

Imani Finkley

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EDUCATION

University of Washington Seattle, WA	Expected 2030
Ph.D. Information Science Concentration: Data Science <i>Advisor:</i> Melanie Walsh	
Cornell University Ithaca, NY	2020-2024
B.A. Literatures in English, Summa Cum Laude	
<i>Honors Thesis:</i> “By AI: Authorship, Literature, and Large Language Models”	
Danish Institute for Study Abroad Copenhagen, Denmark	Jan 2023-May 2023
Core Program: Game Development	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow <i>University of Maryland</i> College Park, MD	Aug 2024-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advised by Naomi Feldman as 2024-25 Baggett Fellow in the University of Maryland Department of LinguisticsLead computational linguistics research focused primarily on input optimization for large language model long-form text generation	
Literatures in English Honors Candidate <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY	Aug 2023-May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advised by Jane Juffer and Matthew WilkensAnalyze 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 conceptsStudy OpenAI’s GPT 3.5 alongside university policy and social opinion on generative-AI authorship	
Visiting NLP Researcher <i>Johns Hopkins University</i> Le Mans, France	Jun 2023-Aug 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participant in 2023 Jelinek Summer Workshop for Speech and Language Technology (JSALT) at the Laboratoire Informatique du Mans (LIUM) in Le Mans, FranceWorked under Ehsan Variani, Lucas Ondel-Yang, Ke Wu, and Sanjeev KhudanpurDesign 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 applicationsResearch the JAX/FLAX and PyTorch APIs to maintain comparable functionality across libraries	
Computer Vision Researcher <i>Brown University</i> Providence, RI	Jun 2022-Aug 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentored by Daniel RitchieDevelop machine learning model for language-based image-to-image domain translationAdapt image-to-image translation pix2pix model architecture and pre-trained text-image embedding model	
Undergraduate Researcher <i>Brown University</i> Providence, RI (Remote)	Jan 2022-May 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentored by Srinath Sridhar in exploreCSR: Socially-Responsible AI for Computational Creativity programCreate and process 1600-image dataset using OpenCV methods for model training, testing, and validationFinetune cycleGAN model architecture for image translation of video game shots to photorealistic domain	
Undergraduate Research Assistant <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY (Remote)	Feb 2021-Sep 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	

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

PUBLICATIONS

How biased are text-to-image models? | *Medium* | [Article](#) | April 7, 2022

Bias in ML: An Introduction | *Medium* | [Article](#) | December 5, 2021

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Workshop Facilitator | *University of Maryland* | College Park, MD **Nov 2024-March 2025**

- Volunteer facilitator for creative computing workshops with the University of Maryland African American Digital & Experimental Humanities (AADHum) Lab and Prince George's County Teen Action Group (TAG)
- Taught 20 high school students how to program a wearable tech product in Python in Mu Editor
- Designing a workshop to teach high school students to build small language models

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 seminar 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 corporate 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

HONORS & AWARDS

GSEE Graduate Excellence Award | University of Washington | February 2025

Nancy J. Gershenfeld Endowed Fellowship in Special Librarianship | University of Washington | February 2025

Baggett Fellowship | University of Maryland | July 2024

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

Sphinx Head Honor Society | Cornell University

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