

Jaspreet Ranjit

4TH YEAR CS PHD CANDIDATE · UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

✉ jranjit@usc.edu | 🌐 jr4fs.github.io | [in jaspreet-ranjit](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaspreet-ranjit) | [🐦 jaspreetranjit](https://twitter.com/jaspreetranjit)

Research Statement

My research advances human-centered AI by developing methods that align language models with domain expertise and cultural context in high-impact social applications. I study how AI systems and domain experts can act as effective partners in knowledge extraction to ensure that model outputs reflect the values of the people they serve. Drawing on techniques from HCI, I translate stakeholder requirements into open-source tools that convert unstructured text into structured insights for decision augmentation for community organizations in Los Angeles, and D.C. My work has been recognized with the **Outstanding Paper Award at EMNLP 2024**, the **WiSE Merit Award for 2025**, and has received a **\$50K Min Family Challenge Grand Prize**.

Education

University of Southern California (USC)

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE — NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

Advisor: Swabha Swayamdipta, DILL Lab

Research Interests: NLP for social impact, Human-AI Collaboration, Responsible AI

Leadership: Student leader of Center for AI in Society, Secretary of Women in Science and Engineering

Los Angeles, CA

Expected 2027

University of Virginia (UVA)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Advisor: Vicente Ordóñez

Thesis: *Analyzing Gender Biases in Visual Recognition Models*

Charlottesville, VA

Dec 2021

University of Virginia (UVA)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Advisor: Madhur Behl

Thesis: *Scenario2Vector: scenario description language based embeddings for traffic situations*.

Rodman Scholar (Top 5% of Engineering Class)

Charlottesville, VA

May 2021

Research Experience

Data, Interpretability, Language and Learning Lab (DILL), USC

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Advisor: Prof. Swabha Swayamdipta

My research focuses on human-centered AI alignment, with an emphasis on how AI systems can adapt to domain-specific tasks in high-impact societal applications. I study how domain experts and AI can be effective partners in knowledge extraction and, more broadly, in applications for social good. To this end, I develop new methods and human-grounded evaluations designed to enable outcomes with real societal impact in social services, and healthcare by collaborating closely with community partners and stakeholders.

Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2022 – Present

Vision, Language, and Learning Lab, UVA

MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Advisor: Prof. Vicente Ordóñez

Analyzed how pretraining data, model architecture, and training setup affect gender biases in visual recognition systems. In collaboration with Columbia University (Prof. Baishakhi Ray). Thesis

Charlottesville, VA

Nov 2020 – July 2022

Link Lab, UVA

MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Advisor: Prof. Madhur Behl

Built and analyzed the Traffic Scenario Similarity (TSS) dataset containing human similarity judgments over driving scenarios. Experimented with multimodal transformer models in PyTorch to label traffic videos and understand scenario similarity. Project Site

Charlottesville, VA

Aug 2019 – Nov 2020

Aerospace Engineering Research Group, UVA

MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Advisor: Prof. David Sheffler

Developed a 3D-printed autonomous UAV platform (Raspberry Pi + Pixhawk) for fully autonomous mission execution. Prototyped machine learning pipelines in OpenCV for onboard object recognition and mission-specific visual communication.

Charlottesville, VA

Oct 2017 – Aug 2019

Publications & Preprints

Are We Automating the Joy Out of Work? Designing AI to Augment Work, Not Meaning

Jaspreet Ranjit, Ke Zhou, Swabha Swayamdipta, Daniele Quercia

Under Review, CHI 2025.

[Paper coming soon!](#)

Uncovering Intervention Opportunities for Suicide Prevention with Language Model Assistants

Jaspreet Ranjit, Hyundong J. Cho, Claire J. Smerdon, Yoonsoo Nam, Myles Phung, Jonathan May, John R. Blosnich, Swabha Swayamdipta

EAAMO'25, GenAI4Health Workshop at NeurIPS'25

[Paper](#) · 🏆 Nominated for award at NeurIPS'25 GenAI4Health Workshop, Runner Up for Oral Presentation at ShowCAIS'25

Uncovering and Mitigating Covert Dialect Bias in LLMs

Claire Smerdon, Kritee Kondapally, Pooja Patel, Ogheneyoma Akoni, Jevon Torres, Matthew Finlayson, **Jaspreet Ranjit**, Swabha Swayamdipta

Under Review, 2025.

[Paper coming soon!](#) · Accepted to EAAMO'25 for Poster Presentation · 🏆 Best Responsible AI Impact Award at SoCal AI Responsibility Summit 2025

OATH-Frames: Characterizing Online Attitudes Towards Homelessness via LLM Assistants

Jaspreet Ranjit, Brihi Joshi, Rebecca Dorn, Laura Petry, Olga Koumoundouros, Jayne Bottarini, Peichen Liu, Eric Rice, Swabha Swayamdipta

Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2024.

[Paper](#) · 🏆 Outstanding Paper Award at EMNLP'24, Best Poster at ShowCAIS 2024

Variation of Gender Biases in Visual Recognition Models Before and After Finetuning

Jaspreet Ranjit, Tianlu Wang, Baishakhi Ray, Vicente Ordóñez

NeurIPS Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness through the Lens of Time, 2023.

[Paper](#)

Scenario2Vector: Scenario Description Language Based Embeddings for Traffic Situations

Aron Harder, **Jaspreet Ranjit**, Madhur Behl

ACM/IEEE 12th International Conference on Cyber-Physical Systems (ICCPs), 2021.

[Paper](#)

Scenario2Vec: A Scenario Description Language to Characterize Traffic Scenarios for the Development of a Certification Scheme

Jaspreet Ranjit, Madhur Behl, Catherine Baritaud

Technical Report, 2020.

[Paper](#)

Awards & Press

2025

Finalist in AI for Social Good Hackathon hosted by LA Tech Week x Lovable
WiSE Merit Award for 2025

First Place in Min Family Challenge: CaseFlo – an agentic AI platform that streamlines the workflow of case managers, enabling effective discovery of resources, reduced case worker burnout, and data-driven interventions for people experiencing homelessness.

Runner up for best oral presentation at ShowCAIS 2025: Designing and Validating Intervention Opportunities for Suicide Prevention with Language Model Assistants.

2024

Viterbi Magazine: Featured in the USC Viterbi Magazine under the theme: “Human Centered” The USC School of Advanced Computing.

Received an outstanding paper award at EMNLP 2024 for OATH-Frames

Passed my Qualifying Exam

Presidential Leadership Council: Invited to present at USC's Presidential Leadership Council.

Spectrum News Coverage: Spectrum News covers our work on OATH-Frames: Characterizing Online Attitudes

Towards Homelessness via LLM Assistants.

USC Media Coverage: USC covers our work on OATH-Frames: Characterizing Online Attitudes Towards Homelessness via LLM Assistants.

Best Poster Award: ShowCAIS 2024: Awarded best poster at annual conference organized by Center for AI in Society.

2021

Rodman Scholar: Academic honor awarded to top 5% of undergraduate engineering class at University of Virginia.

Cornell, Maryland, and Max Planck Pre-Doctoral Research School: Promising undergraduate and Masters students are invited to attend this program that provides an overview of the state of the art research in Computer Science.

Truly OpenML: Led a team of four people to pitch a web application that provides a collaborative, intuitive and accessible platform for individuals who are passionate about learning machine learning (ML). Semi-finalist at the American Evolution Innovator's Cup.

Invited Talks

2025

National Alliance to End Homelessness x Center for Homelessness Impact: Using AI to End Homelessness

Homelessness Policy Research Institute Research Seminar

Google: Technology, AI, Society and Culture Team: STAR Talk Series

2024

National Alliance to End Homelessness: Research Seminar

ISI Natural Language Seminar

USC Center for AI in Society Seminar Talk

Service & Leadership

Conference Reviewer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)– 2025

Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Positive Impact (NLP4PI)– 2025

International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)– 2025

Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)– 2024

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)– 2024

Leadership

Secretary, Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)– USC

Student Leader, Center for AI in Society (CAIS)– USC

Mentoring

Graduate Mentoring

Risha Surana, USC →Microsoft

Aspect Based Summarization for Public Attitudes Towards Homelessness: 2024-present

Claire J. Smerdon, USC →Palo Alto Networks

Uncovering and Mitigating Covert Dialect Bias in LLMs: 2024-2025

Kritee Kondapally, USC

Uncovering and Mitigating Covert Dialect Bias in LLMs: 2024-present

Pooja Patel, USC

Uncovering and Mitigating Covert Dialect Bias in LLMs: 2024-present

Ogheneyoma Akoni, USC

Uncovering and Mitigating Covert Dialect Bias in LLMs: 2024-present

Myles Phung, USC →Citadel Securities

Uncovering Intervention Opportunities for Suicide Prevention with Language Model Assistants: 2024-2025

Ruyuan Zhou, USC →Georgia Tech

Undergraduate Mentoring

Aryan Gulati, USC →Bloomberg

Aspect Based Summarization for Public Attitudes Towards Homelessness: 2024-2025

Catherine He, USC

Aspect Based Summarization for Public Attitudes Towards Homelessness: 2024-2025

Industry Experience

Nokia Bell Labs: Social and Responsible AI Team

Cambridge, UK

RESEARCH INTERN

Jun 2025 – Aug 2025

Mentor: Daniele Quercia, Ke Zhou

Conducted mixed-methods research on human-AI alignment in workplace automation, combining survey design, behavioral analysis, and language-model simulations. Modeled divergences between worker and developer automation preferences to inform human-centered frameworks for responsible and value-aligned AI deployment. Investigated how AI-driven workplace automation reshapes workers' sense of value, purpose, and meaning. Designed and conducted large-scale surveys with developers and workers to examine divergences in automation preferences, and used language-model simulations to scale behavioral insights. Developed computational frameworks for socially informed automation that embed human well-being, stakeholder values, and cultural context into AI system design. *Under review at CHI 2025*

Vimeo

New York, NY

MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCHER ON SEARCH AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Jun 2021 – Aug 2021

Mentor: Silvena Chan

Analyzed gender biases in search and recommendation models and formulated a bias identification framework with the Rank Bias metric quantifying gender biases in ranked search results. Developed learning to rank (LTR) models in Pytorch using RankNet and LambdaMART, and developed an internal dataset for LTR models in private search. Worked with big data in Snowflake and wrote queries in SQL to scale bias experiments.

Medium Publication

Expedition Technology

Herndon, VA

MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER

Jun 2019 – Aug 2019

Mentor: Cheryl Daner

Researched anchorless object detection techniques for 3D point cloud object detection. Designed a convolutional neural network on the basis of existing VoxelNet and CenterNet architectures in Tensorflow. *Summary of Work*

NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center

Greenbelt, MD

CORE FLIGHT SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Jun 2018 – Aug 2018

Mentor: Alessandro Geist

Developed and benchmarked core Flight Software apps in C/C++ that directed AI image processing and command/telemetry with ground station. Worked with Xilinx Platform Studio and ISE Design Suite.

NASA Langley Research Center

Hampton, VA

3D PRINTING ENGINEER

Jun 2016 – Aug 2016

Mentor: Godfrey Sauti

Leveraged sensor technology to design and improve the dimensional integrity of a printed component using Pronterface. Designed 3D components in Inventor.