

# Alexandria Thylane

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## Areas of Interest

- Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science
- Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
- Feminist Philosophy and Philosophy of Gender

## Education

**City University of New York** (Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies)

**Bachelor of Arts, Mind, Gender, and Artificial Intelligence** (Expected Summer 2026)

- GPA 3.92
- Independent Thesis: *4E/DST Models of Gender Identity*
- Advisors: Dr. Daniel Harris (Philosophy) & Dr. Raj Korpan (Computer Science)
- Graduate Coursework (CUNY Graduate Center)
  - *Representations, Attitudes, & Persuasion*, Eric Mandelbaum (Fall 2025)
  - *Group Minds*, Muhammad Ali Khalidi (Spring 2026)

**Texas State University**

**Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science** (2015)

- *Summa Cum Laude*

## Publications

### Refereed Conference Proceedings

Nam, K., Yee, J., Jinnat, R.A., Rigual, K., Thylane, A., & Korpan, R. (2026). *Not the Intended User: Queer Perspectives on Identity, Risk, and Trust in Robot Companions*. Proceedings of the 2026 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '26). Edinburgh, UK. (Acceptance Rate: 23.2%).

### Manuscripts Under Review

Thylane, A., Foulén, D., Rigual, K., Jinnat, R.A., Nam, K., Yee, J., & Korpan, R. *Pax: A Queer-Affirming Robot Companion for the Home*. Submitted to HRI '26 (System Demonstration Track).

### Manuscripts in Preparation

*Embodied Cognition and Transgender Identity: A Dynamical Systems Perspective*. (PhD Writing Sample).

*Unequal Costs of Disbelief: A Spinozan Account of Propositional Rejection under Marginalization*.

## Presentations

***Modeling Gender Identity as a Metastable Process: A 4E Cognition Framework***

CUNY Pipeline Symposium, The Graduate Center, CUNY (Forthcoming May 2026)

***Pax: A Queer-Affirming Robot Companion System***

Hunter College Humanity and Technology Series, Hunter College (December 2025)

### ***Can AI Have Gender? A 4E Cognition Approach to Gender Identity***

- Poster presentation, CUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (May 2025)
- Oral presentation, Hunter College Undergraduate Research Conference (April 2025)

### **Fellowships & Honors**

- CUNY Pipeline Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (2025–2026)
- Thomas W. Smith Academic Excellence Fellowship, CUNY Baccalaureate (2025–2026)
- The Memorial Scholarship, CUNY Baccalaureate (Spring 2025)
- Diane B. Gibson Memorial Fund Award, CUNY Baccalaureate (Fall 2025)

### **Research Experience**

#### **Research Fellow, CUNY Pipeline Program, CUNY Graduate Center (July 2025–Present)**

- Selected for a competitive doctoral preparation fellowship emphasizing rigorous research training, faculty mentorship, and monthly colloquia.
- Developing a philosophy research proposal on 4E cognition and gender identity; presenting capstone research at the CUNY Pipeline Symposium (May 2026).

#### **Researcher & Lead Architect, Queer Robot Companion Project, TIER Robotics Lab, Hunter College, (June 2025–Present)**

- Led the technical architecture and ethical design of a queer-affirming robot companion.
- Co-authored a peer-reviewed full paper accepted to HRI 2026; authored a system demonstration paper (currently under review).

#### **Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Computer Science, Texas State University (Fall 2014)**

- Designed the initial experimental protocol and detection algorithm to correlate heart rate variability and respiration rate with sleep onset under Dr. Xiao Chen.
- Provided proof-of-concept and collected foundational data supporting later work published in IEEE MASS 2015 (Warwick et al.).

### **Teaching Experience**

#### **Discussion Section Leader, Intro. to Women & Gender Studies, Hunter College (Fall 2024)**

- Led weekly small-group, first-year student discussion section; prepared assigned readings, facilitated discussion, and guided structured activities for critical engagement.

### **Service & Public Engagement**

- Invited Panelist, Hetrick-Martin Institute, *Women Speak Pride* (March 2025)
- Guest Speaker, PFLAG NYC, Safe Schools Program (2024–2025)

### **Selected Professional Experience**

#### **Senior Software Engineer, Apple Inc. (2021–2023)**

- Implemented UI/UX improvements for macOS/iOS Music and core accessibility features on Apple TV.

#### **Senior Software Engineer, Reddit, Inc. (2017–2021)**

- Led front page feed re-architecture; designed and implemented the first analytics and unit test frameworks.