Maya Avital

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EDUCATION

Stanford University | Stanford, CA   **Expected Graduation**: December 2025

B.S. in Symbolic Systems (Human-Centered AI) | **GPA:** 3.62 | **Graduated:** 2024

M.S. Candidate in Computer Science

Relevant Courses: Cross Mobile App Development, Social Computing, Understanding Users, Computer Networking & Systems, Tech Ethics and Policy, Data Mining & Analysis, Statistics & Probability, Media Psychology, Linguistics, Hebrew

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: experienced in Javascript, HTML, React Native, Firebase, Python, R, C++, and C

Skillful in conceptualizing complex or nuanced issues holistically and creating ideas for improvement. Attentive listener and fast learner, keen to follow instructions and learn from others' examples. A leader with tested public speaking, attention to detail, and project management skills.

PROJECTS

SYNTH | CS 377U: Understanding Users   **SPRING 2025**

- Collaborated with a team of 4 to design and develop *Synth*, a social virtual game that helps users discover music and deepen group connection through in-person multiplayer gameplay. Over 10 weeks, we applied industry user research methods, conducting literature and market reviews, generative research, iterative usability testing, and a field study with the deployed web app. The game integrates Spotify to let players guess which friend listened to each song, combining social interaction with music discovery.
- Led the research, design, and evaluation process, contributing across user interviews, product strategy, and interface design and development to shape an engaging music-sharing experience.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Course Assistant | CS 182: Ethics, Public Policy, & Technological Change   **Winter Quarter 2025**

- Working under Professors Mehran Sahami & Daniel Ho, running a discussion section, hosting office hours, and creating and grading assignments.

Volunteer Assistant Coach | Stanford Women's Water Polo   **Sept. 2024 - June 2025**

- Collaborating with the coaching staff to develop collegiate student-athletes' skills, establish tactics and game plans, and foster positive team dynamics. All culminating in the program's 10th national title.

Fellowship & Awards Intern | Mozilla Foundation   **June 2024 - Aug 2024**

- Worked on the F&A team to help project map the alumni and creative media awards programs, update data infrastructure, and build a community engagement strategy for Africa Mradi program.

Fellow | Stanford Tech Ethics & Policy Summer Fellowship   **April 2023 - Sept 2024**

- Fellows took an intimate seminar course on ethics, technology, and public policy, informing them on the climate of tech policy and preparing them to engage in the different sectors of tech ethics during internships.

Research Assistant | Stanford Social Media Lab   **May 2023 - Aug 2024**

- Co-authored a working research publication exploring how AI will affect the misinformation landscape
  - conducted participant interviews, data analysis & synthesizing, & literature reviews.
- Data analysis for a project on the public perception of social robots, to guide further development.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Stanford University NCAA Division 1 Women's Water Polo   **September 2020 - June 2024**

- Devoting an average of 30 hours per week to training, practices, meetings, travel, and competition while maintaining an intensive academic schedule. Contributing to the legacy of this historic trailblazing program.

- o **2022 & 2023 NCAA National Champion**
- o Starting goalkeeper & 3 time All-American (2022, 2023, 2024)
- o **Team Captain** (2024)
- **Founder & Co-President** of Stanford Maccabi (Jewish Student-Athlete Club)

International Water Polo Competition:
- **USA U18 National Team** (**2017-2019**): Competed for US youth national teams at Intercontinental tournaments in Peru (2017) and Trinidad (Team captain, 2019)
- **Israel U19 National Team** (**2018**): Competed for Israel's Junior National team at the European Championships in Portugal.