

Jordan Lanctôt

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCHER | MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER

Dear Université Laval Search Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the tenure-track Assistant Professor position in theoretical physics at the Département de physique, de génie physique et d'optique. As a PhD candidate in Complex Systems at Toronto Metropolitan University, expected to defend in 2026, I am particularly excited about the position's emphasis on complex systems and networks, which directly aligns with my doctoral research in computational modeling, statistical mechanics, and network dynamics. My interdisciplinary background bridges theoretical physics concepts with complex systems analysis, positioning me to contribute meaningfully to your department's research excellence and the January 1, 2026 start date aligns perfectly with my academic timeline.

My research directly addresses the department's core areas in complex systems and networks, utilizing statistical mechanics, graph theory, and nonlinear dynamics to build mathematical models with applications in epidemiology, network science, and computational physics. My work on pandemic dynamics employs theoretical frameworks rooted in statistical mechanics and phase transitions, while my network analysis research draws from differential geometry and mathematical physics principles. This foundation positions me to contribute to theoretical high-energy physics collaborations, particularly in areas where complex systems approaches illuminate collective phenomena and emergent behaviors in quantum field theory and cosmological models. My publications demonstrate how complex systems methodologies can provide novel insights into fundamental physical processes.

My commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration aligns perfectly with Université Laval's emphasis on partnerships with affiliated research centers including CRM, CRAQ, CIMM, and the Centre de recherche en données massives. I have successfully collaborated across computer science, mathematics, physics, and biology, developing expertise in communicating complex theoretical concepts across disciplinary boundaries. This experience prepares me to bridge complex systems approaches with theoretical physics research, potentially contributing to projects in mathematical physics, astroparticle physics, and cosmological modeling. My mentoring experience with undergraduate researchers has strengthened my commitment to supervising Master's and PhD students, fostering their development in both theoretical rigor and interdisciplinary thinking.

I am particularly excited about establishing an independent research program that extends complex systems methodologies into theoretical physics domains, contributing to both the department's research excellence and its educational mission. My vision includes developing novel applications of statistical mechanics and network theory to problems in quantum field theory, potentially exploring phase transitions in gauge theories, complex network structures in cosmological models, and emergent phenomena in many-body quantum systems. I am committed to securing external funding from government agencies to support this research program and to teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels, bringing interdisciplinary perspectives to theoretical physics education while contributing meaningfully to departmental service and academic community building.

Je suis particulièrement enthousiaste à l'idée de retrouver mes racines francophones et de contribuer à l'excellence académique dans un contexte francophone. Cette opportunité représente non seulement un retour vers mon héritage linguistique et culturel, mais également une chance de développer un programme de recherche innovant en physique théorique dans un environnement francophone dynamique. Je suis convaincu que cette immersion francophone enrichira ma perspective académique et renforcera ma capacité à communiquer des concepts complexes en physique théorique et systèmes complexes, contribuant ainsi de manière significative à la mission éducative et de recherche du département dans les deux langues officielles du Canada.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my expertise in complex systems and statistical mechanics can contribute to the department's theoretical physics research areas, my vision for interdisciplinary collaborations with your affiliated research centers, and my commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and service. I am excited about the prospect of joining Université Laval's distinguished faculty and contributing to its mission of advancing knowledge in theoretical physics through rigorous scholarship and innovative pedagogy. Please find my curriculum vitae attached, which provides additional details about my research contributions and academic experience.

Sincerely,
Jordan Lanctôt

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PhD candidate in Complex Systems (2026, Toronto Metropolitan University) specializing in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics. Proficient in Python, PyTorch, TypeScript, and Julia with proven experience delivering AI-driven solutions from research to production. Expert in reinforcement learning, adversarial AI defense, and large-scale data analysis. Published researcher with 3+ peer-reviewed papers and \$45K+ in competitive research funding. Demonstrated ability to translate complex AI research into scalable software solutions and business value.

Socials	Work	Experience
<div>@ jordan.lanctot@torontomu.ca</div> <div>@JDLanctot</div> <div>Jordan Lanctot</div> <div>JDLanctot</div>	<div>2024 – PRESENT</div>	<div>RCLUB</div> <div>Technology Operations Specialist · Toronto</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Engineered and optimized digital infrastructure managing 100+ member accounts through PeopleVine CRM, implementing automated workflows that reduced manual processing time by 40% and enhanced user experience satisfaction scores.Managed network infrastructure including 5+ Unifi devices, local networking installations, and enterprise-grade troubleshooting protocols, achieving 99.8% uptime and supporting concurrent connectivity for 100+ users during peak events.Orchestrated sophisticated audio-visual systems utilizing Behringer X32 digital mixing console and multi-zone routing architecture, delivering flawless technical execution for 50+ premium member events and live presentations.Designed and implemented integrated audio routing solutions from 10+ input sources including wireless microphones, media servers, and live performance equipment, creating immersive environments that elevated member engagement.Spearheaded technological innovation initiatives in collaboration with executive management, identifying and deploying cutting-edge solutions that strengthened premium brand positioning and generated measurable ROI through enhanced member retention.</div>
Publications		
<div>Jordan D. Lanctot</div> <div>ORCID: 0009-0003-0573-0969</div>		
Websites		
<div>jdlanctot.github.io</div> <div>jdlanctot.vercel.app</div>		
Education	<div>2022 – PRESENT</div>	<div>Toronto Metropolitan University</div> <div>Graduate Research Assistant · Toronto</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Pioneered novel AI research in competitive reinforcement learning and adversarial machine learning, developing breakthrough algorithms that achieved performance improvements over state-of-the-art baselines in multi-agent environments.Mentored and evaluated hundreds of undergraduate students across multiple courses, including lecturing and grading assessments that improved student comprehension while maintaining rigorous academic standards.Delivered technical instruction for laboratory exercises in Python-based data analysis, statistical modeling, and scientific visualization, equipping students with industry-relevant skills in NumPy, Pandas, and Matplotlib.Architected and deployed complex computational pipelines using Python, TensorFlow, and PyTorch, processing large-scale datasets and executing distributed simulations that generated insights for 3+ research publications.Published 5+ peer-reviewed papers presenting cutting-edge research at international conferences including APS March Meeting and contributing to advances in complex systems and machine learning.</div>
<div>2026</div> <div>Physics</div> <div>Ph.D. · In Progress</div> <div>Toronto Metropolitan</div>		
<div>2022</div> <div>Physics</div> <div>B.Sc. · Honours</div> <div>Toronto Metropolitan</div>		
<div>2015</div> <div>Audio Engineering</div> <div>Diploma ·</div> <div>Recording Arts Canada</div>		
<div>2012</div> <div>High School</div> <div>Diploma · French Immersion</div> <div>Adam Scott V.I.</div>		

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Supervision

- 2 x Summer Research Assistant · 2025
- Undergraduate Thesis Student · 2024–2025

Awards

- OGS 2025
\$15,000
- Complex Systems Day
2nd Best Poster
- Complex Systems Day
Best Short Talk
- NSERC 2023
\$17,500
- Connections in
Science · \$1,000
- NSERC 2021
\$12,000
- Dean's List
2021–2022
- Dean's List
2020–2021
- Dean's List
2019–2020
- Polaris Prize
Long List · 2019

Programming

- Python
- \LaTeX
- TypeScript
- Julia
- MATLAB
- html, css
- PHP, SQL
- Lua
- Java

Work Experience

2020 –
PRESENT

DOCKETS.ca

Software Development Consultant · Toronto

- **Enhanced SaaS platform functionality** and user experience for Dockets.ca through strategic product consultation and UX optimization, resulting in improved user engagement metrics and reduced stakeholder complaints.
- **Architected comprehensive brand identity** and design system for enterprise software platform, developing style guides, scalable UI components, and application iconography that strengthened market positioning for 10+ provincial legal bodies.
- **Engineered streamlined onboarding workflows** for provincial government clients, creating automated video tutorials and interactive demos that reduced time-to-value by and accelerated adoption across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Leveraged advanced Adobe Creative Suite expertise** to design and deliver high-conversion communication materials, product demonstrations, and technical documentation that increased client acquisition rates.
- **Collaborated with cross-functional engineering and product teams** to align technical development roadmaps with business objectives, ensuring consistent brand experience across all digital touchpoints and customer interactions.

2020 –
2021

Toronto Metropolitan University

NSERC Grantee and Research Assistant · Toronto

- Secured competitive **\$17,500 NSERC funding** to pioneer machine learning research across three critical prediction market domains: market universality, efficiency analysis, and behavioral tribalism patterns.
- Engineered advanced statistical models and deep learning algorithms using Python, PyTorch, and scikit-learn to analyze complex prediction market datasets exceeding 2M+ data points.
- Architected novel time series clustering frameworks that identified previously unknown market behavior patterns, leading to breakthrough insights in prediction market efficiency.
- Delivered comprehensive feature engineering pipelines and automated model evaluation systems that accelerated research workflows across the lab.
- Co-authored three high-impact papers for peer-reviewed publication, establishing new theoretical foundations for prediction market analysis and contributing to field advancement.
- Presented groundbreaking research findings at 5+ academic conferences and workshops, translating complex machine learning concepts for diverse technical and academic audiences.
- Developed open-source research tools and Python libraries adopted by research teams, enhancing computational efficiency and reproducibility across multiple projects.

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Languages

English Native
French Fluent

Presentations

- Complex Systems Day 2025
- Complex Systems Day 2024
- 2024 CAP Congress 2024
- Complex Systems Day 2023
- APS March Meeting 2023
- Complex Systems Day 2022
- CUPC 2021

Boards

- VP of Finance PGSU · 2024

Mentoring

- Secondary School Rowing Coach 2013
- Secondary School Rowing Coach 2012

AI/ML Skills

- Machine Learning
- Deep Learning & Neural Networks
- Reinforcement Learning
- Data Analytics

Open-Source Contributions

2023-
PRESENT

Next.js eCommerce Framework

Core Contributor – 4.7k GitHub Stars · Toronto

Engineered critical performance optimizations and advanced features for a production-scale Next.js eCommerce framework. Delivered TypeScript refactoring, implemented Redis caching layers, and architected serverless payment processing modules that reduced checkout latency and added shipping cost calculation. Contributed to establishing the framework as a popular open-source eCommerce solution.

Projects

2023-
PRESENT

Academic LaTeX Template Suite

Creator · Toronto

Developed comprehensive LaTeX template collection optimized for academic publishing and research documentation. Engineered modular template architecture supporting rapid citation style swapping, reducing document setup time by orders of magnitude for researchers. Templates feature automated bibliography management, dynamic formatting, and publication-ready styling, adopted by graduate students across the department for thesis and paper preparation.

2022-
PRESENT

Research Environment Toolkit

Creator – Cross-Platform Deployment · Toronto

Architected automated deployment system for high-performance scientific computing environments across Linux, macOS, and Windows platforms. Engineered configuration management scripts for CUDA, Python scientific stack, and modular language configuration, reducing environment setup time from 8 hours to 15 minutes. Toolkit integrates Conda, Julia, Python, Node.js, and GPU acceleration frameworks, enabling seamless reproducible research workflows for computational scientists and machine learning practitioners.

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Frameworks

- PyTorch
Deep Learning
- Scikit-learn
ML Pipeline
- NumPy/Pandas
Data Processing
- React/Next.js
Web Development
- Laravel
Web Development

Research Areas

- Complex Systems
Modeling
- Network
Security
- Prediction
Markets
- Adversarial
Learning
- Reinforcement
Learning

Certifications

- Graduate Student
Association Leadership
- Research Ethics
Training Completed
- Teaching
Assistant Certified

Papers

2024

Mitochondrial network branching enables rapid protein spread with slower mitochondrial dynamics

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1103/PRXLife.2.043005>

Second Authorship · Toronto

Mitochondrial network dynamics, involving fusion and fission, impact protein and molecule distribution. Simulations show that well-connected and dynamically faster networks enhance particle spread, with branching networks formed through end-to-side fusion achieving optimal distribution, demonstrating the role of network structure in mitochondrial function.

2022

Network Defense Against AI Reconnaissance

Undergraduate Thesis · Toronto

Pioneered novel adversarial machine learning techniques to defend critical infrastructure networks (power grids, telecommunications) against AI-powered reconnaissance attacks. Developed information-theoretic frameworks that strategically conceal network topology features, achieving 85% reduction in successful AI vulnerability detection while maintaining operational network performance.

In
Prepa-
ration

Stochastic Network Defense via Deep RL

First Author – Target: Top-Tier Security Conference · Toronto

Architected breakthrough Deep Reinforcement Learning framework combining multi-agent systems with stochastic game theory to autonomously defend against adaptive network intrusions. Novel contribution integrates probabilistic topology obfuscation with real-time threat response, demonstrating 92% attack mitigation effectiveness across diverse network architectures in simulation environments.

In
Prepa-
ration

Universality in Betting Markets

Second Authorship · Toronto

In prediction markets participants buy and sell contracts tied to the outcome of real-world events. Universal trends in the odds and outcomes of these markets over time were discovered within a diverse dataset of betting contracts.

In
Prepa-
ration

COVID Mobility Patterns

Co-First Authorship · Toronto

Millions mobile phone records from the Chicago MSA were used to study how social distancing policies did (or did not) reduce these density “hotspots,” and the mobility patterns of people were impacted during these policies.

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Analysis Tools

- Statistical Modeling
- Data Visualization
- Regression Analysis
- Time Series Forecasting
- Geospatial Analysis
- Survey Design

Audio Engineering

- Weird Karma
Album · 2021
- Summer Drive
Album · 2019
- 7 Months Back
Album · 2019
- bellwoodsonmars
Album · 2019
- 999
Album · 2019
- 121
Album · 2018

Software

- SPSS
Survey Analysis
- Excel
Advanced Functions
- GIS
Spatial Analysis
- Pro Tools
Audio Engineering

Data Analysis

2019

The Young Canadians Roundtable on Health: promising practices for youth and adults working in partnership

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-019-00254-9>

Data Analyst · Toronto

Youth and adult allies engaged in a participatory research evaluation of the YCRH, which was identified as a living laboratory, where youth could experiment with ideas and provide new perspectives on health issues. Adult allies reported learning new skills from youth, and youth gained advocacy and leadership skills. Collaborative projects resulted in a sense of shared achievement. Further, youth increased their connections to health and youth-serving spaces across the country. Identified challenges included difficulties in coordinating a national roundtable and defining shared responsibilities.

2018

Engaging diverse Canadian youth in youth development programs: Program quality and community engagement

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.09.023>

Data Analyst · Toronto

Youth development programs are key tools in promoting community engagement, which is a core feature of positive youth development. However, further research is needed on program quality and outcomes for diverse samples of youth. We examined program quality (positive features and youth-adult partnership) within youth programs, as predictors of three indicators of community engagement in a diverse youth sample (N = 321; Mean age = 16.2 years; SD = 3.0). Both positive program features and youth-adult partnership were positively related to youth civic participation, sociopolitical empowerment, and sense of community. Among our background variables, only LGBTQ status, perceived income, and age were related to community engagement. Positive associations between program quality and community engagement held across sample characteristics. Findings add to the limited research on youth development programs and youth's community engagement.