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Adam Morris

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EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
PhD in cognitive science
May 2022 | Cambridge, MA
GPA: 4.0

BROWN UNIVERSITY
BS in Psychology with honors
Magna cum laude
May 2015 | Providence, RI
GPA: 4.0

COURSEWORK

POST-GRADUATE
BlueDot's AI Safety Fundamentals Course (technical track)

GRADUATE
Computational cog. sci.
Statistics

UNDERGRADUATE
Machine learning
Computational prob. & stats
Linear algebra
Differential equations

SKILLS

RESEARCH
Leading projects • conducting lit reviews • designing & executing experiments • communicating results in writing & talks

DATA SCIENCE
Data cleaning • visualization • analysis • computational modeling

PROGRAMMING
R • Python • MATLAB • Javascript

AWARDS

APA's Editor's Choice Award (2024)

Kirschstein-NRSA F32 NIH Fellowship (2022 - present)

Certificate of Teaching Distinction, Harvard Bok Center (2020, 2018, 2017)

Prize for Best Student Paper, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2018)

George Goethals Teaching Prize (2018)

National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship (2017 - 2021)

Harvard Presidential Scholarship (2015)

VALUE ADDED

- I bring **deep technical ability in research & data science** alongside **exceptional soft skills for collaborating, writing, and communicating.**
- **I pick up new skills/knowledge extremely quickly**, and quickly perceive the underlying logical structure of ideas, projects, and research literatures.
- I have **extensive experience leading & collaborating on complex research projects**, from conception to publication.
- I **doggedly pursue creative solutions to technical & social obstacles**.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY | Postdoctoral Research Fellow
July 2022 - present | Crockett Lab, Princeton, NJ

- Investigating the faithfulness of self-reports about choice processes, and whether this faithfulness can be improved through training, in humans and AI.
- Developed novel methods for quantifying self-report faithfulness, using computational modeling of behavior to characterize choice mechanisms.
- Demonstrated that both humans and frontier LLMs can report complex internal choice processes with surprising faithfulness, and that the LLMs can be trained to report them even more faithfully.
- Received a Kirschstein-NRSA F32 NIH fellowship to support this research, and an Editor's Choice award from the American Psychological Association.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY | Doctoral Student
Sep 2015 - May 2022 | Moral Psychology Research Lab, Cambridge, MA

- Studied the algorithms underlying human decision making, with a focus on reinforcement learning models.
- Led numerous successful research projects. Proposed new computational models of decision making, grounded in machine learning and evolutionary game theory; designed, programmed, and ran experiments to test these models, fitting the models to human data using contemporary Bayesian methods.
- Demonstrated that humans apply reinforcement learning to internal thought processes, such as generating goals to pursue and choice options to consider. Showed that the logic of reinforcement learning helps explain diverse phenomena such as social punishment, causal reasoning, and norm compliance.
- Won several awards for this research, including an NDSEG Fellowship, Best Student Paper prize, and Harvard Presidential Scholarship.
- Published results in top journals (including *PNAS*, *Nature Communications*, and *Psych Science*), with >15 papers and >750 citations.
- Presented results in top cognitive science conferences and departmental colloquia across the world.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

1. Cushman & Morris (2015). Habitual control of goal selection in humans. *PNAS*.
2. Morris et al. (2017). Evolution of flexibility & rigidity in punishment. *PNAS*.
3. Morris & Cushman (2019). Model-free RL or action sequences? *Frontiers*.
4. Morris et al. (2021). Generating options and choosing between them depend on distinct forms of value representation. *Psych Science*.
5. Morris et al. (2025). Introspective access to choice processes. *Nature Comm*.
6. Morris (2025). Invisible gorillas in the mind: Internal inattentional blindness and the prospect of introspection training. *OpenMind*.