

# Fauna Mahootian

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## TAKEAWAYS:

I'm an effective altruist. I have a basic math and coding background. I've worked independently and with teams to deliver a product. I'm willing to work outside my intellectual comfort zone in order reach my goals.

## EDUCATION:

**Cornell University**, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, NY  
B.Sc., Human Behavior and Information Science - *Interdisciplinary Studies Program*  
Minor in Environment and Sustainability Sciences, GPA: 3.66

May 2019

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK:

Object-Oriented Programming • Functional Programming • Discrete Structures • Data Science • Data Visualization •  
Crowdsourcing and Human Computation • Computational Psychology • Linear Algebra • Intro to Statistics • Calculus I

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

### Natural Language Processing Research Assistant

September 2018 - present

**Cornell University Dept. of Computer and Info Science**, advised by Xanda Schofield & Dr. David Mimno, Ithaca, NY

- Created a search tool for sociologists to quickly find documents about their topic of interest from a large corpus
- Read literature on LDA topic modeling, reimplemented old project code, optimized threshold criteria for search
- Analyzed and improved the efficacy of topic proportion thresholds in identifying relevant subset of corpus, using Bayesian optimization. Programming language: Python

### Program Evaluation Consultant

January 2019

**Crescendo, Montreal, Canada**

- Bootstrapped program evaluation metric and developed assessment method (survey) for a software development startup creating a Slack bot for continual diversity and inclusion education in the workplace
- Rapidly learned about program evaluation through lit review and implemented findings in survey instrument design
- Independently structured own time to deliver product efficiently by end of contract

### Biochemistry Research Assistant

October 2015 - April 2016

**Hunter Lab, University of Michigan**, advised by Amanda Meier, Ann Arbor, MI

- Investigated the effect of colonization by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) on plant defenses in four species of milkweed. Prepared and collected data by staining and mounting roots on slides, weighing biomasses, isolating cardenolides, counting trichomes.
- Statistical analysis carried out using R, results presented at annual undergrad research symposium

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### Sustainability and Humanitarian Outreach Chair

September 2018 - December 2018

**Von Cramm Cooperative (residence), Ithaca, NY**

- Implemented several projects, including creation of waste signage, monitoring and recording air quality, to improve health of residents and surrounding environment by promoting both institutional and individual behavioral change
- Developed SOPs for the SHOC position, as the first coop member to hold it (managerial, executive)
- Developed time tracking and scheduling techniques to support duties

### Designer and Strategist

September 2017 - May 2018

**Design Connect Program, Cornell University Dept. of City and Regional Planning, Ithaca, NY**

- Collaborated with a team of planning students on two projects: to organize an event that invited civic engagement in planning of a public space, and to create a guidebook on tactical placemaking customized to the county
- Planned event space setup, ideated interactive survey methods
- Showed initiative in creating guidebook logos. Conducted site evaluations. Researched and wrote about tactics

**SKILLS:** (proficient:) Python, OCaml, (familiar:) Java, JavaScript • Adobe Illustrator, Indesign, Photoshop

**EXTRACURRICULARS:** Enviro Co. - branding, music production and video design ; Kitsch Magazine - writing, illustration