

Gianna Williams, Ph.D Student

Research Focus: HCI Researcher, Social Computing, Sociotechnical Systems

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LinkedIn

🌐 <https://gwillia1111.github.io/MySite/>



Education

- 2022 – Expected 2027  **Ph.D. Computer Science, Northeastern University** Advised by Alexandra To
3.87/4.00
- 2022 – 2024  **M.S. Computer Science, Northeastern University** 3.87/4.00
- 2018 – 2022  **B.S. Computer Science Minor in Sociology , American University**
3.63/4.00

Publications

- 1 **Williams, G.**, M. D. L. Santos, S. Savage, and A. To, "Mapping the crowdsourcing workforce in latin america and the caribbean," *MexIHC'24*,
- 2 A. Smith, **Williams, G.**, G. Thompson, and A. To, "That's what we pay for: Culture and modding in the black simmers community," (*Under Review*),
- 3 **Williams, G.**, N. Chen, M. A. Devito, and A. To, "Why can't black women just be?: Black femme content creators navigating algorithmic monoliths," (*CHI 2025*),
- 4 N. Chen, **Williams, G.**, A. To, and M. A. Devito, "I can take what i want and adapt as needed: Bipoc identity-making and resistance through internet aesthetics on tiktok," (*Under Review*),
- 5 **Williams, G.**, "Black content creators' responses and resistance strategies on tiktok," *arXiv Preprint*, 2023.

Employment History

- 2022 –  **Research Assistant**, Alexandra To Lab, Northeastern University
Conducting fair Human Centered AI research Alexandra To's Lab at Northeastern University
- June 2022 – August 2023  **Tutor**, IdTech
Tasked with creating and teaching dynamic lessons on diverse technology topics, including programming, web development, robotics, and other STEM fields
- August 2021 – December 2021  **Research Intern**, Data + Feminism Lab , Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Tasked with creating and presenting dynamic lessons on diverse technology topics, including programming, web development, robotics, and other STEM fields

Employment History (continued)

June 2021 – August 2021

- **Summer Research Intern**, Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Researched under Andrew Lipman's supervision, using Natural Language Processing using N-Gram models to classify complex information.

May 2020 – September 2020

- **Software Engineering Intern**, Northrop Grumman

Developed and documented on Northrop Grumman's Defensive System Team, which provided opportunities to increase my C++ coding skills in addition to learning the AGILE framework

June 2019 – June 2019

- **Summer Software Engineering Intern**, Twitter (Currently called X).

new features for Twitter, met engineers, and prepared a pitch for SWE IIs at Twitter.

Teaching

Spring 2025

- **Northeastern University**, (Teaching Assistant)

CS 7180 AI in Education: Past, Present, Future Graduate Level Seminar

Help grade, create discussion and facilitate conversation on theories from psychology and computer science, using AI and design methods.

2018 - 2022

- **American University** (Teaching Assistant)

CSC 121 Creative Programming Undergraduate Level , CSC 621 Design Organization Programming Languages Undergraduate Level

Skills

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|-----------|--|
| Coding | ■ Java, Pytorch, Python, Java, Git, TensorFlow, LabView, Swift, React, Node.JS |
| Databases | ■ MySQL, PostgreSQL, HSQL, SQLite, JSON, MongoDB |
| Web Dev | ■ HTML, CSS, JavaScript, |
| Misc. | ■ Academic research, teaching, advising Reflexive Thematic Analysis |

Service

Fall 2024

- **ACM CHI Community**, (External Reviewer)

Served as a reviewer for ACM CHI Conference, providing critical evaluations of submissions in Human-Computer Interaction. Assessed research quality, originality, and relevance to advance conference standards and contribute to field knowledge

Spring 2023

- **Khoury College Student Social Committee Chair at Northeastern University**, (Volunteer)

Plans and organizes diverse events and activities for Northeastern Computer Science PhD students fostering a vibrant and inclusive within Khoury College through engaging social, cultural, and recreational programs for students.

Service (continued)

Jan 2023 - May 2024

- **Khoury College Hiring Committee at Northeastern University**, (Volunteer)
During the Spring Semesters, I reviewed applications for prospective new faculty within the department at Khoury College.

Spring 2023

- **Khoury College Hiring Committee at Northeastern University**, (Volunteer)
During the Spring Semester, I review applications for prospective students within the Ph.D. program and match prospective students with potential advisors within the department.

2018 -

- **Black Girls Code**, (Volunteer)
Responsible for delivering structured and engaging lessons in various aspects of technology, such as programming, web development, robotics, or other STEM-related subjects.

Mentorship

- **Graduate Student:** Soni Rusagara, mentored Fall 2024, Northeastern University, M.S in Computer Science
- **Undergraduate Student:** Natalie Chen, mentored Spring 2024, Northeastern University, M.S Student in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
- **Undergraduate Student:** Maya De Los Santos, mentored January 2023 – December 2023, Northeastern University, M.S in Electrical Engineering
- **Undergraduate Student:** Liz Maylin, advised January 2023 – June 2023, Wellesley College, B.S in Computer Science

Leadership

2023 -

- **Black Graduate Student Association at Northeastern University**, (Co-founder, Member)
The BGSA enriches the scholarly and professional development of Black graduate students at Northeastern by facilitating opportunities for service, activism, and academic fellowship through events that attract more than 100 participants.

2022 -

- **National Society of Black Engineers Graduate Student**, (Liaison)
Facilitates communication, networking, and mentorship opportunities for undergraduate students to look into research and Graduate School, bridging their academic and professional journey within NSBE.