

# Preetam Dammu

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## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy, Information Science** 2022 - Present

**University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington

- Advisor: [Prof. Chirag Shah](#)
- Recipient of the UW Top Scholar Fellowship

**Master of Technology, Artificial Intelligence** 2019

**University of Hyderabad**, Hyderabad, India

- Advisor: [Prof. Raju S. Bapi](#)
- Recipient of the Department's Gold Medal (1<sup>st</sup> Rank)

**Bachelor of Technology, Computer Science & Engineering** 2017

**Sreenidhi Institute of Science & Technology**, Hyderabad, India

- Graduated with Distinction
- Head of Android Development Club (ADC)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Amazon Science** June 2024 – Sep 2024

*Applied Scientist II Intern*

- Intern in Search Experience Science team.
- Projects focused on Generative Agents.

**Amazon Science** June 2023 – Sep 2023

*Applied Scientist II Intern*

- Intern in AlexaShopping / Nile Research team.
- Projects focused on LLMs and Evidence Attribution in NLG.

**UW iSchool** Sep 2022 - Present

*Graduate Research Assistant*

- Member of [RAISE](#) and [InfoSeeking Lab](#).
- Research focused on Generative AI (Agents, VLMs & LLMs).

**TCS Research & Innovation Labs** Aug 2019 – Sep 2022

*Researcher*

- Member of the "Secure and Private AI" research team
- Projects focused on solving security-related technological barriers to AI adoption.

**Computational Intelligence Lab, UoH** Sep 2017 – Sep 2019

*Graduate Student Researcher*

- Conducted research in the intersection of Cognitive Neuroscience and ML.
- Employed machine learning techniques to model and detect neurological disorders.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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- Generative AI: Agents, VLMs & LLMs
- Responsible AI: Explainability, Fairness, Robustness, Security & Privacy
- Information Retrieval
- Natural Language Processing
- Computer Vision

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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- 1) **Dammu** et al. "They are uncultured": Unveiling Covert Harms and Social Threats in LLM Generated Conversations. *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2024)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 2) **Dammu** et al. ClaimVer: Explainable Claim-Level Verification and Evidence Attribution of Text Through Knowledge Graphs. *Findings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP Findings 2024)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 3) **Dammu**, Alonso & Poblete. A Shopping Agent for Addressing Subjective Product Needs. *(Under review)*.
- 4) **Dammu** and Alonso. "Near-duplicate Question Detection". *Companion Proceedings of the ACM on Web Conference (WebConf 2024)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 5) Alonso, **Dammu**, & Yang. An Interpretable Answer Scoring Framework. *The Second Workshop on Generative Information Retrieval (SIGIR Workshop 2024)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 6) **Dammu** and Shah. "Detecting Spurious Correlations via Robust Visual Concepts in Real and AI-Generated Image Classification". *37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023), XAIA Workshop*. [Paper Link](#).
- 7) **Dammu**, Feng, and Shah. "Addressing Weak Decision Boundaries in Image Classification by Leveraging Web Search and Generative Models". *Proceedings of the Thirty-Second International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2023)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 8) **Dammu** et al. "Explainable and Personalised Privacy Prediction". In *International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management Workshops (CIKM Workshop 2021)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 9) **Dammu** et al. "Interpretable and Robust Face Verification". In *International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management Workshops (CIKM Workshop 2021)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 10) **Dammu** & Bapi. "Employing Temporal Properties of Brain Activity for Classifying Autism Using Machine Learning". In *8th International Conference on Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence (PReMI 2019)*. [Paper Link](#).
- 11) **Dammu** & Bapi. "Temporal Dynamics of the Brain Using Variational Bayes Hidden Markov Models: Application in Autism". In *8th International Conference on Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence (PReMI 2019)*. [Paper Link](#).

## PATENTS AWARDED

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- 1) Method and System for Feature Based Image Retrieval  
Inventors: **Dammu, P. P. S.**, Chalamala. S. R., & Singh, A.K.  
Application Numbers – IP India: 202121021834, US PTO: 17/660,034
- 2) Systems and Methods for Constructing a Modular Siamese Network for Face Verification  
Inventors: **Dammu, P. P. S.**, Chalamala. S. R., & Singh, A.K.  
Application Numbers – IP India: 202121007953, US PTO: 17/358,496
- 3) System and Method for Explainable and Personalised Privacy Prediction  
Inventors: **Dammu, P. P. S.**, Chalamala. S. R., & Singh, A.K.  
Application Numbers – IP India: 202121049709, US PTO: TBD

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- 1) Azure Cloud Computing Credits (Co-PI, Amount: \$20,000)
- 2) UW Top Scholar Award (Amount: 1 Quarter Funding & \$5,000)
- 3) Gold Medal – SCIS, University of Hyderabad