

# Dashiel Carrera

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## EDUCATION

*Ph.D., Fully Funded*  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON 2026 (Prospective)  
Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction

*M.F.A., Fully Funded*  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 2021  
Fiction, New Media Writing, 4.0 GPA

*A.B., With Honors* 2017  
Brown University, Providence, RI  
Literary Arts, Computer Science

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## RESEARCH

*DGP Lab, University of Toronto* ([link](#)) Current  
Graduate Research Assistant, under Pfr. Daniel Wigdor

- Researching AI-Human Collaboration by developing new metaphors for mental models of AI systems
- Art-science collaboration, participatory design, community workshops, machine learning systems

*Intelligent Adaptive Interventions Lab, University of Toronto* ([link](#)) Fall 2021  
Graduate Research Assistant, under Pfr. Joseph Jay Williams

- Researched adaptive explanations in Computer Science coursework using Multi-Armed Bandit algorithms
- A/B tested a variety of different linguistic and design factors to maximize student attention and comprehension

*Echo Lab, Virginia Tech* ([link](#)) Winter 2020-Spring 2021  
Graduate Research Assistant, under Pfr. Sang Won Lee

- Researched the effects of watching real-time writing process playback on reading comprehension and user engagement
- Developed web modules, created user study survey, and conducted ethnographic research interviews with writers (JavaScript, CodeMirror, AmazonTurk)
- Carrera, Dashiel, Lee, Sang Won. "Watch Me Write: Revealing Creative Process with Writing Replay" Creativity & Cognition 2022.

*metaLAB at Harvard* ([link](#)) Summer 2017  
Digital Humanities Research Intern, under Pfr. Jeffrey Schnapp

- Wrote article on the use of LDA topic modeling to generate novel academic disciplines for course search based on Harvard's corpus of course data (SciPy, NLTK, gensim)
- Created website that enables users to visually explore 100 years of Harvard's educational data (Elasticsearch, PostgreSQL)

- Developed interface and communication modules for OSC and other protocols networked together for live production system (JavaScript)
- System later used as part of Ariana Grande Honeymoon Tour

*NEXA Center for Internet and Society* ([link](#))  
Research Developer, under Dr. Simone Basso

Fall 2012

- Developed modules client-side for [TellMeFirst](#), tool for enriching textual documents via Linked Open Data (JavaScript, HTML, CSS)
- Developed new data storage system and frontend module for [Neubot](#), net neutrality monitoring system (Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, sqlite)

*Mirny Lab, MIT* ([link](#))

January 2011 to September 2012

PRIMES Computational Biology Researcher, under Pfr. Leonid Mirny

- Made computer model that found role of cell fusion in cancer; presented at MIT (Python, SciPy, Computing Cluster)

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## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Papers

1. **Carrera, Dashiell**, Bhattacharjee, Gitanjali, Robert Soden. “We’re Not Decorators: Understanding Art-Science Collaboration Through Artist in Residency Programs in STEM Organizations.” In *Design of Interactive Systems*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2023.
2. **Carrera, Dashiell**, Ovienmhada, Ufuoma, Hussein, Safa, and Robert Soden. “The Unseen Landscape of Abolitionism: Examining the role of digital maps in grassroots organizing.” In *Computer Supported Cooperative Work*. Minneapolis, Minnesota 2023.
3. **Carrera, Dashiell**, Lee, Sang Won. “Watch Me Write: Revealing Creative Process with Writing Replay” In *Creativity & Cognition*. Venice, Italy 2022.
4. Thompson, Tyechia, **Carrera, Dashiell**. “Afrofuturist Intellectual Mixtapes: A Classroom Case Study” In *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. Boston, MA, 2021.

### Lightly Reviewed Papers

1. **Carrera, Dashiell**. “Expressive HCXAI: An Art-Science Design Framework for Ethical and Usable AI System,” HCXAI CHI Workshop. Honolulu, HI 2024.
2. **Carrera, Dashiell**, Soden, Robert, Daniel Wigdor. “Beyond Intelligence: Finding New Metaphors for AI through a Collaborative Workshop with Artists and Scholars” Towards Mutual Benefit: Reflecting on Artist Residencies as a Method for Collaboration, DIS Workshop. Pittsburgh, PA 2023.
3. Dietz, Paul H, **Carrera, Dashiell**, Alford, Gienr Jenifer, Cornelius, Abbie, Brockman, Jay, and Daniel Wigdor. “Elementary Paper Animatronics” SIGGRAPH Workshop. Los Angeles, CA 2023.

4. **Carrera, Dashiell**, Oviemhada, Ufuoma, Hussein, Safa, and Robert Soden. “Roadmap to Abolition: A Counter-mapping Project to Advance Understanding of the Theory and Practice of Abolition” In There is No Justice, Just US, CHI Workshp. New Orleans, LA 2022.

## Other

1. **Carrera, Dashiell**. “Finding the Missing Departments: Topic Modeling in the Harvard Course Catalog” In Harvard’s metaLab medium. Cambridge, MA, 2017.

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## GRANTS & AWARDS

### ACADEMIC

Lochead Bursary 2024, \$500CAD

Awarded bursary toward residential fees at Massey College. Named after the college’s first librarian.

School for Poetic Computation Scholarship, \$1000 (Declined)

Received scholarship from School for Poetic Computation for course “The Musical Web.”

School for Poetic Computation Scholarship, \$500

Received scholarship from School for Poetic Computation for course “Cellular Automata: Code Beyond Words.”

Computer Science Departmental Fellowship, \$1355 CAD

For students in good academic standing.

Entanglements Network 2023

Elected to global collective of interdisciplinary poets, scientists, artists, and scholars who forge innovative initiatives across poetry, science, and the arts, including Anne Walkdman, Raw Armantrout, Nick Montfort, and others.

Massey College Bursary 2023, \$1000CAD

Awarded bursary to cover residential funds at Massey College.

Massey College Junior Fellowship 2023

Elected Junior Fellow at Massey College, a cross-disciplinary community at University of Toronto. One of 20 accepted for resident fellowship.

ACM SIGCHI Gary Mardsen Travel Award 2022, \$1390

Received travel grant to present paper “Watch Me Write: Revealing Creative Process with Writing Replay” at Creativity & Cognition in Venice, Italy.

University of Toronto School of Cities Grant 2022, \$500CAD

Received grant to perform interview study with prison and police abolitionists in North America on their concerns and desires for visibility in digital mapping tools.

University of Toronto Mississauga Travel Grant 2022, \$2500 CAD

Received travel grant to present paper “Watch Me Write: Revealing Creative Process with Writing Replay” at Creativity & Cognition in Venice, Italy.

University of California, Santa Cruz Chancellor’s Award 2022, \$30,000 (declined)

UCSC’s highest fellowship honor. Awarded to PhD applicants by nomination from

department and selection of Graduate Council.

University of Toronto Graduate Research Fellowship, Department of Computer Science 2021, \$26,229 CAD per year  
Fully funded to conduct Human-Computer Interaction research at the University of Toronto through a research fellowship.

MIT Feminist Future Hackathon 2021, \$500  
Received stipend to participate in month-long social justice hackathon at MIT.

National Merit Finalist 2011  
Given to top 1% of PSAT scorers nationally with an outstanding high school academic record.

National Merit Hispanic Scholar 2011  
Given to top PSAT scorers nationally who identify as Hispanic or Latinx.

## ARTISTIC

Breadloaf Writer's Workshop 2024  
Accepted into writing workshop at the Breadloaf Writing Center in Middlebury, VT.

UKAI Factitious Residency 2024, \$500CAD  
Awarded residency in Toronto to work on sound media and performance piece that finds new metaphors for textures of language within LLMs

BANFF Winter Residency 2024, \$800  
Awarded artist's residency at BANFF in order to complete novel *Salud, La Luz*.

Entanglements Network 2023  
Elected to global collective of interdisciplinary poets, scientists, artists, and scholars who forge innovative initiatives across poetry, science, and the arts, including Anne Walkdman, Raw Armantrout, Nick Montfort, and others.

Emily Morrison Prize in Poetry 2020, 1st Place, \$1000  
Judged by Magdalena Zurawski who said, "A fraught surrealism deftly assembles these imagistic poems into landscapes of failed psychic escapes."

Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology Student Seed Grant 2019, \$1000  
Interactive 3D model and bilingual storytelling adaptation of Jorge Luis Borges's *Zoología Fantástica* projected onto fog. (Three.js, Logic, Ableton)

New Media Writing Student Writing Prize 2018, Finalist  
For "Victoria Park Found Dead at 45," an expansive network of faux-NYTimes obituaries, funeral testimonials, videos, music, and interactive electronic literature.

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## TEACHING

### Royal Conservatory of Music

Instructor RCM 471 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its Implications Fall 2024

- Designed and taught course on how AI is impacting the arts for Canada's top music conservatory
- Led discussions about AI and its ethical impacts to 20 students

- Led interactive workshops using AI-generative art tools

## University of Toronto

Instructor ENG/CSC 286 Literature and Data Fall 2023

- Lecture to 100+ students about literary analysis with Python, Pandas, Jupyter Notebook
- Discuss feminist data science, ethical implications of distant reading
- Coordinate team of 10 Teaching Assistants and automated grading system

Tutorial TA CSC 318 Design of Interactive Computational Media Fall 2023

- Lead student teams and tutorials to finish course projects
- Provide guidance on methodologies, principles, and key metaphors in designing computer systems

Classroom TA CSC 148H1S Introduction to Computer Science Spring 2023

- Lead office hours and provide classroom support for course on data structures, inheritance, and software design

Tutorial TA ENG 286H1 Literature and Data Fall 2022

- Lead tutorial for introductory Computer Science course for English students
- Lead discussions on politics of data, data analysis of literature, distant reading, and other topics

Tutorial TA INF 2178 Experimental Design for Data Science (Grad level) Spring 2022

- Instructed students on introductory programming with Pandas and Jupyter Notebook, ANOVA, T-tests, and more
- Lead tutorial for graduate level course examining the implementation and policy implications of different data science algorithms

Tutorial TA CSC 119 Intelligence: Artificial and Human Spring 2022

- Lead tutorials on the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, as presented in philosophy, history, and literature
- Provide feedback on student papers

Tutorial TA CSC 110 Foundations of Computer Science I Fall 2021

- Led tutorials and helped students with introductory Python programming and computational complexity proofs (Python, Big-O)

## Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Instructor ENGL 2744 Creative Writing (Online) Spring 2021

- Wrote lesson plans, created syllabus, lectured, led discussion, and gave feedback on 20 students' creative works
- Taught CNF, poetry, fiction, and New Media writing

- Led graduate seminar and practicum on editing a journal devoted to New Media and Electronic Literature
- Taught Introductory Web Programming (HTML/CSS)

TA ENGL 2744 Creative Writing

Spring 2020

- Led lectures, discussions and provided individual feedback as part of course on CNF, poetry, fiction, and playwriting

Instructor ENGL 1105: Intro to Composition (Online/In Person)

Fall 2019, 2020

- Wrote lesson plans, created syllabus, lectured, led discussions, and gave feedback to 20 students from a variety of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds
- Created course website
- Taught students basic website creation to deploy as part of course project

TA ENGL 4684 Afrofuturism: To Vibranium and Beyond

Spring 2019

- Co-Directed interactive audio visual installation based on student mixtapes in the Cube at Moss Art Center, a 360 spatial audio performance center
- Co-Directed installation in Newman Library on imagined future devices that could provide social impact
- Led discussions and taught classes on creative process

## Guest Teaching or Lectures

Creative Constraints Workshop, Edmonton Public Library,  
 Advanced Fiction Workshop, Virginia Tech.  
 Introduction to Creative Non Fiction, Virginia Tech.

Spring 2024  
 Spring 2021  
 Fall 2019

## Mentorship

Ashish Ajin Thomas, Undergraduate.  
 Jeb Thomas-Mitchell, Undergraduate.  
 Safa Hussein, Undergraduate.

2024  
 2024  
 2022-2023

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## ACADEMIC TALKS

1. *The Unseen Landscape of Abolitionism: Examining the Role of Digital Maps in Grassroots Organizing*, Minneapolis, MN, Fall 2023.  
 Gave talk about paper investigating how digital mapping tools can support grassroots organizers.
2. *Beyond Intelligence: Finding New Metaphors for AI through a Collaborative Workshop with Artists and Scholars*, Pittsburgh, PA, Summer 2023.  
 Gave talk about a planned workshop that puts artists and scholars in conversation about design metaphors for artificial intelligence.

3. *We're Not Decorators: Fostering Interdisciplinary Exchange in STEMArtist Collaborations*, Pittsburgh, PA, Summer 2023.

Gave talk about art-stem residencies in tech organizations at Design of Interactive Systems.

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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### Participant

*CSCW 2023*, Minneapolis, 2023.

"Towards Mutual Benefit: Reflecting on Artist Residencies as a Method for Collaboration, *DIS 2023*. (**Competitive Acceptance**)

"There's no Justice, Just Us" Workshop, *CHI 2022*. (**Competitive Acceptance**)  
*Absolutely Interdisciplinary (AI)*, University of Toronto, 2021.

*Feminist Futures Hackathon*, MIT Media Lab, 2021. (**10 % Acceptance**)

*Immersive Stories Workshop*, Virginia Tech, 2021.

*CHI 2021*, Virtual, 2021.

*UIST 2020*, Virtual, 2020.

### Invited Reviewer

*CHI Conference*, 2025.

*Computer Supported Cooperative Work*, 2024.

*Creativity and Cognition Conference*, 2024.

*CHI Conference*, 2024.

*Creativity and Cognition Conference*, 2021.

*Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 2021.

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## ARTISTIC PUBLICATIONS

### Novels

1. **Carrera, Dashiell** "The Deer: A Novel", Dalkey Archive Press, McLean, Illinois, September 2022.

- **Reviews:** Chicago Review of Books, Brooklyn Rail, Publisher's Weekly, Ancillary Review of Books, The Local Voice, The Collidescope
- **Excerpts:** LitHub, The Offing, Brooklyn Rail, FENCE, 3AM Magazine
- **Interviews and Features:** BOMB, Los Angeles Review of Books, X-R-A-Y, LitHub, Hazlitt, LargeHeartedBoy, Canada Today, Vol 1 Brooklyn, Neon Pajamas Favorite Authors of 2022, Libraririe Drawn & Quarterly Best of 2023
- **Book Tour:** Unnameable Books Brooklyn, AWP Kansas, AWP Seattle, Akimbo Bookstore Rochester, Type Books Toronto, Riff Raff Providence, Third Place Books Seattle, McNally Jackson Seaport Manhattan, Blacksborg Books

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## EXHIBITIONS + PERFOR- MANCES

## Installations

1. *Dialtone Disconnect*, UKAI Projects, Toronto, CA, Spring 2024.  
Sound installation piece with hanging telephone using AI generated voices trained on dial tones and samples of dialtones over the eras. (ElevenLabs, Logic)
2. *Zoología Fantástica in the Mist*, Moss Art Center, Blacksburg, VA, Spring 2020.  
Interactive 3D storytelling adaptation of Jorge Luis Borges's compilation of international fairy tales. (Three.js, Logic, Abelton)
3. *Light Waterfall*, Brown University, Providence, RI, Spring 2014.  
Guerrilla install of a light waterfall that generates custom patterns based on swipe of student IDs.
4. *Moon Printer*, Granoff Center for the Arts, Brown University, Providence, RI, Spring 2014.  
Receipt printer that printed a stream of the current moon phase every day for a month.

## Artist Talks

1. *Artist / Researcher in Residence Talk*, UKAI Projects, Toronto, ON, Spring 2024.  
Talk about liminality, AI voice agents, and the performative dimension of writing.

## Literary Events

1. *Type Books*, Toronto, CA, Summer 2024.  
In conversation with Tracy O'Neill about her memoir "Women of Interest"
2. *Breadloaf Blue Parlor Series*, Ripton, VA, Summer 2024.  
Reading series for participants of Breadloaf Writer's Conference
3. *Chaveta Coffee Author Reading*, Toronto, Canada, Summer 2024.  
Reading series with Ken Sparling, Lily Wang, and Albert Koehl.
4. *Babak Lakghomi Reading*, Toronto, Canada, Spring 2024.  
Reading series with Ken Sparling, Zach Davidson, and others.
5. *Creative Constraints*, Edmonton, Alberta, Spring 2024.  
Craft talk on how creative constraints can unlock creative practice for Edmonton Public Library.
6. *WordTheatre*, Manhattan, NY, Spring 2024.  
Staged reading by professional actor of story "Salud, La Luz."
7. *BANFF Centre for Creative Arts*, Banff, AB, Winter 2024.  
Reading as part of residency at BANFF Centre for Creative Arts.



8. *Type Books*, Toronto, ON, Spring 2023.  
In conversation with Tom Comitta about his novel “The Nature Book.”
9. *Glossolalia Festival*, Blacksburg, VA, Spring 2021.  
Reading at literary festival, both poetry and fiction. Competitive acceptance.
10. *MFAngle Podcast*, Blacksburg, VA, Fall 2019.  
Gave interview about navigating artistic process inside and outside of an MFA program.

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## ARTS EXPERIENCE

### Artistic Training

<i>Cellular Automata: Code Beyond Words</i> , Funded School for Poetic Computation, Brooklyn, NY	2023
<i>Audio Production</i> Emory University and Berklee College of Music Coursework in Sound Design and Audio Production	2014
<i>Five-Week Summer Program</i> Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA Theory and Performance of Jazz Rock Fusion, Guitar	2011

### Artistic Jobs

<i>The New River: A Journal of Digital Art and Literature</i> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) Digital Editor	Fall 2018-Fall 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built new website for oldest running Digital Literature magazine in the US</li> <li>• Edited and selected submissions from Electronic Literature Organization</li> <li>• Published works by Mez Breeze, Nick Montfort, Serge Bouchardon, Steve Tomassula, and others</li> </ul>	
<i>The Toymaker</i> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) Sound Designer	Fall 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded sound foley for crash sounds</li> <li>• Mixed and layered audio to create cinematic experience</li> </ul>	
<i>Digital Bear Entertainment</i> Audio Engineering Intern	Summer 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ran and mixed recording sessions for recording studio in Cambridge, MA.</li> </ul>	
WXIN Local Music Director	Fall 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ran local music department of largest Alternative radio station in Rhode Island</li> <li>• Ran staff meetings</li> </ul>	

- Programmed and selected music for airplay and ran live video recording sessions

Wellington Lux Light Festival ([link](#))  
Arts and Software Development Intern

Spring 2013

- Built interactive public light exhibits in Wellington, New Zealand
- Constructed mobile web app to present users with map and program of exhibit

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## OUTREACH

Summit ACT Prep Class for 1st Generation College Students

Spring 2018

- Taught free ACT Preparatory class for 1st generation college students

MFAngle Podcast Audio Engineer

Fall 2019

- Made jingle and served as audio engineer/editor for podcast that helps people of color navigate the creative writing MFA world
  - Available on Apple Podcasts and Google Play
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## PRESS

1. *Best of 2023*, Librairie Drawn & Quarterly, December 2023.
2. *A Review of The Deer by Dashiel Carrera*, The Collidescope, July 2023.
3. *Sharp Edges of an Echo: A Review of Dashiel Carrera's The Deer*, Ancillary Review of Books, December 2022.
4. *Favorite Authors (And their Books)*, NeonPajamas, December 2022.
5. *Michael J. Seidlinger & Dashiel Carrera*, The Brooklyn Rail, September 2022.
6. *AMA Dashiel Carrera, author of THE DEER, forthcoming Dalkey Archive Press*, Reddit /r/TrueLit, August 2022.
7. *Sonic Pleasures in "The Deer"*, Chicago Review of Books, August 2022.
8. *In his first novel, graduate student Dashiel Carrera explores "what it means to reckon with memory"*, Canada Today, July 2022.
9. *In his first novel, graduate student Dashiel Carrera explores "what it means to reckon with memory"*, UofT News, July 2022.
10. *Schrödinger's Deer*, Biblioklept, July 2022.
11. *Morning Bites: Revisting James Welch, Dashiel Carrera Excerpted, Dwyer Murphy on Noir Fiction, and More*, Vol1 Brooklyn, July 2022.
12. *Book Reviews by Conor Hultman: "The Deer" by Dashiel Carrera*, The Local Voice, July 2022.
13. *Review of The Deer*, Publisher's Weekly, June 2022.

14. *Deep Vellum to Relaunch Dalkey Archive in April 2022*, Publisher's Weekly, November 2021.
15. *Deep Vellum will relaunch the Dalkey Archive this April*, LitHub, November 2021.
16. *Weirdos in a Band Drinking Coffee*, Providence Monthly, December 2015.
17. *Song Premiere: Providence's Feng Shui Police burst with youthful energy on 'Try'*, Vanyaland, September 2015.
18. *EP Grab Bag Vol. 93*, SpaceRockMountain, March 2015.