

Aleksandr Chakroff

Research | Ethics | Cognitive Science | Experimental Psychology

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Mission-driven researcher with the goal of connecting cutting edge academic insights to real-world applications.. Uses 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. Presently interested in development of safe, responsible, and value aligned AI.

Professional Experience

AI Objectives

Institute

2023 – 2024

Researcher (Contract), [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

- Doell, K., ... Chakroff, A., ... Van Bavel, J. (accepted). The International Climate Psychology Collaboration: Climate change-related data collected from 63 countries. *Nature* xx(xxxx)
- 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*.](#)