 2021 - Present