

# Breanna K. Nguyen

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## EDUCATION

<b>Yale University</b> , New Haven, CT Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science, Certificate in Data Science Class Marshal, selected to represent the graduating class at 324th Commencement	Aug 2021 — May 2025 Cumulative GPA: 3.71/4.00
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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<b>Moral Attitudes and Decisions Lab — PI: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong</b> <i>Full-Stack Developer (PPP Project)</i>	Durham, NC Sep 2024 — Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designed a tool that acts as a surrogate decision-maker, helping preserve users' care preferences in the event that they are no longer able to communicate their wishes</li><li>Built a full-stack web app (Flask, PostgreSQL, HTML/CSS/JS) to gather end-of-life care preferences</li><li>Worked with clinicians and researchers to turn ethical and psychological ideas into clear, structured survey questions</li></ul>	
<b>Senior Research Data Tech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborated with lab members on projects focused on moral decision making and moral artificial intelligence</li><li>Implemented original research ideas using machine learning and natural language processing techniques</li><li>Supported the development of web apps and conducted both quantitative and qualitative data analysis</li></ul>	Jun 2024 — Present
<b>Experimental Philosophy Group — PI: Joshua Knobe</b> <i>Researcher</i>	New Haven, CT Dec 2022 — May 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developed and implemented research proposal on moral transgressions and perceptions of social desirability</li><li>Worked collaboratively with other lab members on innovative new research projects</li></ul>	
<b>Independent Research Project — PI: Lukas Meier</b> <i>Visiting Student</i>	Cambridge, UK Feb 2023 — Dec 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented a machine learning algorithm that accurately predicts the verdicts of workplace ethical dilemmas based on a corpus of Reddit posts and created a user-interface that uses that algorithm to give predictions on new data</li><li>Earned highest academic honor (first with distinction) at University of Cambridge</li></ul>	
<b>EnvironMental Health Group — PIs: Julie Zimmerman and Paul Anastas</b> <i>Data Scientist and Reviewer</i>	New Haven, CT Jan 2023 — Feb 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developed a novel web-based data collection tool to categorize articles and streamline the review process</li><li>Conducted thorough screening of over 9,000 titles and abstracts to assess relevance to research framework</li><li>Created all figures and graphics for the resulting publication</li></ul>	
<b>Human Nature Laboratory — PI: Nicholas Christakis</b> <i>Research Assistant</i>	New Haven, CT Feb 2023 — Dec 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted data analysis on social network data, specifically in the realm of cognitive social structures</li><li>Comprehensively synthesized information from a literature review on risk attitudes and social cognition</li></ul>	
<b>Crockett Laboratory — PI: Molly Crockett</b> <i>Research Assistant</i>	New Haven, CT Feb 2022 — Aug 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rigorously conducted experiments for a project focused on psychophysical methods of measuring subjective experiences</li><li>Actively supported research process by assisting with participant recruitment and data analysis</li></ul>	

## PUBLICATIONS

### In Press

- Keswani, V., Conitzer, V., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., **Nguyen, B. K.**, Schaich Borg, J., & Heidari, H. (2024). Can AI Model the Complexities of Human Moral Decision-making? A Qualitative Study of Kidney Allocation Decisions. *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25)*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3714167>
- Ratjen, L., Goddard, E., Gilcher, E. B., **Nguyen, B. K.**, Backhaus, A., Kelley, M., Akalaonu, K., Feldman, H. S., et al. (2025). EnvironMental Health: A Framework for an Emerging Field at the Nexus of Environment and Mental Health Crises. *GeoHealth*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1029/2024GH001254>
- Nguyen, B. K.**, & Yildirim, I. (2024). An Intuitive Physics Approach to Modeling Melodic Expectation. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8ds971xf>

### Under Review

- Keswani, V., Cousins, C., **Nguyen, B. K.**, Conitzer, V., Heidari, H., Schaich Borg, J., & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2025). Moral Change or Noise? On Problems of Aligning AI With Temporally Unstable Human Feedback. *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*.
- Mulcrone, D\*. **Nguyen, B. K.\***, & McKee, P. (2025) Moral Motivation: A Scoping Review Protocol. *Frontiers in Psychology*

**Submitted**

- **Nguyen, B. K.**, & Yildirim. I. (2025) An Intuitive Physics Approach to Modeling Melodic Expectation. *Cognition*.

**In Prep**

- **Nguyen, B. K.**, Fuller, M. Sinnott-Armstrong, W., & Murray, S. (2025) The partisan penalty: The effect of partisanship on evaluating reasons for political belief
- **Nguyen, B. K.** & Prinzing, M. (2024). What It Means To Be A True Badass: An Experimental Investigation Of The Ordinary Concept. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/542na>.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Nguyen, B. K.** & Murray, S. The partisan penalty: The effect of partisanship on evaluating reasons for political belief. Blitz Talk at: An Online Gathering for the Moral Psychology Research Group, 2025 Nov 8 (Accepted)
- **Nguyen, B. K.**, & Yildirim. I. An Intuitive Physics Approach to Modeling Melodic Expectation. Poster session presented at: the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 2024 Jul 26, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- **Nguyen, B. K.**, & Prinzing, M. What It Means to Be Badass. Poster session presented at: The Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention, 2024 Feb 9, San Diego, CA and The Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Annual Meeting, 2023 Nov 4, Charlotte, NC.

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

<b>Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research (GIAR)</b>	United States
Competitive research award supporting undergraduate and graduate students in the sciences and engineering	May 2025
<b>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Awardee</b>	United States
Prestigious fellowship supporting outstanding students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines (declined award)	Apr 2025
<b>Yale Science and Engineering Association Distinguished Senior Award</b>	New Haven, CT
Recognizes seniors for distinguishing themselves among Yale's STEM undergraduate community	Apr 2025
<b>Mellon Senior Research Grant</b>	New Haven, CT
A research grant for seniors to support their senior projects and independent study	Oct 2024
<b>Yale Summer Experience Award</b>	Durham, NC
A summer fellowship available to undergraduates receiving financial aid	Mar 2024
<b>Poster Award Runner-up</b>	Charlotte, NC
Award presented at the Annual Meeting for the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists	Nov 2023
<b>International Study Award</b>	Cambridge, England
A summer fellowship available to undergraduates receiving financial aid	May 2023
<b>Ezra Stiles Richter Fellowship</b>	New Haven, CT
Residential college award for independent study and research	Apr 2022, Apr 2023
<b>Gary Stein Fellowship</b>	New Haven, CT
Merit-based award for a project of research aimed at bringing about scientific practical effect	Apr 2022, Apr 2023
<b>John E. Linck and Alanne Headland Linck Fellowship</b>	New Haven, CT
Merit-based award for a project of personal educational value	Apr 2022, Apr 2023, Apr 2024

**SKILLS**

- **Tools:** GitHub, VS Code, Qualtrics, Prolific, NVivo
- **Programming:** R, Python, Julia, SQL, HTML/CSS, Flask
- **Data Science:** statistical inference and modeling, experimental design and causal inference, data processing and visualization
- **Machine Learning:** supervised and unsupervised algorithms, deep learning architectures, natural language processing, dimensionality reduction, model selection and cross-validation

**OTHER EXPERIENCES**

- **Volunteering:** Student Advisor for Yale Undergraduate Admissions (2024-2025), Mentor for Project Access (2023-2024), English Tutor for Bridges ESL (2022-2024), Teacher for Splash at Yale (2024), Big Sib and Student Activity Committee member for Ezra Stiles College (2022-2025), Panelist for the Rural Students Association at Yale (2025), Yale Model United Nations Chair (2025), Club Sports Advisory Board (2021-2024)
- **Study Abroad:** Completed three summer courses as a visiting student at University of Cambridge's Pembroke Summer Programme (Summer 2023)
- **Leadership:** Re-founded and led as president of Yale Powerlifting, increasing club membership by hundreds, tripling participation of female competitors, and ensuring equal funding between men's and women's sports as a club sports advisory board member (2021-2022)