Alexandria Thylane

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EDUCATION

City University of New York (CUNY Baccalaureate)   Expected Summer 2026

Bachelor of Arts, Mind, Gender, and Artificial Intelligence
GPA: 3.92
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   2015

Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science — Summa Cum Laude
Minor in Philosophy

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   July 2025–Present

CUNY Graduate Center

- Selected for competitive doctoral preparation fellowship
- Developing philosophy research proposal on embodied cognition and gender identity
- Presenting capstone research at CUNY Pipeline Symposium (May 2026)

Researcher & Lead Architect, Queer Robot Companion Project   June 2025–Present

TIER Robotics Lab, Hunter College

- Led technical architecture and ethical design of a queer-affirming robot companion
- Co-authored peer-reviewed full paper accepted to HRI 2026
- First author on Interactivity demo accepted to HRI 2026

Undergraduate Researcher   Fall 2014

Department of Computer Science, Texas State University

- Designed initial experimental protocol and detection algorithm to correlate heart rate variability with sleep onset under Dr. Xiao Chen
- Provided proof-of-concept supporting later work published in IEEE MASS 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Discussion Section Leader, Intro to Women & Gender Studies Fall 2024

Hunter College

- Led weekly small-group discussion section for first-year students
- Prepared assigned readings, facilitated discussion, and guided structured activities

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer 2021–2023

Apple

- Implemented UI/UX improvements for macOS/iOS Music
- Core accessibility features on Apple TV

Senior Software Engineer 2017–2021

Reddit

- Led front page feed re-architecture
- Designed and implemented first analytics and unit test frameworks

PUBLICATIONS

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

Interactivity Demos
Pax: A Queer-Affirming Robot Companion for the Home
Thylane, A., Foulen, D., Rigual, K., Jinnat, R.A., Nam, K., Yee, J., Korpan, R.
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '26), Interactivity Track. Edinburgh, UK. March 2026.

Manuscripts in Preparation
Gender Identity as Regulatory Self-Model

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   May 2026

Pax: A Queer-Affirming Robot Companion System
Hunter College Humanity and Technology Series   December 2025

Can AI Have Gender? A 4E Cognition Approach to Gender Identity
Poster, CUNY Undergraduate Research Conference   May 2025
Oral, Hunter College Undergraduate Research Conference   April 2025

SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

Invited Panelist, Women Speak Pride, Hetrick-Martin Institute   March 2025

Guest Speaker, Safe Schools Program, PFLAG NYC   2024–2025

Founder & Head Organizer, Queer Tech Professionals & Innovators   2021–2023