Breanna K. Nguyen

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EDUCATION

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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PPP LLC   Durham, NC
Full-Stack Developer   Sep 2024 — Present

- 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
- Built a full-stack web app (Flask, PostgreSQL, HTML/CSS/JS) to gather end-of-life care preferences
- Worked with clinicians and researchers to turn ethical and psychological ideas into clear, structured survey questions

Moral Attitudes and Decisions Lab — PI: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong   Durham, NC
Researcher   Jun 2024 — Present

- Collaborated with lab members on projects focused on moral artificial intelligence and political depolarization
- Implemented original research ideas using machine learning and natural language processing techniques
- Supported the development of web apps and conducted both quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Experimental Philosophy Group — PI: Joshua Knobe   New Haven, CT
Researcher   Dec 2022 — May 2025

- Developed and implemented research proposal on moral transgressions and perceptions of social desirability
- Worked collaboratively with other lab members on innovative new research projects

EnvironMental Health Group — PIs: Julie Zimmerman and Paul Anastas   New Haven, CT
Data Scientist and Reviewer   Jan 2023 — Feb 2025

- Developed a novel web-based data collection tool to categorize articles and streamline the review process
- Conducted thorough screening of over 9,000 titles and abstracts to assess relevance to research framework
- Created all figures and graphics for the forthcoming publication

Human Nature Laboratory — PI: Nicholas Christakis   New Haven, CT
Research Assistant   Feb 2023 — Dec 2023

- Conducted data analysis on social network data, specifically in the realm of cognitive social structures
- Comprehensively synthesized information from a literature review on risk attitudes and social cognition

Crockett Laboratory — PI: Molly Crockett   New Haven, CT
Research Assistant   Feb 2022 — Aug 2023

- Meaningfully contributed to a project focused on psychophysical methods of measuring subjective experiences
- Rigorously conducted experiments with meticulous detail, ensuring high-quality, reliable data
- Actively supported research process by assisting with participant recruitment and data analysis

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)*
- 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

In Prep

- **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.**, & 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

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Awardee   United States
Prestigious fellowship supporting outstanding students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines (declined award)   Apr 2025

Yale Science and Engineering Association Distinguished Senior Award   New Haven, CT
Recognizes seniors for distinguishing themselves among Yale's STEM undergraduate community   Apr 2025

Creative and Performing Arts Award   New Haven, CT
A grant to support on-campus visual art exhibitions.   Feb 2025

Mellon Senior Research Grant   New Haven, CT
A research grant for seniors to support their senior projects and independent study   Oct 2024

Yale Summer Experience Award   Durham, NC
A summer fellowship available to undergraduates receiving financial aid   Mar 2024

Poster Award Runner-up   Charlotte, NC
Award presented at the Annual Meeting for the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists   Nov 2023

International Study Award   Cambridge, England
A summer fellowship available to undergraduates receiving financial aid   May 2023

Ezra Stiles Richter Fellowship   New Haven, CT
Residential college award for independent study and research   Apr 2022, Apr 2023

Gary Stein Fellowship   New Haven, CT
Merit-based award for a project of research aimed at bringing about scientific practical effect   Apr 2022, Apr 2023

John E. Linck and Alanne Headland Linck Fellowship   New Haven, CT
Merit-based award for a project of personal educational value   Apr 2022, Apr 2023, Apr 2024

PROJECTS

Computing Morality: Mimicking Human Decision-Making in Workplace Dilemmas   Cambridge, England
Independent Research Project   Jul 2023 — Aug 2023

- Implemented a machine learning algorithm that accurately predicts the verdicts of specific workplace ethical dilemmas based on a corpus of Reddit posts
- Created a user-interface that uses that algorithm to give predictions on new data
- Earned highest academic honor (first with distinction) at University of Cambridge

SKILLS

- **Software:** GitHub, Visual Studio Code, Adobe Illustrator
- **Data Collection:** Qualtrics, Prolific, NVivo
- **Languages:** English, Spanish, Vietnamese
- **Programming:** R, Python, Julia, SQL, SPSS, HTML, CSS, Flask
- **Machine Learning**

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Volunteering   New Haven, CT & Statesville, NC
Various Positions   Jan 2022 — May 2025

- **Yale Undergraduate Admissions**: Advised selected admitted students on pre-matriculation matters; visited high schools to promote applications and financial aid to high-achieving students in underrepresented areas
- **Project Access**: Served as a mentor for international students applying to universities in the US; Assisted students with college applications and financial aid processes
- **Bridges ESL**: Served as an tutor for adults seeking to improve their English language proficiency
- **Splash at Yale**: Designed and co-taught a class to middle school students of the New Haven community

Pembroke Cambridge Summer Programme   Cambridge, England
Visiting Student   Jul 2023 — Aug 2023

- Completed three summer courses at Pembroke College of University of Cambridge

Yale Powerlifting   New Haven, CT
Founder and President   Aug 2021 — May 2022

- Founded and led the club powerlifting team, currently the largest club sport at Yale
- Increased club membership by hundreds and tripled participation of female competitors
- Served on club sports advisory board to ensure equal funding between men's and women's sports
- Managed budget and organized large-scale competitions and social events