

Micah A. Benson

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing, Mechanistic Interpretability, Social Biases in LLMs, Human-AI Interaction

EDUCATION

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

Boston University Research Rotations

Advisor: Ngozi Okidegbe

- Learned legal theory on racial justice and algorithmic fairness
- Audited LLMs for potential racial biases when deployed for use in law enforcement contexts

Advisor: Mark Crovella

- Learned foundations of mechanistic interpretability research
- Explored LLM feature representations of concepts related to social biases

Boston, MA
Spring 2025
Fall 2024

Zhang Translational Genomics Laboratory

Advisor: Jin Zhang

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

St. Louis, MO
June 2023-May 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Misión de Caridad

Tech Intern

- 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 related projects, including redesigning the organization's website and creating a Google AdGrants campaign with \$10k/month budget

Arlington, MA
May 2023-Present

TEACHING

WashU McKelvey School of Engineering

Teaching Assistant – CSE 417T Intro to Machine Learning

- Held office hours to help students approach and understand proofs of foundational ML topics
- 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

St. Louis, MO
August 2023-May 2024

Teaching Assistant – CSE 527A Natural Language Processing

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

January 2024-May 2024

TALKS

BU Undergraduate AI Safety and AI & Society Clubs	March 2024
<i>Reimagining AI Alignment: From Existential Risk to Global Justice</i>	

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Boston Public Schools	Boston, MA
Cross Country and Track & Field Coach	August 2024-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coached middle and high school runners by designing training plans, developing race strategies, and encouraging love of the sport	

Bear Cubs Running Team	St. Louis, MO
Coch and Executive Board Member	September 2022-May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led running practices for 90 children with autism spectrum disorder and their siblings	