

Deniz Nazar (Nazarova)

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Research Interests

AI Safety, Security & Reliability, LLM Red Teaming, Abstention, Human-Centered NLP, Proactive Learning

Education

University of Washington PhD in Computer Science <i>Advisors: Yulia Tsvetkov, Tim Althoff</i>	Sept 2024–present GPA: 3.84/4.0.
American University of Central Asia Bachelor's Degrees in Software Engineering and Psychology, <i>summa cum laude</i> <i>Advisors: Almaz Bakenov, Elena Kosterina (AUCA); Dimitri Kanevsky, Artem Dementyev, (Google Research)</i> Theses: Application of Artificial Intelligence in Mental Healthcare: GPT-3 and Cognitive Distortions.	2018–2023 GPA: 3.91/4.0.

Work Experience

Data Engineer <i>UN Women, Europe and Central Asia</i>	May–Oct 2024
Designed and deployed a web scraping and data processing pipeline for femicide cases from news sources.	
Data Engineer <i>EPAM Systems</i>	Jan–Jul 2024
Engineered high-throughput data pipelines using Kafka producers/consumers and Spark (SQL, DataFrames), with scalable storage and querying via Azure Blob Storage and Azure SQL Database.	
Machine Learning Engineer <i>EIWA AI Doula</i>	Sep 2023–Sep 2024
Post-trained an LLM agent for pregnancy guidance and integrated knowledge graphs to support decision-making in postpartum mental health (top-5 at the Glovo KG Startup Competition (out of 250+)).	
Machine Learning Engineer <i>USAID WSpark</i>	May 2023–Dec 2023
Developed Kyrgyz-language NLP systems, contributed to public datasets, and optimized production backends.	
Summer ML Intern <i>Neuromatch</i>	2021, 2024
(2024) Evaluated Hebbian and SoftHebbian learning as biologically plausible alternatives to backpropagation. (2021) fMRI neural classifier distinguishing language vs. math tasks (93%; Best Internship Award, AUCA).	

Publications

- Nazar, D., [...], Althoff, T., Tsvetkov, Y. (2026). It's What's Not in The Prompt: LLM Risk Assessment Framework in Mental Health Conversations under Uncertainty. *In preparation*.
- Karamolegkou, A., [...], **Nazarova, D.**, [...], Dementieva, D. (2025). NLP for social good: A survey of challenges, opportunities, and responsible deployment. Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the 19th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL 2025)*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.22327>
- Nazarova, D.** (2023). Application of Artificial Intelligence in Mental Healthcare: Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3 (GPT-3) and Cognitive Distortions. In: Arai, K. (eds) *Proceedings of the Future Technologies Conference (FTC) 2023, Volume 1* (FTC 2023, Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, vol. 813). Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-47454-5_16

Selected Honors & Awards

- (2024) **First-Year Ph.D. Fellowship**, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering
(2023) **Best Thesis Award**, American University of Central Asia
(2018) **Golden Certificate Scholarship, President of the Kyrgyz Republic**, ranked 3rd nationwide.