

Aleksandr Chakroff

Research | Ethics | Cognitive Science | Experimental Psychology

alekchakroff@gmail.com | +1-617-955-7699 | [linkedin/alekchakroff](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alekchakroff)

Mission-driven researcher. Goal is to use insights from behavioral science & psychology to reduce harm and increase flourishing in the face of emerging online threats, and technology that is ahead of the curve.

Professional Experience

AI Objectives

Institute

2023 – 2024

Research Scientist, [AOI](#)

- Researched ways to represent human moral values in AI systems
- Helped create a tool that automatically rewrites news headlines to be more accurate, less inflammatory, and less like “click bait”

Google

2018 – 2023

Researcher, [Jigsaw](#)

- Foundational research to understand why misinformation is shared - and how to reduce engagement with it.
- Studied “Accuracy nudges” as interventions to reduce spread of misinformation.
- Initiated partnerships with external academic researchers.
- Maintained relationships with XPA teams, such as Search Trust & Safety.

Quantitative UX Researcher, Google Search

- Consulted across teams within Search
- Regularly queried search logs with billions of data points
- Developed metrics to understand user journeys using Search for information needs
- Designed and executed studies to understand user sentiments towards design
- 20% project ethics consulting for [AI for Social Good](#)
- Foundational research with Civic Services team based on surveys and Search logs

Charlie Finance

2016 – 2018

Software Engineer

- Designed and built personal finance chatbot for SMS & Facebook Messenger
- Startup first hire: As a generalist, worked as SWE, PM, Analyst. . .
- Delivered user-facing actionable insights to help people make better financial decisions
- [hicharlie.com](#) (acquired by [Chime](#))

Boston College

2015 – 2016

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

- Launched crowdsourced behavioral experiments using Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Published findings in top scientific journals and popular media

Harvard

2010 – 2015

Graduate Research Fellow

- Developed a novel analysis to pull fMRI data into a lower dimensional space, and assigned value to positions within that space based on reliability of representations across people. Analyses depended on PCA, Cronbach’s α , and multiple linear regressions, using permutation analyses for nonparametric significance testing.

Education

Harvard University
2010 – 2015

PhD, Cognitive Neuroscience
Dissertation: [*Discovering Structure in the Moral Domain*](#)

Hampshire College
2002 – 2006

BA, Cognitive Science

Selected Publications

- Leshinskaya, A. & Chakroff, A. (2023). Value as Semantics: Representations of Human Moral and Hedonic Value in Large Language Models. *37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023)*
- Yudkin, D.A., . . . Chakroff, A., Crockett, M. (2022). Prosocial correlates of transformative experiences at secular multi-day mass gatherings. *Nature Communications*, 13(2600).
- Chakroff, A., Russell, P.S., Piazza, J., Young, L. (2016). From impure to harmful: Asymmetric expectations about immoral agents. *JESP*
- Chakroff, A., Dungan, J., Koster-Hale, J., Brown, A., Saxe, R., Young, L. (2015). When minds matter for moral judgment: intent information is neurally encoded for harmful but not impure acts. *Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience*
- Chakroff, A., Young, L. (2015). How the Mind Matters for Morality. *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience*, 6(3), 41-46.
- Chakroff, A., Young, L. (2015). Harmful situations, impure people: an attribution asymmetry across moral domains. *Cognition*, 136, 30-37.
- Chakroff, A., Thomas, K.A., Haque, O.S., Young, L. (2015). An indecent proposal: the dual functions of indirect speech. *Cognitive Science*, 1-14.
- Chakroff, A., Young, L. (2014). The prosocial brain: perceiving others in need, and acting on it. In L. Padilla-Walker, G. Carlo (eds.), *The Complexities of Raising Prosocial Children: An Examination of the Multidimensionality of Prosocial Behaviors*. Oxford University Press.

Popular Articles

- [Chakroff, A., Stimatze, J. \(2023\). Lucid Lens surfaces the content beneath the headline. *AIObjectives.org*.](#)
- [Chakroff, A., Cole, R. \(2022\). Through the magnifying glass: how technology could help users identify fake images online. *Medium*.](#)
- [Chakroff, A., Young, L. \(2012\). Todd Akin Shows us how Morality Distorts Reality. *Psychology Today*.](#)