

Daniella DiPaola

PhD Candidate | MIT Media Lab
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EDUCATION

- 2021– **Ph.D. Media Arts and Sciences**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Expected Graduation, May 2026
Personal Robots Group, advised by Cynthia Breazeal
Committee: Cynthia Breazeal (Advisor), Karrie Karahalios, Eric Klopfer, Meg Leta Jones
- 2019-2021 **M.S. Media Arts and Sciences**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thesis: *How does my robot know who I am?: Understanding the Impact of Education on Child-Robot Relationships*
Committee: Cynthia Breazeal (Advisor), Hal Abelson, Christina Gardner-McCune, Kate Darling
- 2012-2016 **B.S. Engineering Psychology**, Tufts University School of Engineering
DevTech Lab, advised by Prof. Marina Bers

PUBLICATIONS

(*denotes joint first authors, [Google Scholar Profile](#))

Preprints

- P2 [Socio-Digital Vulnerability](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Ryan Calo
- P1 [LuLaRobot: Consumer Protection in the Face of Automated Social Marketing](#)
Kate Darling, **Daniella DiPaola**

Journal Articles

- J6 [Empathy Towards AI vs Human Experiences: The Role of Transparency in Mental Health and Social Support Chatbot Design](#)
Jocelyn Shen, **Daniella DiPaola**, Safinah Ali, Maarten Sap, Hae Won Park, Cynthia Breazeal (2024)
JMIR Theme Issue: Affective Computing for Mental Well-Being
- J5 [AI Literacy as Civic Literacy: A Case Study of the “AI Blueprint Bill of Rights” Curriculum for Middle School Students](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Marc Aidinoff, Angela Marzilli, Ethan Berman, Michael Champigny, Nate Gundy, Sarah Yezzi, Cynthia Breazeal (2024)
First Monday Special Issue: Youth, digital media, and civic engagement
- J4 [Integrating Ethics and Career Futures with Technical Learning to Promote AI Literacy for Middle School Students: An Exploratory Study](#)
Helen Zhang, Irene Lee, Safinah Ali, **Daniella DiPaola**, Yihong Cheng, Cynthia Breazeal (2022)
International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education
- J3 [AI + ethics curricula for middle school youth: lessons learned from three project-based curricula](#)
Randi Williams, Safinah Ali, Nisha Devasia, **Daniella DiPaola**, Jenna Hong, Stephen Kaputsos, Brian Jordan, Cynthia Breazeal (2022)
International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education.
- J2 [Children as creators, thinkers and citizens in an AI-driven future](#)
Safinah Ali*, **Daniella DiPaola***, Irene Lee, Victor Sindato, Grace Kim, Ryan Blumofe, Cynthia Breazeal (2021)
Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence

- J1 [Older adults living with social robots: Promoting social connectedness in long-term communities](#)
Anastasia Ostrowski, **Daniella DiPaola**, Erin Partridge, Hae Won Park, Cynthia Breazeal (2019)
IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine

Conference Proceedings

- CI4 [Investigating Design Research Toolkits as a Mechanism for Technology Policy Development](#)
Anastasia Ostrowski, **Daniella DiPaola**, Rylie Spiegel, Zandra Feland, Zeynep Yalçın, Cynthia Breazeal
Submitted to CHI 2026
- CI3 [Model AI Assignments: AI & Employment Lesson Plan](#)
Cunyan Ma, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal
EAAI 2025
- CI2 [Power Dynamics and Autonomy: Engaging Employees around the Design of Autonomous Agents](#)
Anastasia Ostrowski, Lucy Gunther, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal
2025 HRI Conference
- CI1 [AI Mastery May Not Be For Everyone, But AI Literacy Should Be](#)
Fiona M Hollands, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal, Safinah Ali
2024 SIGCSE Virtual Conference
- CI0 [Constructing dreams using generative AI](#)
Safinah Ali, Prerna Ravi, Randi Williams, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal
2024 EAAI Conference
- C9 [DRONEscape: Designing an Educational Escape Room for Adult AI Literacy](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Jocelyn Shen, Rachelle Hu, Sharifa Alghowinem, Cynthia Breazeal
2023 Conference on Games (CoG)
- C8 [Children's Fundamental Rights in Human-Robot Interaction Research: A Systematic Review](#)
Daniella DiPaola*, Vicky Charisi*, Cynthia Breazeal, Selma Sabanovic
2023 HRI Conference
- C7 [Make-a-Thon for Middle School AI Educators](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Kate Moore, Safinah Ali, Beatriz Perret, Xiaofei Zhou, Helen Zhang, Irene Lee
2023 SIGCSE Conference
- C6 [An Introduction to Rule-Based Feature and Object Perception for Middle School Students](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Parker Malachowsky, Nancye Blair Black, Sharifa Alghowinem, Xiaoxue Du, Cynthia Breazeal
2023 EAAI Conference
- C5 [Children's Perspectives of Advertising with Social Robots: a Policy Investigation](#)
Daniella DiPaola, Anastasia Ostrowski, Rylie Spiegel, Kate Darling, Cynthia Breazeal
2022 HRI Conference
- C4 [Exploring Generative Models with Middle School Students](#)
Safinah Ali*, **Daniella DiPaola***, Irene Lee, Jenna Hong, Cynthia Breazeal
2021 CHI Conference
- C3 [What are GANs?: Introducing Generative Adversarial Networks to Middle School Students](#)
Safinah Ali*, **Daniella DiPaola***, Cynthia Breazeal
2021 EAAI Conference
- C2 [Developing Middle School Students' AI Literacy](#)
Irene Lee, Safinah Ali, Helen Zhang, Daniella DiPaola, Cynthia Breazeal
2021 SIGCSE Conference
- CI [Decoding design agendas: an ethical design activity for middle school students](#)
Daniella DiPaola*, Blakeley H. Payne*, Cynthia Breazeal
2020 IDC Conference

Book Chapter

- BC1 [Preparing children to be conscientious consumers and designers of AI technologies](#)

Daniella DiPaola*, Blakeley H. Payne*, Cynthia Breazeal
 Computational Thinking Education in K-12 (2022) MIT Press.
 Edited by Siu-Cheung Kong and Hal Abelson

Workshops

- 2025 [Kids In the Designer Seat: Curriculum Strategies by Day of AI](#)
 John Richards, Charles Camden Hanzlick-Burton, Martin Creel, **Daniella DiPaola**, Aishwarya Manjunath Shetty
 2025 CIES Conference
- 2023 [Making Sense of Machine Learning: Integrating Youth’s Conceptual, Creative, and Critical Understandings of AI](#)
 Luis Morales-Navarro, Yasmin B Kafai, Francisco Castro, William Payne, Kayla DesPortes, **Daniella DiPaola**, Randi Williams, Safinah Ali, Cynthia Breazeal, Clifford Lee, Elisabeth Soep, Duri Long, Brian Magerko, Jaemarie Solyst, Amy Ogan, Cansu Tatar, Shiyang Jiang, Jie Chao, Carolyn P Rosé, Sepehr Vakil
 2023 ISLS Conference
- 2023 [AI Literacy: Finding Common Threads between Education, Design, Policy, and Explainability](#)
 Duri Long, Jessica Roberts, Brian Magerko, Kenneth Holstein, **Daniella DiPaola**, & Fred Martin
 2023 CHI Conference
- 2022 [Making Art with and about Artificial Intelligence: Three Approaches to Teaching AI and AI Ethics to Middle and High School Students](#)
 Benjamin Walsh, Safinah Ali, Francisco Castro, Kayla Desportes, **Daniella DiPaola**, Irene Lee, William Payne, Scott Sieke, Helen Zhang
 2022 SIGCSE Conference
- 2020 [Adapting K-12 AI Learning for Online Instruction](#)
 Safinah Ali, **Daniella DiPaola**, Irene Lee, David Jackson, Jeffrey Kiel, Kerri Beal, Helen Zhang, Yihong Cheng, Cynthia Breazeal.
 2020 International Workshop on Education in Artificial Intelligence K-12

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 **Values-Based AI Policy and Literacy in K-12**
 Global Day of AI Summit
- 2025 **AI Literacy in Civics and Social Studies Courses**
 ISTE+ASCD AI Explorations Webinar Series
- 2025 **AI Policy in K-12 Workshop**
 The Council of Chief State School Officers Legislative Conference
- 2024 **AI Literacy is Civic Literacy**
 National Council for the Social Studies Conference
- 2024 **AI Ethics and Policy Panel**
 Harvard WECODE Conference
- 2024 **Designing Inclusion in AI Panel**
 MIT Museum Design Redefined Series
- 2023 **Socio-Digital Vulnerability**
 Yale Law School Legitimacy in an Online World Conference
- 2023 **AI & Child Rights: Implementing UNICEF Policy Guidance**
 United Nations Internet Governance Forum
- 2023 **Hack the Metaphor Ethics Workshop**
 NSF National Robotics Institute Principal Investigators Meeting
- 2022 **AI Isn’t Coming, It’s Here!**
 Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Conference

- 2022 **AI Expert Panel**
Day of AI Celebration
- 2021 **Designing Social Robotics Curricula for Middle School Students**
Massachusetts STEM Week Kickoff Event
- 2021 **Developing AI Literacy in Middle School Students**
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
- 2021 **Interweaving Ethics in AI Education**
Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Conference
- 2021 **Youth as Investigators of Bias in Artificial Intelligence**
AERA 2021
- 2021 **Moving from Passive to Active Consumers of AI**
MIT Media Lab Focus Series
- 2020 **Robot Speed Dating: A Crash Course in HRI Through Famous Robots**
MIT Media Lab Media Arts and Sciences Student Seminar

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2019 Innovation Insights Researcher, Bose Corporation
- 2016-2018 Design Researcher, Jibo, Inc.
- 2015 Engineering Intern, Hasbro, Inc.
- 2014 Safety Intern, Federal Highway Administration

SCIENCE ADVOCACY

- 2025 CNTR's Tech & Policy Summer School, Brown University
- 2024-25 Vice Chair, MIT Graduate Student Council Federal Affairs Board
- 2024-25 Communications Chair, MIT Science Policy Initiative
- 2024 Writer, MIT Science Policy Review
- 2024 MIT Congressional Visit Days Advocacy
- 2023-24 Vice President, MIT Science Policy Initiative
- 2023-24 AI in Education Policy Memo Working Group, MIT | [View the Brief](#)
- 2023 Science Policy Bootcamp Attendee, MIT
- 2022 MIT Graduate Student Council Federal Affairs Board
- 2020 MIT Congressional Visit Days Advocacy

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Awards and Honors

- 2025 SERC Seed Grant (\$75,000)
- 2024 Kaufman Teaching Certificate
- 2023 FASPE Design and Technology Fellowship (did not attend)
- 2023 Gary Marsden Travel Award - CHI 2023 (\$1,665)
- 2022 Design Award - Samsung x MIT Media Lab Hackathon
- 2021 The Harold Horowitz Student Research Fund Grant (MIT) (\$1,500)

2021 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics

SERVICE

Service to the University

2021– MIT Graduate Residence Advisor, Fairborz Maseeh Hall
 2025-26 MIT Committee on AI Use in Teaching, Learning, and Research Training
 2024 MIT ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Working Group
 2023-24 MIT President's Advisory Council (PAC)
 2023 MIT Heads of House/DSL-Residential Life Principles Committee
 2021 MIT Media Lab Search Committee for Student Support and Diversity Director

Service to the Field

2025 Co-Chair, MIT AI & Education Youth Summit
 2023 Workshop Planning Committee, WeRobot
 2023 Volunteer, ACII Conference

Master's Research Students

2024-25 Caroline Cunningham, MIT

Undergraduate Research Students

2024-25 Cunyan Ma, Brown University | *Co-author C13*
 2025 Zheng (Izzy) Zhou, Wellesley College
 2024 Ariel McGee, Wellesley College
 2023-24 Lama Alsultan, Prince Sultan University
 2023 Zandra Feland, MIT | *Co-author, C14*
 2023 Arli Moyao-Ramirez, Wellesley College
 2022-23 Zeynep Yalçın, Wellesley College | *Co-author, C14*
 2023 Lina Henriquez, Florida International University
 2020-22 Carolyn Song, Phillips Andover Academy
 2021 Rylie Spiegel, MIT | *Co-author C5, C14*
 2021 Waly Ndiaye, MIT
 2020 Ishita Bhimavarapu, MIT
 2020 Grace Kim, MIT | *Co-author J2*
 2019-20 Isabella Virgilio, Wellesley College
 2019 Ilana Pelzman-Kern, U of Maryland

Editor

ACM Crossroads Magazine, Fall 2023 Special Issue *Robots and You*

Reviewer

AAAI Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI)
 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

ACM Designing Interactive Systems (DIS)
 ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference (IDC)
 Constructionism/FabLearn Conference
 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)
 International Journal of Human - Computer Studies (IJHCS)
 International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS)
 MIT Solve, Gender Equity in STEM Challenge
 Routledge

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

2021 MAS.S90: Introduction to Media Arts and Sciences, Lead TA
 2020 MAS.S90: Introduction to Media Arts and Sciences, TA

Invited Lecturer

2025 *Legal and Ethical Issues in Educational Leadership*, URI Feinstein College of Education, Fall 2025
 2025 *Generative AI Ethics*, University of Washington Information School, Fall 2025
 2025 *Learning, Design, and Technology Speaker Series*, Boston College School of Education, Fall 2025
 2024 *Foundations of Learning Technologies*, Boston College School of Education, Spring 2024
 2024 *Human Factors Graduate Seminar*, Tufts University School of Engineering, Spring 2024
 2024 *Graduate Seminar: Readings and Research in Formative Education*, Boston College School of Education, Spring 2024
 2024 *INNO3335 – Product Innovation & Portfolio Management*, Northeastern School of Business, Spring 2024
 2023 *cs.forward(): trace the past, plot the future of K-12 CS education*, MIT CMS/W Department, Fall 2023
 2023 *Human-Robot Interaction*, Purdue University Computer Science Department, Fall 2023
 2023 *BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic Seminar*, Boston University Law School, Fall 2023
 2022 *Technological Tools for Learning*, Tufts University Child Development Department, Spring 2022
 2020 *Education Technology Studio*, MIT CMS/W Department, Fall 2021
 2020 *Tech and Law Clinic Seminar*, Boston University Law School, Fall 2020
 2019 *Universal Design: Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Equality*, Tufts University Ex-College, Fall 2019

K-12 Volunteering

2025 Volunteer for High School Voting, City of Cambridge Participatory Voting Program
 2024 Volunteer Mentor, Ossining High School Science Research Program (high school)
 2023-24 Volunteer Mentor, Innovators for Purpose (high school)
 2023– Volunteer Mentor, NuVu School (middle and high school)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2018–19 **Innovation Insights Researcher**, Bose Corporation, Framingham, Massachusetts
 2016–18 **UX Researcher**, Jibo, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts
 2013–14 **Teaching Assistant**, Tufts Center for Engineering Education Outreach, Medford, Massachusetts

SELECTED PRESS

- 2023 **MIT News.** *Day of AI curriculum meets the moment*, AI Blueprint Bill of Rights Curriculum and Day of AI event featured [\[link\]](#)
- 2023 **New York Times.** *Hey, Alexa, What Should Students Learn About A.I.?*, AI Blueprint Bill of Rights Curriculum and Day of AI event featured [\[link\]](#)
- 2023 **Education Week.** *'Day of AI' Spurs Classroom Discussions on Societal Impacts of Artificial Intelligence*, Interviewed about AI Blueprint Bill of Rights Curriculum and Day of AI [\[link\]](#)
- 2023 **Chalkbeat New York.** *ChatGPT caught NYC schools off guard. Now, we're determined to embrace its potential.*, ChatGPT Middle School Curriculum cited as a reason for NYC schools to now embrace rather than ban ChatGPT [\[link\]](#)
- 2022 **BBC Science Focus** *We all hated Clippy the Microsoft Office assistant – so why do we love our robot vacuums?*, Mention of HRI theories behind Marty the Stop and Shop robot [\[link\]](#)
- 2021 **PopSci.** *Want ethical AI? Hand the keys to middle schoolers.*, Interviewed for ethical AI curriculum in DAILY Project [\[link\]](#)