

# Imani Finkley

<https://imanif.github.io/> | [ifinkley@uw.edu](mailto:ifinkley@uw.edu)

## EDUCATION

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<b>Research Fellow</b>   <i>University of Maryland</i>   College Park, MD	<b>Aug 2024-Aug 2025</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advised by Naomi Feldman as 2024-25 Baggett Fellow in the University of Maryland Department of Linguistics</li><li>Constructed dataset of 800 LLM-generated texts for prompt engineering analysis and copyright law applications</li><li>Code data processing and feature representation extraction for computational models in speech perception</li></ul>	
<b>Literatures in English Honors Candidate</b>   <i>Cornell University</i>   Ithaca, NY	<b>Aug 2023-May 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advised by Jane Juffer and Matthew Wilkens</li><li>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</li><li>Studied OpenAI’s GPT 3.5 alongside university policy and social opinion on generative-AI authorship</li></ul>	
<b>Visiting NLP Researcher</b>   <i>Johns Hopkins University</i>   Le Mans, France	<b>Jun 2023-Aug 2023</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participant in 2023 Jelinek Summer Workshop for Speech and Language Technology (JSALT) at the Laboratoire Informatique du Mans (LIUM) in Le Mans, France</li><li>Worked under Ehsan Variani, Lucas Ondel-Yang, Ke Wu, and Sanjeev Khudanpur</li><li>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</li><li>Maintain comparable functionality and reported 32% improvement in system usage compared to former versions</li></ul>	
<b>Computer Vision Researcher</b>   <i>Brown University</i>   Providence, RI	<b>Jun 2022-Aug 2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advised by Daniel Ritchie</li><li>Design machine learning model for language-based image-to-image domain translation</li><li>Finetune image-to-image translation pix2pix model architecture and pre-trained text-image embedding model</li></ul>	
<b>Undergraduate Researcher</b>   <i>Brown University</i>   Providence, RI (Remote)	<b>Jan 2022-May 2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mentored by Srinath Sridhar in exploreCSR: Socially Responsible AI for Computational Creativity program</li><li>Constructed 1600-image dataset using OpenCV methods for model training, testing, and validation</li><li>Finetuned cycleGAN model architecture for image translation of video game shots to photorealistic domain</li></ul>	
<b>Undergraduate Research Assistant</b>   <i>Cornell University</i>   Ithaca, NY (Remote)	<b>Feb 2021-Sep 2021</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze relevant literature and computational sustainable methodologies surrounding water resource management and planning to assist Patrick Reed in The Reed Research Group</li></ul>	

## 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**

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**Extension Lecturer & Course Developer** | *University of Washington* | Seattle, WA **Sep 2025-Nov 2025**

- 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** | *BLACKIVY Foundation* | Remote **Aug 2025-Nov 2025**

- Support 1 rising Black high school senior through the college application process
- Meet biweekly to complete weekly assignments, including drafting and revising personal statement

**Workshop Facilitator** | *University of Maryland* | College Park, MD **Nov 2024-May 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 Latinx high school students how to program a wearable tech product in Python in Mu Editor

**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**

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**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 Black, Latinx, & Indigenous undergraduate 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**

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**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