Christian T. Nielsen Garcia

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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Computer Supported Cooperative Work, Computational Social Science, Human Computer Interaction, Intelligent Decision Support Systems

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EDUCATION

09/2023-Present

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), *Los Angeles, CA*
PhD Student in Information Studies
- Dissertation: *TBD*
- Key words: Automation, Decentralized Governance, CSCW, Intelligent Decision Support Systems, Collective Intelligence

08/2021-09/2023

University of Copenhagen (KU), *Copenhagen, Denmark*
MSc. in Social Data Science
- Thesis:
  The crisis of participatory DAOmocracy – Contradictory Mythologies of Cybernetics and Decentralization in Crypto Communities
- Key words: Decentralized eGovernance, Network Science, Natural Language Processing

08/2017-12/2020

Cornell University, *Ithaca, NY*
BA in Performing and Media Arts (Emphasis: Digital Media Studies)
- *Magna Cum Laude*,
- Minors: Anthropology, Comparative Literature
- Mellon Mayes Undergraduate Fellow

HONORS & AWARDS

Grants and Fellowships

2025-2026

Center for Digital Assets Research Award, *UC Berkeley (Center for Digital Assets)*
- Awarded competitive research funding for work at the intersection of AI, blockchain governance, and political theory
- Funding supports empirical analysis and design research on decentralized decision-making systems
- Project expands earlier metric work by integrating voting and discussion data into agent-based governance simulations

2024-2025

AI & Decentralization Innovation Award, *Berkeley RDI (Center for Responsible Decentralized Intelligence)*
- Awarded competitive research funding for work at the intersection of AI, blockchain governance, and political theory
- Funding supports empirical analysis and design research on decentralized decision-making systems
- Project: *Steering Disagreement in DAOs — Mapping Consensus and Disagreement in Voting Systems*

2025 -

GSE Predoctoral Research Grant, *Soc. Sci. Research Council – Mellon Mays*
- Awarded competitive funding through the SSRC - Mellon Graduate Initiatives Program for doctoral research
- Grant funds allocated to support preliminary research and essential project activities
- **Project**:
  Critical-Mechanical Fabulation: Can Convolutional Neural Nets (CNNs) help us recover historical artefacts lost to colonialism?

	2022-2023	**Educational and Professional Fund,** *University of Copenhagen*
		• Awarded selective research grant for to conduct independent research
		• Award to be used to fund research project grounded on participatory research with users in gated online communities
	2018 - 2020	**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship**, *Cornell University*
		• Fellow in selective national research program
		• Exposure to advanced scholarly work, independent research project, faculty mentorship, peer-review, academic training workshops, conferences, and research funding
		• Additional Grants: Research Stipend (2018, 2019, 2020), UChicago SRTP 2020, UCLA WRTP 2019

Achievements and Recognition	F_2022	**Certificate Of Achievement,** *Center for AI and Digital Policy*
	F_2019, F_2020	**Dean's List**, *Cornell University*
	F_2020	**Marvin Carlson Award (Honorable Mention)**, *Cornell University*
		Essay Title: Gilding Motherhood: The Socio-Economic Restrictions Underlying 'Mildred Pierce'

<u>RESEARCH EXPERIENCE</u> *Academic Research*	08/2022-Present	**Graduate Student Researcher**, *Los Angeles Data Justice Hub*
		• Supervisor: Dr. Munia Bhaumik
		• Subject: Informatics & Data Justice
	07/2022-11/2022	**Co-Curricular Research Project**, *The University of Copenhagen*
		• Advisor: Professor Hjalmar Bang-Carlsen
		• Title: *Topology And Typology In Decentralized Retweet Networks: Exploring The Reproduction Of Blockchain Mythologies In Twitter's Crypto-Communes*
	07/2022 - 12/2022	**Independent Research Project**, *The University of Copenhagen*
		• REVISED Undergraduate Honors Thesis
		• Title: *Picturing 'Parallel Communities' : Using Computational Ethnography and Networks to visualize Rancierian political philosophy in the digital aesthetics of Denmark's 'Immigrant Ghettoes'*
		• Methods: Netnography, Film Analysis & New Media Cultural Semiotics, Visual Network Analysis, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision
		• Theory: Rancierian Political Aesthetics and Alterity, Barthesian Semiotics and Mythology
	05/2020 - 08/2020	**The University of Chicago**, *Chicago, IL* Summer Research and Writing Program (SRTP)
		• Awarded grant to attend residential research and writing program
		• Instructed in persuasive academic writing and socio-cultural theory
	06/2019 - 08/2019	**The University of California, Los Angeles**, *Los Angeles, CA* Writing & Research Training Program (SRTP)
		• Awarded grant to attend residential research training program
		• Instructed in the applications, uses and limitations of digital research tools

	01/2018 - 01/2020	**MMUF Thesis & Undergraduate Honors Thesis**, *Cornell University* Advisors: Professor Magnus Fiskesjö and Professor Sabine Haenni • Title: *Picturing 'Parallel Communities' - Using Rancière to examine myths of* • *difference and belonging in the digital aesthetics of Denmark's 'Immigrant Ghettoes'* • Methods: Netnography, Qualitative Media Analysis, Film Analysis, New Media Analysis, Political Theory, Critical Theory, Platform Theory
Private Industry Research	07/2022- 01/2023	**Flipside Governance**, *Decentralized (medium.com/flipside-governance)* *Decentralized Blockchain Governance Research Journal* *Research Journalist*
	01/2022 - 08/2022	**The Center for AI and Digital Policy**, *(Remote) Washington, D.C.* *Independent research organization on US AI & Digital policies and practices* *Member of Research Group Spring 2022 (Contributor: AIDVI 2023)*
	05/2017 - 08/2017	**Delibera – by ICXCI**, *Madrid, Spain*. *Digital platform to structure conversations and promote deliberation* *Translation, Data Collection, Data Processing*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Research Articles

	S_2025	**Position: Benchmarking is Broken-Don't Let AI Be Its Own Judge** • Accepted in NeurIPS 2025 • Preprint: [LINK] • Co-Authors: Cheng, Z., Wohnig, S., Gupta, R., Alam, S., Abdullahi, T., Ribeiro, J.A., Mir, S., Li, S., Orender, J. and Bahrainian, S.A. • Justifies need, and proposes preliminary architecture designs, for a decentralized AI evaluation framework - addressing vulnerabilities in current benchmarks to restore integrity and ensure trustworthy measures of AI progress.

Public Facing Works

	S_2024	**LA Data Justice Hub** • Webpage	Data Hub (Includes: Repository, Tutorials, Data Analyses) • Published in UCLA CEC Website • Role: Research and Co-Authorship Principal Investigator, Founder, Author: Dr. M. Bhaumik [**Link**]
	S_2023	**Meditations of Computational Discourse Analysis for DAOs: We read 59,000 DAO forum posts, so you don't have to…**, • Article • Published in Flipside Governance Editor: Raphael Spannocchi [**Link**]
	S_2023	**Luxembourg AI Country Report**, • Policy Report • Forthcoming in: Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index – Center for AI and Digital Policy. • Co-author: Conciacig, C. (Accepted: AIDVI 2023) [**Link**]

<u>CONFERENCES</u> *Founder*	10/2023	**Graduate Conference Social Data Science,** *University of Copenhagen* • Founder, Director, and Moderator for inaugural conference • Researchers from The University of Copenhagen, Oxford University, London School of Economics, Lund University, and UCLA.
Panelist	08/2020	**SRTP Research Symposium,** *University of Chicago (REMOTE)* • Panel Name: *Media & Globalization: Transnational and Diasporic Perspectives* • Presentation Title: *Picturing 'Parallel Communities': Myths of difference and belonging in the digital aesthetics of Denmark's 'Immigrant Ghettoes'*
	08/2019	**WRTP Research Symposium,** *University of California, Los Angeles* • Panel Name: *Data & Media Studies* Presentation Title: *Digital Mythologies and Xenophobia in Denmark: Using Roland Barthes to examine the political aesthetics of Denmark´s Digital Ghettos*
Attendee	11/2019	**Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference,** *Swarthmore College*
	03/2018	**Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference,** *University of Pennsylvania*
Posters	F_2022	**Talking Governance: Epistemic Network Analysis and Discursive Governance in Decentralized Blockchain Organizations** Presented at the 2022 International Conference on Quantitative Ethnography (ICQE) Nielsen Garcia 2022.
<u>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</u>	F_2025	**Guest Lecture,** *UCLA* *Course Name: Digital Humanities (DGT HUM) M121 - Race, Gender, and Data* *Responsibilities: Introduce students to Data Analysis for Social Research, write and guide students through python tutorial to introduce APIs, data cleaning, analysis and data viz.*
	W_2024	**Guest Lecture,** *UCLA* *Course Name: Data, Justice, and Society (Freshman Cluster)* *Responsibilities: Introduce Students to Data Analysis for Social Research. Guide students through intro to Tableau and review development and critique of "Digital Divide" Research.*
	F_2024	**Guest Lecture,** *UCLA* *Course Name: Digital Humanities (DGT HUM) M121 - Race, Gender, and Data* *Responsibilities: Introduce students to Data Analysis for Social Research, write and guide students through python tutorial to introduce APIs, data cleaning, analysis and data viz.*
	F_2022	**Graduate Teaching Assistant,** *University of Copenhagen* *Course Name: Social Data Analysis* *Responsibilities: Lead Discussion Section (6hrs/week), Provide Feedback on Assignments*
	S_2023	**Graduate Teaching Assistant,** *University of Copenhagen* *Course Name: Advanced Social Data Science II* *Responsibilities: Lead Discussion Section (6hrs/week), Prepare Problem Set Solutions, Provide Feedback on Problem Sets*

<u>CREATIVE WORKS</u>	12/2020	**Filmmaker (Director of Video Essay):** **Title: *Crosswinds: Catalogues of Covid***

(Virtual) Screening: *Off-Camps/On-Screen: Cornell Life in the Time of COVID-19*
- Proposed, filmed, and edited documentary as part of Documentary Film course led by Professor Jefferey Palmer
- Used ethnographic interviews to examine:
  - How the disruptive properties of a global pandemic affect the material and labor conditions of university students

Logline: Recent graduates contend with the risk of fulfilling their passions amidst an uncertain future in 2020

<u>SERVICE</u>	07/2022	**UCLA MMUF Writing & Research Training Program Alumni Colloquium** *The University of California, Los Angeles (Virtual)*
	10/2021 – 12/2022	**Vice-Chair**, Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science *The University of Copenhagen*
	05/2018 – 08/2018	**Fundación Gomaespuma NGO,** *Matale & Batticaloa, Sri Lanka* Leading Performance Ethnography Workshop for Tamil-Sinhalese Dialogue
	01/2017 – 05/2017	**Kensal Library**, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea *London, United Kingdom*

<u>LINGUISTIC AND TECHNICAL SKILLS</u>

Written and Spoken Languages
- Native fluency in English and Spanish
- Advanced Fluency in Danish
- Intermediate Fluency in Portuguese
- Reading knowledge and basic speech in Catalan and Swedish

Programming Languages
- Fluent in Python, SQL, Git
- Familiarity with R, C, C++ (SL), HTML, CSS, Go

Design and Editing Software
- Sound Design
  ProTools (Avid), Audition (Adobe)
- Film and Video:
  Premiere Pro

Data Analysis Software and Skills
Collection and Cleaning
- API Design
- Large Scale Data Mining & Scraping
- Processing

Social Network Analysis
- Gephi
- NetworkX
- Neo4j

Data Analysis
- ML, DL
  (Regression Analysis, NLP, Computer Vision, Neural Nets, etc.)
- Tableau (Data Analysis, Representation)
- NetLogo (Agent-Based Modelling)