

Natasha Jaques

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Media Arts and Sciences <i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology, GPA: 5.0</i>	2014-2019
M.Sc. Computer Science <i>University of British Columbia, GPA: 94.7%</i>	2012-2014
B.Sc. Computer Science <i>University of Regina, GPA: 92.8%</i>	2007-2012
B.A. Psychology <i>University of Regina, GPA: 92.0%</i>	2007-2012

AWARDS

Best paper awards:

- 2021 Best of IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing Paper Collection
- 2020 Best Paper at the NeurIPS Cooperative AI workshop
- 2019 Best Paper Honourable Mention at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)
- 2019 Best Paper Nominee at the NeurIPS Conversational AI workshop
- 2016 Best Demo at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
- 2016 Best Paper at the NeurIPS Machine Learning for Healthcare Workshop

Grants:

- 2021 [C3.ai Digital Transformation Institute AI for Energy and Climate Security Awards](#), "Offline Reinforcement Learning for Energy-Efficient Power Grids", \$210,000.

Merit awards:

- 2019 Rising Stars in EECS Pitch Competition Winner, Computer Science
- 2017 Champion College Centennial Alumni of Distinction Award
- 2012 S.E. Stewart Award for the highest GPA in an Arts degree
- 2011 Faculty of Science Supplemental Instruction Scholar Award

Scholarships:

- 2014 NSERC Doctoral Postgraduate Fellowship
- 2014 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Wellbeing Fellowship
- 2013 Microsoft Research Graduate Women's Scholarship
- 2013 UBC Affiliated Fellowships Scholarship
- 2012 UBC CS Merit Scholarship
- 2012 NSERC Canadian Graduate Scholarship
- 2012 ISM Canada IT Futures Scholarship
- 2011 Shell Canada Scholarship in Computer Science
- 2010 John & Jack Spencer Gordon Middleton Scholarship
- 2007-2012 Academic Gold Scholarship

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Google Brain, Research Scientist

Berkeley, USA

Advisor: *Sergey Levine, Douglas Eck, Aleksandra Faust*

2020

- Social learning helps humans and animals rapidly adapt to new circumstances, coordinate with others, and drives the emergence of complex learned behaviors. My research focuses on **Social Reinforcement Learning**, which asks whether social learning can provide the same benefits to AI agents.
- This includes developing **multi-agent** training algorithms that create an automatic **curriculum** to aid learning, exploration, and generalization, enabling agents to solve problems that would not otherwise be possible when learning alone.
- Improving **human-AI interaction** through mechanisms that allow agents to learn from, and rapidly adapt to and coordinate with, human partners.
- Creating techniques to enhance multi-agent **social learning** and **coordination** with other agents.

MIT Media Lab, PhD Candidate

Boston, USA

Advisor: *Rosalind Picard*

2014-2019

- My PhD focused on both advancing **Affective Computing** (AC) through the development of sophisticated machine learning methods tailored to AC problems, and improving **machine learning** via enhanced **social and emotional** intelligence.
- Focused on improving the generalization of machine learning models, via multi-task learning, **intrinsic motivation, transfer learning, and learning from human preferences**.
- Demonstrated that using **multi-task learning to personalize** machine learning models to suit an individual can improve the accuracy in predicting mood, health, and stress by $\sim 20\%$, leading to state-of-the-art performance on this task.
- Focused on a range of **Affective Computing** projects; e.g. automatically filling in missing sensor data in multimodal inputs, predicting mood, stress, health, sleep, and bonding in conversations, and detecting artifacts in physiological signals.

DeepMind, Research Scientist Intern

London, UK

Advisor: *Nando de Freitas*

2018

- Developed a unified mechanism for improving **coordination** and **communication** in multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) using an intrinsic social motivation to promote **causal influence** between agents.
- Demonstrated that this led to agents spontaneously developing **emergent communication**, and could be used to learn more meaningful explicit communication protocols.
- Showed that influence can be computed in a **fully decentralized** manner using each agent's internal model of other agents, without requiring a centralized controller or access to another agent's rewards.

Google Brain, Research Scientist Intern

San Francisco, USA

Advisor: *Douglas Eck*

2017-2018

- Demonstrated the **first example** of improving the output of a deep learning model through automatic detection of human **facial expression** reactions to its output.
- **Led a team of five** in conducting **HCI** research and building a platform to collect people's facial expression responses to samples from the model.
- Used a combinative of **generative models (VAE and GAN)** to improve the outputs of Sketch RNN according to facial expression response data.

Google Brain, Research Scientist Intern

San Francisco, USA

Advisor: *Douglas Eck*

2016

- Developed a novel technique for training recurrent neural networks both on data and using reinforcement learning (RL), by treating the model trained on data as a prior policy and penalizing deviation from this prior using **KL-Control**.
- Provided empirical results showing the technique is able to reduce **catastrophic forgetting** when doing **transfer learning** from maximum likelihood to RL.
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of the approach for both **music generation** and **drug discovery**.

Microsoft, Program Manager Intern

Redmond, USA

Advisor: *Brian Jack*

2014

- Researched how to handle the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 for the **Networking** team in **Azure**.
- Designed the **implementation** and initiated writing code to support the transition.

University of British Columbia, Masters Student

Vancouver, Canada

Advisor: *Cristina Conati*

2012-2014

- Developed machine learning methods for detecting when a student using an **Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS)** was bored, based on their eye tracking and skin conductance data.
- Studied methods for optimizing **POMDPs** to create an emotionally adaptive ITS.
- Compared the performance of deep neural networks and random forests for **automatically recognizing sign language** symbols from Microsoft Kinect data.

University of Regina, Honours Undergraduate Student

Regina, Canada

Advisor: *David Gerhard, Howard Hamilton*

2012-2014

- Compared the effectiveness of **genetic algorithms** vs. reinforcement learning for solving a simulated maze navigation task.
- Developed a series of **gesture recognition** methods for use with the Microsoft Kinect, in order to create a gesture-based **musical instrument** interface.
- Created an algorithm to **automatically recognize swimming strokes** in accelerometer data obtained from waterproof devices worn by swimmers.

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

- Cultivator Saskatchewan Startup Summit (Panelist), Virtual, September 2021
- [Montreal Institute of Learning Algorithms \(MILA\) RL Sofa](#), Virtual, July 2021
- [University of Regina Department of Computer Science Alumni and Friends Lecture Series](#) , Virtual, June 2021
- Berkeley Center for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence (CHAI) Workshop, Virtual, June 2021
- [McGill University AI4Good Lab](#), Virtual, May 2021
- [ICLR Social AI Virtual Gathering](#), Virtual, May 2021
- [Jay Shah Machine Learning Podcast](#), Virtual, March 2021
- [Re-Work Women In AI Podcast](#), Virtual, March 2021
- Berkeley Center for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence (CHAI) Seminar, Virtual, February 2021
- [Oxford Department of Computer Science Seminar](#), Virtual, February 2021
- [Re-Work Deep Learning 2.0 Summit](#), Virtual, January 2021
- [Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück Deep Reinforcement Learning Workshop](#), Virtual, January 2021
- [NeurIPS Cooperative AI Workshop \(Panelist\)](#), Virtual, December 2020
- [University College London Deciding, Acting, and Reasoning with Knowledge \(DARK\) Seminar](#), Virtual, December 2020
- [Google Apprenticeship Learning Summit](#), Virtual, December 2020
- Microsoft Research New York, Virtual, November 2020
- [Microsoft AI Breakthroughs Workshop](#), Virtual, September 2020

- DeepMind Seminar, Virtual, August 2020
- [Google Synthetic Characters Conference](#), Virtual, August 2020
- Brain RL Seminar, Virtual, August 2020
- [Samsung Forum](#), Virtual, April 2020
- [AAAI workshop on Affective Content Analysis \(Keynote\)](#), New York, USA, February 2020
- Berkeley Center for Human-compatible AI (CHAI) seminar, Berkeley, USA, November 2019
- IBM K-12 Education Conference, Cambridge, USA, October 2019
- [ICML workshop on Imitation, Intent, and Interaction](#), Cambridge, USA, June 2019
- [Broad Institute](#), Cambridge, USA, February 2019
- Schlumberger-Doll Research Center, Cambridge, USA, December 2018
- Google AI, Montreal, Canada, December 2018
- New York University, New York, USA, November 2018
- [Starsconf \(Keynote\)](#), Santiago, Chile, November 2018
- [Creative AI Meetup](#), London, UK, September 2018
- Boston University, Boston, USA, March 2017
- University of Regina, Regina, Canada, January 2017

PRESS

- **Science.** Hutson, M. (2021, January 19). *Who needs a teacher? Artificial intelligence designs lesson plans for itself*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/01/who-needs-teacher-artificial-intelligence-designs-lesson-plans-itself>
- **TopBots.** Yao, M (2019, December 12). *Breakthrough Research in Reinforcement Learning*. Retrieved from: <https://www.topbots.com/top-ai-reinforcement-learning-research-papers-2019/>
- **IEEE Spectrum.** Hutson, M. (2019, June 17). *DeepMind Teaches AI Teamwork*. Retrieved from: <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/computing/software/deepmind-teaches-ai-teamwork>
- **MIT Technology Review.** Hao, K. (2019, June 20). *Here are 10 ways AI could help fight climate change*. Retrieved from: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/613838/ai-climate-change-machine-learning/>
- **National Geographic.** Snow, J. (2019, July 18). *How artificial intelligence can tackle climate change*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/artificial-intelligence-climate-change/>

- **Quartz.** Gershgorn, D. (2018, February 16). *Google is building AI to make humans smile*. Retrieved from: <https://qz.com/1209466/google-is-building-ai-to-make-humans-smile/>
- **MIT Technology Review.** Knight, W. (2016, November 30). *AI songsmith cranks out surprisingly catchy tunes*. Retrieved from: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/603003/ai-songsmith-cranks-out-surprisingly-catchy-tunes/>
- **Boston Magazine.** Annear, S. (2015, January 5). *Website tracks your happiness to remind you life's not so bad*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/blog/2015/01/05/smiletracker-captures-photos-internet/>
- **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).** Brace, S. (2015, January 5). *Regina woman develops smile app at MIT* Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-woman-develops-smile-app-at-mit-1.2886943>

PUBLICATIONS [Google Scholar]

*Equal Contribution

44. Fickinger, A.*, Jaques, N.*, Parajuli, S., Chang, M., Rhinehart, N., Berseth, G., Russell, S., & Levine, S., “[Explore and Control with Adversarial Surprise](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, (submitted) (2021).
43. Gur, I., Jaques, N., Malta, K., Tiwari, M., Lee, H., & Faust, A., “[Adversarial Environment Generation for Learning to Navigate the Web](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, (submitted) (2021).
42. Filos, A., Lyle, C., Gal, Y., Levine, S., Jaques, N.*, & Farquhar, G.*, “[PsiPhi-Learning: Reinforcement Learning with Demonstrations using Successor Features and Inverse Temporal Difference Learning](#)”, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)* **Long talk (top 3% of submissions)**, Virtual (2021).
41. Ndousse, K., Eck, D., Levine, S., & Jaques, N., “[Emergent Social Learning via Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning](#)”, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)* , Virtual (2021).
40. Lee, D., Jaques, N., Kew, J., Eck, D., Schuurmans, D., & Faust, A., “[Joint Attention for Multi-Agent Coordination and Social Learning](#)”, *ICRA Social Intelligence Workshop* **Spotlight talk**, Virtual (2021).
39. Ndousse, K., Eck, D., Levine, S., & Jaques, N., “[Learning Social Learning](#)”, *NeurIPS Cooperative AI Workshop* **Best Paper** , Virtual (2020).
38. Dennis, M.*, Jaques, N.*, Vinitzky, E., Bayen, A., Russell, S., Critch, A., & Levine, S., “[Emergent Complexity and Zero-Shot Transfer via Unsupervised Environment Design](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* **Oral (top 1% of submissions)**, Virtual (2020).
37. Jaques, N.*, Shen, J. H.*, Ghandeharioun, A., Ferguson, C., Lapedriza, A., Jones, N., Gu, S., & Picard, R., “[Human-Centric Dialog Training via Offline Reinforcement Learning](#)”, *Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, Virtual (2020).

36. Jaques, N., “[Social and Affective Machine Learning](#)”, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, PhD Thesis (2019).
35. Saleh, A.*, Jaques, N.*, Ghandeharioun, A., Shen, J. H., & Picard, R., “[Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for Open-Domain Dialog](#)”, *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Oral (top 7.8% of submissions)*, New York, USA (2019).
34. Jaques, N., Ghandeharioun, A., Shen, J. H., Ferguson, C., Lapedriza, A., Jones, N., Gu, S., & Picard, R., “[Way Off-Policy Batch Deep Reinforcement Learning of Implicit Human Preferences in Dialog](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop on Conversational AI*, Vancouver, Canada (2019).
33. Ghandeharioun, A.*, Shen, J. H.*, Jaques, N.*, Ferguson, C., Jones, N., Lapedriza, A., & Picard, R., “[Approximating Interactive Human Evaluation with Self-Play for Open-Domain Dialog Systems](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Vancouver, Canada (2019).
32. Rolnick, D., Donti, P. L., Kaack, L. H., Kochanski, K., Lacoste, A., Sankaran, K., Ross, A. S., Milojevic-Dupont, N., Jaques, N., Waldman-Brown, A., Luccioni, A., Maharaj, T., Sherwin, E. D., Mukkavilli, S. K., Kording, K. P., Gomes, C., Ng, A. Y., Hassabis, D., Platt, J. C., Creutzig, F., Chayes, J., Bengio, Y., “[Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning](#)”, *ACM Computing Surveys*, (2019).
31. Jaques, N., Lazaridou, A., Hughes, E., Gulcehre, C., Ortega, P. A., Strouse, D. J., Leibo, J.Z. & de Freitas, N., “[Social Influence as Intrinsic Motivation for Multi-Agent Deep Reinforcement Learning](#)”, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) Best Paper Honourable Mention (top 0.26% of submissions)*, Long Beach, USA (2019).
30. Jones, N., Jaques, N., Pataranutaporn, P., Ghandeharioun, A., & Picard, R., “[Automatic Triage and Analysis of Online Suicide Risk with Document Embeddings and Latent Dirichlet Allocation](#)”, *Affective Computing and Intelligence Interaction (ACII) workshop on Machine Learning for Mental Health*, (2019).
29. Jaques, N., McCleary, J., Engel, J., Ha, D., Bertsch, F., Eck, D. & Picard, R., “[Learning via Social Awareness: Improving a Deep Generative Sketching Model with Facial Feedback](#)”, *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) workshop*, (2018).
28. Johnson, K., Taylor, S., Fedor, S., Jaques, N., Chen, W., & Picard, R., “[Vomit Comet Physiology: Autonomic Changes in Novice Flyers](#)”, *IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, Honolulu, USA (2018).
27. Jaques, N., Gu, S., Bahdanau, D., Hernández-Lobato, J. M., Turner, R. E. & Eck, D., “[Sequence Tutor: Conservative Fine-Tuning of Sequence Generation Models with KL-control](#)”, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, Sydney, Australia (2017).
26. Taylor, S.*, Jaques, N.*, Nosakhare, E., Sano, A. & Picard, R., “[Personalized Multitask Learning for Predicting Tomorrow’s Mood, Stress, and Health](#)”, *IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing*, (2017).
25. Jaques, N., Rudovic, O., Taylor, S., Sano, A. & Picard, R., “[Predicting Tomorrow’s Mood, Health, and Stress Level using Personalized Multitask Learning and Domain Adaptation](#)”, *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, 48, 17-33 (2017).

24. Jaques, N., Taylor, S., Sano, A. & Picard, R., “[Multimodal Autoencoder: A Deep Learning Approach to Filling in Missing Sensor Data and Enabling Better Mood Prediction](#)”, *International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)*, San Antonio, USA (2017).
23. Taylor, S., Jaques, N., E. Nosakhare, Sano, A., Klerman, E. B. & Picard, R., “[Importance of Sleep Data in Predicting Next-Day Stress, Happiness, and Health in College Students](#)”, *Journal of Sleep and Sleep Disorders Research (suppl.1)*, A294-A295 (2017).
22. Jaques, N., Gu, S., Turner, R. E. & Eck, D., “[Tuning Recurrent Neural Networks with Reinforcement Learning](#)”, *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) - workshop*, Toulon, France (2016).
21. Jaques, N.*, Taylor S.*, Nosakhare E., Sano A. & Picard R., “[Multi-task Learning for Predicting Health, Stress, and Happiness](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop on Machine Learning for Healthcare **Best Paper***, Barcelona, Spain (2016).
20. Roberts, A., Engel, J., Hawthorne, C., Simon, I., Waite, E., Oore, S., Jaques, N., Resnick, C. & Eck, D., “[Interactive Musical Improvisation with Magenta](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) **Best Demo***, Barcelona, Spain (2016).
19. Jaques, N., McDuff, D., Kim, Y. K., & Picard R., “[Understanding and Predicting Bonding in Conversations Using Thin Slices of Facial Expressions and Body Language](#)”, *Intelligent Virtual Agents (IVA)*, Los Angeles, USA (2016).
18. Jaques, N., Kim, Y. K., & Picard R., “[Personality, Attitudes, and Bonding in Conversations](#)”, *Intelligent Virtual Agents (IVA)*, Los Angeles, USA (2016).
17. Jaques, N., Rich, T., Dinakar, K., Farve, N., Chen, W.V., Maes, P. & Picard, R., “[BITxBIT: Encouraging Behavior Change with N=2 Experiments](#)”, *Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors*, San Jose, USA (2016).
16. Taylor, S., Jaques, N., Sano, A., Azaria, A., Ghandeharioun, A. & Picard, R., “[Machine Learning of Sleep and Wake Behaviors to Classify Self-Reported Evening Mood](#)”, *Sleep*, Denver, USA (2016).
15. Jaques, N.*, Taylor, S.*, Sano, A. & Picard, R., “[Multi-task Multi-Kernel Learning for Estimating Individual Wellbeing](#)”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop on Multimodal Machine Learning*, Montreal, Canada (2015).
14. Xia, V., Jaques, N., Taylor, S., Fedor, S. & Picard, R., “[Active learning for Electrodermal Activity classification](#)”, *IEEE Conference on Signal Processing in Medicine and Biology (SPMB)*, Philadelphia, USA (2015).
13. Jaques, N.*, Taylor, S.*, Azaria, A., Ghandeharioun, A., Sano, A. & Picard R., “[Predicting students’ happiness from physiology, phone, mobility, and behavioral data](#)”, *International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)*, Xi’an, China (2015).
12. Taylor, S.*, Jaques, N.*, Chen, W., Fedor, S., Sano, A. & Picard, R., “[Automatic identification of artifacts in Electrodermal Activity data](#)”, *International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, Milan, Italy (2015).

11. Chen, W., Jaques, N., Taylor, S., Sano, A., Fedor, S. & Picard R., “[Wavelet-based motion artifact removal for Electrodermal Activity](#)”, *International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, Milan, Italy (2015).
10. Sano, A., Yu, A. Z., McHill, A. W., Phillips, A.J., Taylor, S., Jaques, N., Czeisler, C. A., Klerman, E. B. & Picard, R., “[Prediction of happy-sad mood from daily behaviors and previous sleep history](#)”, *International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, Milan, Italy (2015).
9. Jaques, N. & Farve, N., “[Engaging the workplace with challenges](#)”, *International Conference on Persuasive Technologies*, Chicago, USA (2015).
8. Jaques, N., Chen, W. V. & Picard, R., “[SmileTracker: Automatically and Unobtrusively Recording Smiles and their Context.](#)”, *Proceedings of the CHI Conference Extended Abstracts*, Seoul, Korea (2015).
7. Sano, A., Phillips, A. J., Yu, A. Z., McHill, A. W., Taylor, S., Jaques, N., Czeisler, C. A., Klerman, E. B. & Picard, R., “[Recognizing academic performance, sleep quality, stress level, and mental health using personality traits, wearable sensors and mobile phones](#)”, *Wearable and Implantable Body Sensor Networks (BSN)*, Cambridge, USA (2015).
6. Jaques, N., “[Predicting Affect in an Intelligent Tutoring System](#)”, *University of British Columbia*, Master’s Thesis (2014).
5. Jaques, N., Conati, C., Harley, J. M. & Azevedo, R., “[Predicting Affect from Gaze Data During Interaction with an Intelligent Tutoring System](#)”, *Intelligent Tutoring Systems*, Honolulu, USA (2014).
4. Conati, C., Jaques, N. & Muir, M., “[Understanding attention to adaptive hints in educational games: an eye-tracking study](#)”, *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 23(1-4), 136-161 (2013).
3. Jaques, N., “[Emotionally Adaptive Intelligent Tutoring Systems using POMDPs](#)”, *Unpublished manuscript*, (2013).
2. Jaques, N., “[Fast Johnson–Lindenstrauss transform for classification of high dimensional data](#)”, *Unpublished manuscript*, (2013).
1. Jaques, N. & Nutini, J., “[A Comparison of Random Forests and Dropout Nets for Sign Language Recognition with the Kinect](#)”, *Unpublished manuscript*, (2013).

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Cooperative AI workshop Mentorship Program

Organizer

Summer 2021

I planned and implemented the [NeurIPS 2021 Cooperative AI workshop mentorship program](#), which pairs junior researchers from underrepresented groups with a senior researcher who can provide feedback on their submission.

Google Computer Science Research Mentorship Program

Mentor

Spring 2021

I supported computer science graduate students from under-represented groups through a twelve week program in which I counseled them on research, and provided career and networking advice.

Climate Change AI (CCAI) workshop

Mentor

Spring 2021

I served as a Research Mentor as part of the Climate Change AI (CCAI) ICML workshop program. I provided feedback, advice, and research discussions to a mentee interested in submitting to the workshop

NeurIPS Affinity Groups Mentorship

Mentor

Winter 2020

I participated in Black in AI and Women in ML (WIML) as a mentor, hosting roundtable sessions in which I answered questions and provided guidance about finding a job in industry and choosing between industry and academia.

Richard Tapia Diversity in Computing Conference

Mentor

Fall 2020

I participated in the conference as a mentor, and hosted a roundtable session with students, answering questions and providing career guidance

NeurIPS Climate Change AI Workshop

Mentor

Summer 2020

The goal of the CCAI mentorship program is to pair individuals with machine learning research expertise with students working on climate-focused ML projects. I provided research advice related to reinforcement learning to students working on the problem of directing resources to stop wildfire spread.

OpenAI Scholars Program

Mentor

Summer 2018,
Spring 2020

The Scholars program is an initiative to encourage individuals from underrepresented groups to study deep learning. Mentors provide guidance to participants in gaining a technical understanding of deep learning and advise on their projects.

Berkeley AI Research (BAIR) mentoring

Mentor

2020

As a BAIR mentor, I helped support undergraduates from traditionally underrepresented groups to embark on a career in machine learning research.

MIT MAS.S61 - Personalized Machine Learning (Graduate level)

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017

The first iteration of a course focused on multi-task and domain adaptation methods for training machine learning classifiers that are personalized to fit the individual, but which still gain statistical strength from the population. Several projects I completed during my PhD were used to create material for the course; I delivered lectures, recitations, [designed teaching material and assignments](#), and helped grade projects.

MIT 6.867 - Machine Learning (Graduate level)

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2016

MIT's main graduate level course on machine learning methods. In addition to delivering recitations and grading homework and exams, I developed the first deep learning assignment for the course.

UBC CPSC 344 - Intro to HCI Methods (Graduate level)

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2013

Tools and techniques teaching a systematic approach to interface design, task analysis, analytic and empirical evaluation.

UBC CPSC 430 - Computers and Society

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2012

A course examining the social and ethical issues of modern technology.

U. of R. CS 102 - Intro to Computer Science

Sessional Lecturer

Summer 2012

Taught an intro CS course, and developed a novel set of course material, including the syllabus, lecture notes, and homework assignments.

U. of R. Math 110 - Calculus I

Supplemental Instruction

Fall 2010

Delivered recitations to help students work understand differentiation, integration, optimization, etc.

U. of R. CS 102 - Intro to Computer Science

Supplemental Instruction

2008-2012

Led optional recitations for intro to computer science, answering questions and designing problems to help students understand the material. As one of the first students to participate in the program, I helped to develop materials for it, including creating a web app to support it.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Research Community Leadership

- [Berkeley Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning Seminar](#) (2020-present): Creator/Organizer
- [NeurIPS Cooperative AI workshop](#) (2021): Organizer
- [NeurIPS Cooperative AI workshop](#) (2020): Panelist, Q&A Moderator
- [ICLR Climate Change for Artificial Intelligence \(CCAI\) workshop](#) (2019): Organizer
- [NeurIPS Emergent Communication \(EmeComm\) workshop](#) (2019): Organizer
- [ICML Artificial Intelligence in Affective Computing \(AffComp\) workshop](#) (2018): Organizer

Reviewing and Program Committees

- Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) (2019, 2020, 2021): Reviewer (Top ranked)
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) (2019, 2020, 2021): Reviewer
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) (2021): Reviewer
- Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII) (2021): Reviewer

- NeurIPS Cooperative AI workshop (2020): Program Committee
- NeurIPS Offline RL workshop (2020): Program Committee
- Women in Machine Learning (WIML) at NeurIPS (2019): Reviewer
- Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) (2019, 2020): Reviewer
- Imitation, Intent, and Interaction Workshop (IIIW) at ICML (2019): Program Committee
- Transactions on Affective Computing (TAFFC) (2019): Reviewer
- Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing (TASL) (2019): Reviewer
- Workshop on Machine Learning for Healthcare (ML4HC) at NeurIPS (2018): Program Committee
- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Affective Computing (AffComp) at IJCAI (2018): Program Committee
- Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (ToCHI) (2017): Reviewer
- Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE) (2017): Reviewer
- Workshop on Machine Learning for Healthcare (ML4HC) at NeurIPS (2016, 2017): Program Committee
- Computer Human Interaction (CHI) (2015, 2016): Reviewer

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Saskatchewan Startup Incubator Cultivator

2021

Virtual

Cultivator is a startup incubator based in the province of Saskatchewan. I volunteered to help support local startups by consulting with CEOs of companies using AI and machine learning.

Climate Change AI (CCAI)

2020

Virtual

As one of the committee members of CCAI (<https://www.climatechange.ai/>), I helped catalyze the use of machine learning technology for mitigating and adapting to climate change through building a community of diverse stakeholders and connecting them to resources such as information and funding.

Media Lab Carbon Offsets

2019

Cambridge, USA

Together with two other students, I petitioned for funding to create a program to offset the carbon emissions of research-related flights for the Media Lab: <https://offset.media.mit.edu/>

Students Offering Support

2015, 2017

Cambridge, USA

SOS aims to assist under-represented students applying to the Media Lab. I helped participants with their application portfolio and statement.

Cradles to Crayons

2015

Boston, USA

I helped to sort and package donations of clothing, toys, and books for children in low-income families.

UBC Thunderbots

2013-2014

Vancouver, Canada

Thunderbots is a project to build competitive, soccer playing robots. I contributed by working on the AI driving the robots' plays and tactics

Girlsmarts

2012-2014

Vancouver, Canada

Planned and organized workshops aimed at increasing interest in Computer Science among elementary-school-aged girls. Helped teach programming and robotics activities.

UBC CS Graduate Student Association - Vice President, Social

2013

Vancouver, Canada

I organized social events for the graduate Computer Science students at UBC.

U. of R. CS Students' Society - Vice President

2010-2012

Regina, Canada

I participated in running the Computer Science students' society, including organizing fundraising events.

Mother Teresa Middle School Science Camp

2011

Regina, Canada

I volunteered for an *option gratuit* summer camp for economically and socially disadvantaged youth from the core of Regina. We built robots.

LANGUAGES AND TOOLS

Python, Tensorflow, Pytorch, Ruby, Django, Javascript, Matlab, C, C++, C#, Scipy, Scikit-learn, Pandas AWS, Google App Engine, Theano, Weka, Angular, Git, SVN, PHP, VB, Octave, Prolog

OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS

Social RL

https://github.com/google-research/google-research/tree/master/social_rl

The Social RL repo comprises three different repos. The first is a set of multi-agent training environments including navigation and sparse reward tasks. Second is code to train multiple independent agents using TF Agents and PPO. Finally, the third repo supports adversarial environment generation, which enables learning an RL policy to generate environments in order to challenge a second set of learning agents.

EDA Explorer

<http://eda-explorer.media.mit.edu/>

An open source web application which allows anyone to upload Electrodermal Activity (EDA) data, visualize it, and analyze it using built-in machine learning algorithms. The site currently has hundreds of users, hosts thousands of EDA files, and has accelerated a number of research projects.

Sequence Tutor

https://github.com/tensorflow/magenta/tree/master/magenta/models/rl_tuner

Code for training an RNN sequence model first on data, and then with a reinforcement learning loss function combining temporal difference learning with extrinsic reward, while penalizing KL-divergence from the policy of the pre-trained model.

Personalized Multi-task Learning

<https://github.com/mitmedialab/PersonalizedMultitaskLearning>

Code for three types of multi-task learning (MTL) models personalized to individual human data. Models include: i) a non-parametric hierarchical Bayesian model, ii) a MTL deep neural network, iii) Multi-task Multiple Kernel Learning, and all relevant baselines.