

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

- C14 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
- C13 Model AI Assignments: AI & Employment Lesson Plan
 Cunyan Ma, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal
 EAAI 2025
- C12 Power Dynamics and Autonomy: Engaging Employees around the Design of Autonomous Agents
 Anastasia Ostrowski, Lucy Gunther, **Daniella DiPaola**, Cynthia Breazeal
 2025 HRI Conference
- C11 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
- C10 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
- C1 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, Shiyan 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

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- 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 [\[link\]](#)