

Imani Finkley

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EDUCATION

University of Washington Seattle, WA	Expected June 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-Aug 2025
• Advised by Naomi Feldman as 2024-25 Baggett Fellow in the University of Maryland Department of Linguistics	
• Constructed dataset of 800 LLM-generated texts for prompt engineering analysis and copyright law applications	
• Code data processing and feature representation extraction for computational models in speech perception	
Literatures in English Honors Candidate <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY	Aug 2023–May 2024
• Advised by Jane Juffer and Matthew Wilkens	
• Analyzed 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	
• Studied 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
• 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, Ke Wu, and Sanjeev Khudanpur	
• Design functions for Lattice-based Speech Transducer PyTorch library to demonstrate the benefits of weighted finite state transducers with end-to-end pipelines with real-use speech processing applications	
• Maintain comparable functionality and reported 32% improvement in system usage compared to former versions	
Computer Vision Researcher <i>Brown University</i> Providence, RI	Jun 2022-Aug 2022
• Advised by Daniel Ritchie	
• Design machine learning model for language-based image-to-image domain translation	
• Finetune 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
• Mentored by Srinath Sridhar in exploreCSR: Socially Responsible AI for Computational Creativity program	
• Constructed 1600-image dataset using OpenCV methods for model training, testing, and validation	
• Finetuned 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
• Analyze relevant literature and computational sustainable methodologies surrounding water resource management and planning to assist Patrick Reed in The Reed Research Group	

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Finkley, Imani, Yuanxi Li, & Melanie Walsh. “Neutrality Bites: Gender Representation in LLM-Generated Animal Stories.” *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT ’26)*, 2026. In review.
- Finkley, Imani. “By AI: Authorship, Literature, and Large Language Models.” *Humanities Scholar Program Spring Research Conference*, 2024. Presentation.
- Finkley, Imani. “Literature in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,” *Cornell University Department of Comparative Literature Theory Colloquium*, 2024. Presentation.
- Ondel-Yang, Lucas, Ehsan Variani, Ke Wu, Imani Finkley, et al. “Final: Finite State Methods with Modern Neural Architectures for Speech Applications and Beyond,” *Jelinek Summer Workshop for Speech and Language Technology (JSALT)*, 2023. Presentation.

Finkley, Imani & Daniel Ritchie. "Language-Based Material Manipulation for Transforming Sketches into Images," *The Leadership Alliance National Conference*, 2022. Poster.

Finkley, Imani, Rahma Tasnim, Adam Khadim, Miyuki Goay, Chelsea Xiong, and Travis Zhang. "How Biased are text-to-image models?" 2022. [Medium](#).

Finkley, Imani. "Realizing the *Forbidden West*: Translating Gameplay into Hyper-realistic Action Shots." *Brown University Computer Science Undergraduate Research Symposium*, 2022. Poster.

Finkley, Imani and Rahma Tasnim. "Bias in ML: An Introduction." 2021. [Medium](#).

TEACHING & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Extension Lecturer & Course Developer <i>University of Washington</i> Seattle, WA	Sep 2025-Nov 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-instruct 3 3-hour sessions for UW Continuum College 5-week Digital Skills Fundamentals course (DSKILFN N300 A)Develop curriculum and lesson plans for ~100 international Thai high school students to teach AI ethics and digital citizenship	
ROOTS Program Mentor <i>BLACKIVY Foundation</i> Remote	Aug 2025-Nov 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support 1 rising Black high school senior through the college application processMeet biweekly to complete weekly assignments, including drafting and revising personal statement	
Workshop Facilitator <i>University of Maryland</i> College Park, MD	Nov 2024-May 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 Latinx high school students how to program a wearable tech product in Python in Mu Editor	
Teaching Assistant <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY	Jan 2024-May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advise students in developing experiments, data collection, and implementing advanced NLP systemsGrade 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 <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY	Jan 2022-May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 <i>Cornell University</i> Ithaca, NY	Jan 2022-May 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead weekly 50-minute discussion sections to 20 students to review their understanding of discrete mathematicsGrade 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 <i>President</i>	Dec 2021-Dec 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preside over weekly 30-person executive board, oversee the activities of standing committees, and implement technical outreach community support initiatives for 80 Black, Latinx, & Indigenous undergraduate membersMaintain relationships with 10 existing corporate sponsors and established new relationships with 6 corporations	
Cornell Data Science Cornell University Cornell Bias Lab <i>Project Manager</i>	Sep 2022-Dec 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 systemsPresent 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