

# Akbir Khan

[akbir.dev](https://akbir.dev)

## Research Interests

Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning, Natural Language Processing, AI Safety

## Education

- 2021-2024 Ph.D. in Foundational Artificial Intelligence, University College London  
Advised by Ed Grefenstette & Tim Rocktäschel
- 2017-2018 MPhil. in Advanced Computer Science, *with distinction*, University of Cambridge
- 2015-2018 MSci. in Mathematics with Physics, *with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours*, University College London

## Work Experience

- 2021- Senior Applied Researcher at [Tractable AI](#). Highlights include unlocking £8 Million in revenue by developing OCR ingestion pipeline and developing continual learning process for model improvements.
- 2018-2021 Chief Research Office at [Spherical Defence](#). Raised a \$2 million seed round and developed a ML-based web application firewall service. Led a team of research engineers to develop seq2seq models for anomaly detection over network traffic.
- 2017 Software Engineer Internship at [Deutsche Bank](#), focus on front-end development.
- 2016 Two months as an Undergraduate Research Fellow at [Quantum Optics and Laser Group](#) at Imperial College London.

## Publications

Multi-dimensional Affect in Poetry (POCA) Dataset: Acquisition, Annotation and Baseline Result - Khan, A., Hopkins, J., & Gunes, H. In *The 9th International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction*.

Considering Race as a Problem of Transfer Learning - Akbir Khan, Marwa Mahmoud. In *Proceedings of the 2019 IEEE Winter Applications of Computer Vision Workshop: Demographic Variations in Performance of Biometric Algorithms* (oral presentation)

## Recent Projects

[Deep Equilibrium Models](#), a Haiku implementation of the NeurIPS 2019 paper, an implicit-depth differentiable architecture that simulates an infinitely deep network  
[Bad Flamingo](#), a gamified data collection of sketches for adversarial machine learning. Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the University of Cambridge Ternary Hackathon

## Technical Skills

Python [PyTorch, JAX (*contributor*), Scikit-learn, Pandas, Haiku], Docker, GoLang