

Imani Finkley

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SUMMARY

Humanities scholar with extensive research experience in machine learning and software development interested in examining how generative AI impacts linguistic media and communication

EDUCATION

Cornell University | College of Arts & Sciences | Ithaca, NY

2020-2024

B.A. Literatures in English, Summa Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: “By AI: Authorship, Literature, and Large Language Models”

Relevant Courses: AI Practicum; Information Retrieval; Text Mining; Language Revitalization; Data Structures & Functional Programming; Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures; Discrete Mathematics; Linear Algebra

Danish Institute for Study Abroad | Copenhagen, Denmark

Jan 2023-May 2023

Core Program: Game Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications Assistant | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY

Sep 2023-May 2024

- Assist in development of press releases along with print, digital, and web content
- Compose monthly newsletter that communicates diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts and engagement opportunities in the Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
- Create stories, strategies, and promotional materials for multimedia channels and social media platforms

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow | *University of Maryland* | College Park, MD

Aug 2024-Present

- Mentored by Naomi Feldman and Philip Resnik as 2024-25 Baggett Fellow in the University of Maryland Department of Linguistics
- Conduct computational linguistics research focused primarily on linguistic decisions in generative AI models

Literatures in English Honors Candidate | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY

Aug 2023-May 2024

- Advised by Jane Juffer and Matthew Wilkens
- Analyze history of literary canon and the tradition of authorship in discussion with literary works produced by generative AI and large language models by applying literary and media theory concepts
- Study OpenAI’s GPT 3.5 alongside university policy and social opinion concerning generative-AI authorship

Visiting NLP Researcher | *Johns Hopkins University* | Le Mans, France

Jun 2023-Aug 2023

- Participant in 2023 Jelinek Summer Workshop for Speech and Language Technology (JSALT) at the Laboratoire Informatique du Mans (LIUM) in Le Mans, France
- Worked under Ehsan Variani, Lucas Ondel-Yang, and Ke Wu
- Design a PyTorch library version of the Lattice-based Speech Transducer JAX library to demonstrate the benefits of weighted finite state transducers with end-to-end pipelines with real-use speech processing applications
- Research the JAX/FLAX and PyTorch APIs to maintain comparable functionality across libraries

Computer Vision Researcher | *Brown University* | Providence, RI

Jun 2022-Aug 2022

- Worked under Daniel Ritchie
- Develop machine learning model for language-based image-to-image domain translation
- Adapt image-to-image translation pix2pix model architecture and pre-trained text-image embedding model

Undergraduate Researcher | *Brown University* | Providence, RI

Jan 2022-May 2022

- Mentored by Srinath Sridhar in exploreCSR: Socially-Responsible AI for Computational Creativity semester-long program
- Create and process 1600-image dataset using OpenCV methods for model training, testing, and validation
- Adapt cycleGAN model architecture for image translation of video game shots to photorealistic domain

- Undergraduate Research Assistant** | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY (Remote) **Feb 2021-Sep 2021**
- Review, summarize, and analyze relevant literature and computational sustainable methodologies surrounding water resource management and planning to assist Patrick Reed in The Reed Research Group
 - Implement an algorithm that calculates optimal policies for managing a given ecosystem and parameters

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

By AI: Authorship, Literature, and Large Language Models

Presentation | Humanities Scholar Program Spring Research Conference | Ithaca, NY | May 3, 2024

Literature in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

Presentation | Cornell University Department of Comparative Literature Theory Colloquium | Ithaca, NY | Feb 16, 2024

Final: Finite State Methods with Modern Neural Architectures for Speech Applications and Beyond

Presentation | Jelinek Summer Workshop for Speech and Language Technology (JSALT) | Le Mans, France | Aug 4, 2023

Language-Based Material Manipulation for Transforming Sketches into Images

Poster | Brown University Summer Research Symposium | Providence, RI | Aug 5, 2022

Poster | The Leadership Alliance National Conference | Hartford, Connecticut | Jul 29-31, 2022

Realizing the Forbidden West: Translating Gameplay into Hyper-realistic Action Shots

Poster | Brown University Computer Science Undergraduate Research Symposium | Providence, RI | May 5, 2022

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY

Jan 2024-May 2024

- Advise students in developing experiments, data collection, and implementing advanced NLP systems
- Grade projects and host biweekly 1-hour office hours for 15-student course, Advanced NLP for Humanities Research (INFO 4940)

Underrepresented Minorities in Computing (URMC) Mentor | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY

Jan 2022-May 2024

- Provide tools, resources, and plans for social, academic, and professional development/opportunities for 2 international students in the Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science

Course Consultant | *Cornell University* | Ithaca, NY

Jan 2022-May 2022

- Lead weekly 50-minute discussion sections to 20 students to review their understanding of discrete mathematics
- Grade homework and exams at least once a week in 2-hour sessions for a roughly 280-student course (CS2800)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Underrepresented Minorities in Computing | *Cornell University* | *President*

Dec 2021-Dec 2022

- Preside over weekly 30-person executive board, oversee the activities of standing committees, and implement technical outreach community support initiatives for 80 on-campus members
- Maintain relationships with 10 existing corporate sponsors and established new relationships with 6 corporations

Cornell Data Science | *Cornell University* | [Cornell Bias Lab](#) *Project Manager*

Sep 2022-Dec 2022

- Create and manage project plans that align sponsor and 5-person team goals that explore identity biases with(in) machine learning and artificially intelligent systems
- Present findings on 3 commercial machine translation models in “Bias in Translation” project

AWARDS

2024-25 Baggett Fellowship | *University of Maryland* | July 2024

2024 Outstanding Researcher Award Honorable Mention | *Computing Research Association* | December 2023

2023 Joseph E. Connolly '72 Memorial Prize | *Cornell University* | May 2023

2022 Dean's List Award for Academic Excellence | *Cornell University* | December 2022

2022 CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Conference Scholarship | *Cornell University* | September 2022

2021 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference Scholarship | *Cornell University* | August 2021