

# Imani Finkley

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## EDUCATION

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|---|---------------------------|
| <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

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| <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>Lead computational linguistics research focused primarily on prompt engineering and large language models for copyright law applications</li><li>Assist in 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>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</li><li>Study 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 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</li><li>Research the JAX/FLAX and PyTorch APIs to maintain comparable functionality across libraries</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>Mentored by Daniel Ritchie</li><li>Develop machine learning model for language-based image-to-image domain translation</li><li>Adapt 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>Create and process 1600-image dataset using OpenCV methods for model training, testing, and validation</li><li>Finetune 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>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</li></ul>  |                          |

## 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

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**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

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

- 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 high school students to teach AI ethics and digital citizenship

**ROOTS Program Mentor** | *BLACKIVY Foundation* | Remote **Aug 2025-Present**

- Support 1 rising 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 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

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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 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

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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