

# Breanna K. Nguyen

breanna.nguyen@yale.edu — <https://breannaknguyen.github.io/>

## EDUCATION

---

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science, Certificate in Data Science

Class Marshal, selected to represent the graduating class at Commencement

Aug 2021 — May 2025

Cumulative GPA: 3.68/4.00

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**PPP LLC**

*Full-Stack Developer*

Durham, NC

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**

*Researcher*

Durham, NC

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**

*Researcher*

New Haven, CT

Dec 2022 — Present

- 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**

*Data Scientist and Reviewer*

New Haven, CT

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**

*Research Assistant*

New Haven, CT

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**

*Research Assistant*

New Haven, CT

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

- 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>

### Accepted

- 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)*

### 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.

## 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

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

---

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

**Yale Science and Engineering 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

## 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 — Present

- **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 a 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**

*Visiting Student*

Cambridge, England

Jul 2023 — Aug 2023

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

**Yale Powerlifting**

*Founder and President*

New Haven, CT

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