

**dr. Lize Alberts (D.Phil, M.A, B.A. Hons, B.A.)**

Assistant Professor AI & Behaviour  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
[l.alberts@vu.nl](mailto:l.alberts@vu.nl)

NU Building  
De Boelelaan 1111  
1081 HV Amsterdam

<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>Assistant Professor</b> <i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL</i> Assistant Professor of <a href="#">AI &amp; Behaviour</a> in the Department of Computer Science. My research combines theory and methods from computer science, HCI and behavioural psychology in the careful design and evaluation of systems involving human-AI interaction, emphasising individual empowerment and flourishing.  I co-designed and teach a novel interdisciplinary course, <i>Modelling Human Behaviour</i> , giving BSc AI students a strong foundational introduction to approaches and methods for <b>understanding</b> and <b>modelling</b> human behaviour, as well as the tools to critically reflect on the <b>responsible application</b> of behavioural science in computing. I also teach <i>Project Socially-Aware Computing</i> , teaching students how to use agent-based models to simulate societal phenomena involving social interaction. I also designed and teach <i>Research Design</i> , a course guiding students in the critical, ethical, and scientifically rigorous execution of their final BSc AI project.	April 2025-
	<b>Associate Editor, Research Assistant</b> <i>Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Cambridge, UK</i> While completing my doctorate, I worked part-time as a research and editorial assistant to the director of the Leverhulme CFI, Prof. Stephen Cave. My role was to assist with editing and proofreading books for an upcoming <a href="#">Cambridge University Press book series on AI Ethics &amp; Society</a> , as well as identify and liaise with potential collaborators. I am still working ad hoc to assist with this series as an associate editor.	Sept 2024-
	<b>Graduate Assessor</b> <i>Ellison Institute of Technology, Oxford, UK</i> Assessing graduate applications for Ellison Scholarships under the theme 'Build Foundation Models for AI-enabled Care'.	Sept 2024-Nov 2024
	<b>Student Ambassador</b> <i>Jesus College, the University of Oxford, UK</i> Designed and led a workshop for Welsh state schoolchildren for Jesus College's annual Women in Sciences Day on 'dark patterns' and ethical software design.	Apr 2024-Jun 2024
	<b>Royal Institution Masterclass in Computer Science Leader</b> <i>The Royal Institution, UK</i> Designed and led a Masterclass on dark patterns and behavioural design ethics for the Royal Institution in London.	2023-2024
	<b>Student Researcher</b> <i>Google London, UK</i> Led a project on <a href="#">contextualising the alignment of social AI agents</a> , sparking a growing area of research that has since been termed <a href="#">socioaffective alignment</a> .	July-October 2023
	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b> <i>Responsible Technology Institute, University of Oxford, UK</i> Conducting multi-stakeholder engagement and speculative design workshops for the EPSRC-funded <a href="#">RoboTIPS</a> project on responsible social robot development.	2020-2021
	<b>Lecturer and Teaching Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>University of Oxford, UK</i> Software Engineering: <i>Interaction Design, Requirements Engineering</i> Comp. Science: <i>Ethical Computing in Practice, Ethics &amp; Responsible Innovation</i></li></ul>	2020-2021

- *Stellenbosch University, ZA* 2018-2019  
I helped administer two Philosophy modules, leading seminars thrice a week for groups of 5 to 80 first to third-years.
- *North-West University, ZA* 2015-2017  
I was the course assistant for several modules in Philosophy and Art History.

## Education

### D.Phil. Computer Science

Jan 2025

*University of Oxford, UK*

My DPhil focused on [the ethics of human-AI social interaction](#), with an emphasis on **LLM-based agents**. Project goals included supporting individual autonomy, creativity, and wellbeing, anticipating novel risks related to conversational/agentive AI, and developing **context-sensitive and personalised alignment** strategies.

### M.A. (Thesis) Philosophy

Dec 2020

*Stellenbosch University, ZA*

Type: Full research thesis (140 pages)

My master's thesis focused on supporting [multi-modal grounded language learning in AI](#), drawing from 4E/embodied cognition theories in cognitive science. Domains: Philosophy of Mind and Language, Cognitive Science, Cognitive and Computational Linguistics, NLP/NLU

Title: 'Towards grounded language learning in artificial intelligence'

Final grade: **Distinction 84%**

### B.A. (Hons.) Philosophy

Mar 2019

*Stellenbosch University, ZA and University of Bristol, UK (Study Abroad)*

My honours dissertation focused on [the use of constructed language to facilitate human-AI interaction, and the effects of prolonged interaction with AI on human language conventions](#) and was published in a peer-reviewed journal.

University of Bristol courses: Philosophical Issues of the Physical Sciences, Probability and Rationality

Stellenbosch University courses: Philosophy of Language, Nietzsche Average: **80%**

Dissertation: 'Altering language conventions to facilitate human-robot interaction' (18566 words) Mark: **88%**

Final grade: **Cum Laude 82%**

### B.A. Humanities

Mar 2018

*North-West University (Potchefstroom), ZA*

Majors: **Philosophy**, History of Art, **Social Anthropology**

Minors: English, History, Communication Studies

Extra modules: 9 (152 extra credits)

Final grade: **Distinction 82%, Top of class**

### Eldoraigne High School, ZA

Nov 2012

Final marks: **IT** (Object-Oriented Programming, SQL) (**87%**), **Maths** (**83%**), English (85%), Afrikaans (89%), LO (81%), Design (97%), Dramatic Arts (81%)

Final grade: **Distinction 87% (US GPA 4.0)**

## Research Workshops

### Google's Techno-Moral Scenarios for Responsible Innovation 17-19 Oct 2023

*Google Research/Responsible Innovation, Google Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

I was a part of a select group of experts from academia and industry tasked with critically discussing the use of responsible innovation to advance a vision of AI that is empowering, meaningful, and beneficial. We used a combination of RI methods (e.g. design fiction, speculative design, and Google's own *techno-moral scenario* approach) to imaginatively and reflexively engage with ethical concerns regarding new technologies.

**Generative AI and Its Impact on Human Creativity** 1 Feb 2024  
*Google and the Graziano Lab, Princeton University, NJ, US*

I was invited to join a group of academics and Googlers to generate a set of responsible and ethical recommendations regarding GenAI. We reflected on the nature and processes of human creativity, and how GenAI may affect, and ideally support it.

**Self-Determination Theory in HCI: Shaping a Research Agenda** 9 May 2022  
*The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Hawaii, US*

I participated in a CHI workshop with other HCI researchers to explore how Self-Determination Theory could aid the design of user-centred technologies.

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## Talks and Panels

- **Panellist on Dark Patterns as Hostile Scaffolding** 28 June 2024  
*Scaffolding Bad Working Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, UK*
- **Panellist on Balancing the benefits and harms of AI** 25 May 2024  
*Kellogg College, University of Oxford, UK*
- **Computers as Bad Social Actors** 8 Mar 2024  
*Princeton ETHICOM AI & Ethics Seminar, Princeton University, NJ, USA*
- **Dark and Anti-Patterns in Social Interfaces** 13 Sep 2023  
*Google-Cambridge University Reading Group on Conversational Agents, Google London, UK*
- **Dark and Anti-Patterns in Social Interfaces** 10 Sep 2023  
*TL/UXR, Google, London, UK*
- **Respect as a Value for Human-Computer Interaction** 21 Mar 2022  
*Institute for Ethics in AI gathering with Accenture, University of Oxford, UK*
- **Altering Language Conventions to Facilitate HRI** 28 Oct 2019  
*Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Cambridge University, UK*

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## Skills

- **Machine Learning:** ML/DL theory and practice; LLM alignment and fine-tuning; developing benchmarks for conversational agent evaluation
  - **Programming:** Python (NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, Transformers); MATLAB; R; JavaScript; HTML; PHP; SQL; C#; Object Pascal
  - **Research Methods:** Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodology; systematic reviews; interdisciplinary research; critical and conceptual analysis; user-centred design; requirements engineering; responsible innovation; empirical HCI methods; theory-informed design
  - **AI Ethics and Governance:** Applied AI ethics; multi-stakeholder engagement; speculative design for AI futures; value-sensitive design
  - **Communication and Management:** Technical writing; academic paper authorship and peer review; data visualisation; presenting complex ideas to diverse audiences, managing and organising large societies, lecturing and supervising university graduates
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Additional Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Generative AI with LLMs</b> by deeplearning.ai on Coursera Jun 2024</li> <li>• <b>Neural Networks and Deep Learning</b> by deeplearning.ai on Coursera Grade: 100% Dec 2018</li> <li>• <b>Diploma in Web Development</b> by Shaw Academy Jul 2016</li> </ul>
Organisational Experience	<p><b>Co-founder and Organiser of RTI Student Network</b> 2020-2024  <i>The Responsible Technology Institute (RTI), The University of Oxford, UK</i>  The RTI is an international centre of excellence on responsible technology. I co-founded its international student network connecting researchers interested in RI. I help to organise reading groups, expert panel discussions, and work-in-progress seminars.</p>
	<p><b>President of Oxford University CompSoc</b> 2021-2022  <i>The Oxford University Computer Society (CompSoc)</i>  I was elected as president of CompSoc (est. 1978), one of Oxford University's largest and oldest societies for computer science-related interests. I delegated work, engaged with industry sponsors, and helped organise a university-wide hackathon.</p>
Awards and Achievements	<p><b>Graduate Lighthouse Scholarship</b> 2020  <i>The RTI and Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford, UK</i>  I was awarded a highly competitive scholarship from the Responsible Innovation Institute at Oxford University to fund my doctorate.</p>
	<p><b>Awards for Academic Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Department of Philosophy, North-West University, ZA</i> Mar 2018 Merit certificate for excellent academic achievement in Philosophy (top of class)</li> <li>• <i>School of Social and Gov. Studies, North-West University, ZA</i> Mar 2016 Merit certificate for best academic achievement in Medical Anthropology</li> <li>• <i>School of Social and Gov. Studies, North-West University, ZA</i> Mar 2016 Merit certificate for best academic achievement in Urban Anthropology</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Member of Golden Key International Honour Society</b> 2016  <i>North-West University (Potchefstroom), ZA</i>  For ranking in the top 15% of North-West University's sophomores.</p>