

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

Assistant Professor AI & Behaviour  
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Work Experience	Description	Date
<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.	April 2025-
	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.	
<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.
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<b>Education</b>	<b>D.Phil. Computer Science</b> <i>University of Oxford, UK</i> My DPhil focused on <a href="#">the ethics of human-AI social interaction</a> , with an emphasis on <b>LLM-based agents</b> . Project goals included supporting individual autonomy, creativity, and wellbeing, anticipating novel risks related to conversational/agentic AI, and developing <b>context-sensitive and personalised alignment</b> strategies.	Jan 2025
	<b>M.A. (Thesis) Philosophy</b> <i>Stellenbosch University, ZA</i> Type: Full research thesis (140 pages) My master's thesis focused on supporting <a href="#">multi-modal grounded language learning in AI</a> , 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:	Dec 2020 <b>Distinction 84%</b>
	<b>B.A. (Hons.) Philosophy</b> <i>Stellenbosch University, ZA and University of Bristol, UK (Study Abroad)</i> My honours dissertation focused on <a href="#">the use of constructed language to facilitate human-AI interaction, and the effects of prolonged interaction with AI on human language conventions</a> 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: <b>80%</b> Dissertation: 'Altering language conventions to facilitate human-robot interaction' (18566 words)      Mark: <b>88%</b> Final grade:	Mar 2019 <b>Cum Laude 82%</b>
	<b>B.A. Humanities</b> <i>North-West University (Potchefstroom), ZA</i> Majors: <b>Philosophy</b> , History of Art, <b>Social Anthropology</b> Minors: English, History, Communication Studies Extra modules: 9 (152 extra credits) Final grade:	Mar 2018 <b>Distinction 82%, Top of class</b>
	<b>Eldoraigne High School, ZA</b> Nov 2012 Final marks: <b>IT</b> (Object-Oriented Programming, SQL) ( <b>87%</b> ), <b>Maths</b> ( <b>83%</b> ), English (85%), Afrikaans (89%), LO (81%), Design (97%), Dramatic Arts (81%) Final grade:	<b>Distinction 87% (US GPA 4.0)</b>

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<b>Research Workshops</b>	<b>Google's Techno-Moral Scenarios for Responsible Innovation</b> 17-19 Oct 2023 <i>Google Research/Responsible Innovation, Google Amsterdam, the Netherlands</i> 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 <i>techno-moral scenario</i> approach) to imaginatively and reflexively engage with ethical concerns regarding new technologies.
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**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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<b>Additional Certification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Generative AI with LLMs</b> by deeplearning.ai on Coursera</li><li>• <b>Neural Networks and Deep Learning</b> by deeplearning.ai on Coursera Grade: 100%</li><li>• <b>Diploma in Web Development</b> by Shaw Academy</li></ul>	Jun 2024 Dec 2018 Jul 2016
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<b>Organisational Experience</b>	<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>
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<b>Awards and Achievements</b>	<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>
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<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.

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