

# Micah A. Benson

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Responsible AI, Human-AI Interaction, Language Model Evaluation, Mechanistic Interpretability

## EDUCATION

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### **Boston University – Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences**

PhD Student in Data Science  
GPA 4.00 / 4.00

**Boston, MA**  
August 2024-Present

### **Washington University in St. Louis - College of Arts and Sciences**

B.A. in Data Science, second major in English  
GPA 3.99 / 4.00

**St. Louis, MO**  
August 2020-May 2024

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Boston University Research Rotations**

Advisor: Aaron Muller

**Boston, MA**  
Summer & Fall 2025

- Built a dataset to simulate user conversations with LLMs on the topic of mental health
- Evaluated LLM responses to users discussing mental health and characterized response patterns
- Collaborated with psychologists to propose policy changes for AI companies based on findings

Advisor: Ngozi Okidegbe

Spring 2025

- Audited use of LLMs in law enforcement contexts from a social justice informed perspective
- Replicated the DraftOne pipeline to use AI to generate police reports and evaluated accuracy and bias of such reports, finding alarming inconsistencies in the AI-generated narratives

Advisor: Mark Crovella

Fall 2024

- Explored LLM feature representations of race and gender biases to improve safety and fairness

### **Zhang Translational Genomics Laboratory**

Advisor: Jin Zhang

**St. Louis, MO**  
June 2023-May 2024

- Improved feature extraction pipeline and model architecture of a neural network used to predict 3-year recurrence of cervical cancer from pretreatment PET scans

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Misión de Caridad**

Tech Intern

**Arlington, MA**  
May 2020 - June 2023

- Led a team of doctors in using statistical analysis of medical records to evaluate the effect of the organization's dental and medical programs on health of migrants in Mexico
- Led all tech projects, including cleaning data and creating a database, redesigning the organization's website, creating a Google AdGrants campaign with \$10k/month budget

## TEACHING

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### **Boston University Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences**

Teaching Fellow – DS 381 Social Justice for Data Science

**Boston, MA**  
August - December 2025

- Met with students to help sharpen their ideas for argumentative essays and class presentations
- Graded and provided detailed feedback for student essays, presentations, and group projects

- Rated an excellent TF by over 90% of students in an anonymous course feedback survey

### **WashU McKelvey School of Engineering**

**St. Louis, MO**

Teaching Assistant – CSE 417T Intro to Machine Learning

August 2023-May 2024

- Tutored a student who is blind one-on-one, reviewing lectures and working through problem sets
- Taught students VC Theory, bias-variance tradeoff, regularization, SVM, and neural networks

Teaching Assistant – CSE 527A Natural Language Processing

January - May 2024

- Held weekly office hours to help students with coursework and coding projects
- Taught students LLMs, attention, transformers, LSTMs, and relevant NLP coding packages

### **TALKS**

BU Undergraduate AI Safety and AI & Society Clubs

March 2024

*Reimagining AI Alignment: From Existential Risk to Global Justice*

BU Computing & Data Science PhD Seminar

December 2025

*Evaluating LLM responses to Prompts Implying Mental Health Disorders*

### **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

Wexler Fellowship, award of \$10,000

2024

Phi Beta Kappa

2024

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Python (Torch, Scikit-Learn, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib), R (tidyverse), SQL, Bash, Git/Github, Docker

### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **Boston Public Schools**

**Boston, MA**

Cross Country and Track & Field Coach

August 2024-Present

- Coached middle and high school runners by designing training and developing race strategies
- Won 2025 XC State Championship for the first time in city history with both boys and girls teams
- Coached BPS City League 100m hurdles champion

#### **WashU Cross Country, Track & Field**

**St. Louis, MO**

Varsity Athlete

August 2020 - May 2024

- Ran a 5k in under 15 minutes, trained 80+ miles and 25+ hours a week, competed year-round
- Learned perseverance in training, resilience after failures, and commitment to long-term goals
- Competed at the UAA Conference Cross Country and Track & Field Championships

#### **Bear Cubs Running Team**

**St. Louis, MO**

Coach and Executive Board Member

September 2022-May 2024

- Led running practices for 90 children with autism spectrum disorder and their siblings